



DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATE PAKISTAN

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Development Advocate Pakistan provides a platform for the exchange of ideas on key development issues and challenges in Pakistan. Focusing on a specific development theme in each edition, this quarterly publication fosters public discourse and presents varying perspectives from civil society, academia, government and development partners. The publication makes an explicit effort to include the voices of women and youth in the ongoing discourse. A combination of analysis and public opinion articles promote and inform debate on development ideas while presenting up-to-date information.



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Factoring Resilience in the Development Matrix



By
Knut Ostby
Resident Representative
UNDP Pakistan

When I arrived in Pakistan as a UNDP surge staff one week after the deadly earthquake in 2005, over 70,000 people had lost their lives and 3.5 million people had been affected. The winter was also around the corner, posing another threat to lives, health and livelihoods for those affected. Amidst the urgent work for relief and recovery, it was impossible not to think of how some of the devastation could have been avoided.

Natural disasters and violent conflict expose and exacerbate vulnerabilities, such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and weak governance. Pakistan ranks as the fifth most climate change affected country in the world, and number 19 in terms of earthquake risk. Pakistan's Human Development Index value for 2019 is 0.557, which puts it in the 'medium' category, at 154 out of 189 countries and territories.

The impact of crises and disasters undermines hard won progress made in human development, or at least slows it down. Therefore, progress in human development processes of a country cannot be sustained without building its resilience for effective crises response and management. Two types of vulnerabilities influence human capabilities that can be leveraged to deal with trauma and crisis: life cycle and structural vulnerabilities. The former is a result of people's past outcomes impacting their present, and their coping mechanisms. The latter are generated from socio-legal institutions, power structures, political traditions, and socio-cultural norms.

Since its independence in 1947, Pakistan has faced multiple crises – both man-made as well as natural disasters – and it has shown remarkable resilience at managing them. From the refugee crises in 1947 and 1979, to super floods; from earthquakes to war against terror, and displacement of people; from the financial crises of 2008 to the onset of

the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the country has confronted more than its fair share of catastrophes that have left serious and protracted socio-economic and human development challenges in their wake.

Structural vulnerabilities are further manifested through deep inequalities and widespread poverty. In Pakistan, 38.3 percent of the population (81,352 people) is multi-dimensionally poor, while an additional 12.9 percent is classified as vulnerable to multi-dimensional poverty. Predictably, these segments get hardest hit at times of crisis, such as the ongoing pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has emerged as the latest test for Pakistan's capacity for crisis response and resilience. Through controlling measures via lockdowns and awareness campaigns, this health crisis has seen Pakistan doing relatively better compared to other countries in the region. While a steady vaccination drive has been put in place, the government rightly maintains a cautious outlook as many socio-economic challenges – including increased poverty and unemployment – remain high.

Today, global policy communities are keenly looking at how social protection models – including unemployment insurance, pension programmes, universal basic income, and labour market regulations – can provide coverage against global risks, crises, and adversity that have become a permanent feature of the human experience. To reduce the fragility and vulnerability of its population in the face of protracted and emerging threats, Pakistan needs policies, resources, and capabilities that can build structural and societal transformation to increase its national resilience, coping mechanisms (both assisted and self-help), resourcefulness, and national resolve to build back better.



“
Surviving
crises is not
the end, it is a
beginning.
”

From Resilience to Reform

“ From natural calamities to conflict, and everything in between, state and society in Pakistan have demonstrated a consistent and unmistakable capacity to weather storms. ”



By
Mosharraf Zaidi
Senior Fellow, Tabadlab

One of the great and unsettling truths about Pakistani public policy is its incredible ability to handle crises. From natural calamities to conflict, and everything in between, state and society in Pakistan have demonstrated a consistent and unmistakable capacity to weather storms.

The Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 triggered an unprecedented refugee crisis that would have transformed the politics and destroyed the economy of many countries. The 2010 floods affected over 20 million people and was supposed to have ended normalcy of agrarian Pakistan, and flattened agricultural productivity. The displacement of millions of citizens in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) where counter terrorism operations were taking place in 2015 could have permanently rendered the vacated areas unlivable. The October 2005 earthquake in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and KP may have

been followed by massive disease outbreaks.

Yet in every instance, Pakistani state and society manufactured immediate short term responses that allowed for the crisis to dissipate without the actualization of the worst fears of international organizations and local civil society. When the Covid-19 pandemic began to first assume the local momentum that many feared, it was predicted to finally be the one crisis to many, that Pakistan's dilapidated, underfunded, and poorly capacitated system would buckle under. Here too, somehow, Pakistani public policy and the Pakistani people combined to stave off the worst predictions.

Pakistanis have certainly not thrived as these natural and man-made calamities have hit Pakistan, one after another, year after year, decade after decade. But in each case, state and society have generated responses that absorb the

“ Pakistani resilience is no excuse for failure. Reform is urgently needed, and eminently within reach. ”

worst of the fallout. They have demonstrated, at every turn, that when push comes to shove, there is both human capability, organizational resourcefulness and system wide innovation that can plug the gap between where Pakistanis are, and the worst case scenarios of where they might have ended up.

For decades, Pakistani civil servants, soldiers, teachers, policeman, nurses and other stewards and guardians of public interest — including human rights activists and civil society workers — have taken great pride in what has been stylized as a unique Pakistani resilience. This point of pride is well founded, insofar as it reflects commitment, passion and ingenuity. But there is a growing worry that the cost of constantly renewable crises in Pakistan is a system that now only knows performative crisis management, and is increasingly incapable of doing the simple things well.

Crisis governance is useful when there is a fire raging, but it is of little use when times are relatively normal. “Normal” governance requires tools, tactics and strategies that distribute ownership, responsibility and accountability to touchpoints in the system where they can be most effective. In contrast, crisis governance enables centralization of authority, the suspension of local ownership and the evasion of accountability for decisions. The cost of being perpetually in crisis is a system where decisions are made further and further away from where they are actually implemented, a system where the people making decisions are not connected to, or stakeholders in the outcomes of those decisions, and where the beneficiaries or victims of decisions cannot reward (or punish) those who make the decisions.



These challenges are not unique to Pakistan, but Pakistan is uniquely challenged. Formed on the basis of a political conviction that demanded protection for a minority that was concerned about the threat of majoritarianism, Pakistan risks becoming a victim of its own brand of majoritarianism. Conceived as a federation, that drew on the strength of its constituent units, Pakistan risks being centralized by political forces that seek power outside the mechanisms and processes laid out in the constitution. Aggregated through a common political agenda, manifest at the ballot box, Pakistan risks

COVID-19 in Pakistan

The Covid-19 pandemic, as any crisis always does in Pakistan, helped highlight how powerful and effective the state can be when functioning at all cylinders — crisis mode on. The social protection instrument deployed by the BISP, called the Ehsaas Emergency Cash, was transformative in its size and ambition, and deployed in record time. The coordination mechanisms devised to ensure coherence in key policy decisions, namely the National Command Operation Center (NCOC), worked seamlessly. As always, Pakistani philanthropy and charity plugged the gaps. Though the third wave of the pandemic currently underway is likely to test the system to an extent not yet tested, the outcome is likely the same as before: barring exceptions and outliers, both state and society will manage the immediate crisis reasonably well. *But what about the day after?*

becoming a less representative and less democratic polity at the hands of an elite that is vested too much in its perpetuation, and too little in increasing the size of the pie from which the elite draws its strength.

There is constant pressure on the Pakistani system of governance to perform better in its day to day function: service delivery, justice, and equality of opportunity. And yet any reasonable assessment indicates that the indicators on these metrics all leave much to be desired. How can a system that succeeds in crisis and falters in its absence, be improved?

For this, Pakistani governance needs to be reimagined. Policy makers and reformers need to ideate the crisis mode of governance, so that they can disaggregate what works and why.

After the 2005 earthquake, people's access to house rebuilding grants was automated. Why should not all transactions between state and citizen be automated? During the Covid-19 pandemic, over 16 million households were handed PKR 12,000 — with almost no direct questioning of their need. Why shouldn't Pakistani citizens be entitled to a conditional universal basic income derived from the Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme? After the 2010 floods, farmers were given unprecedented access to water and other agricultural

“ Policymakers and reformers need to ideate the crisis mode of governance, so that they can disaggregate what works and why. ”

extension facilities, with the result being a bumper crop? Why shouldn't farmers be provided with cutting edge technology to super charge yields and productivity? The NCOC helped forge an example of how federalism can work, when provinces, the federal government and other arms of the state work together. Why shouldn't the Ministry for Inter Provincial Coordination be empowered and enabled to serve as the clearinghouse mechanism for national coordination that it was always meant to be?

Above all these key questions, remains the challenge of maintaining institutional and operational integrity in Pakistani governance. The system was designed to work on federal principles with subsidiarity at its roots. Empowered and capable local governments would obviate the need for Pakistani civil servants from the elite service cadres such as the Pakistan Administrative Service, and the Police Service of Pakistan, to constantly put their lives on the line to fight disease, crime, terrorism and urban slums. Local ownership with adequate resourcing and powers can and does serve the people well in a wide spectrum of contexts all around the world.

Pakistan has proven time, and time and time again, that individuals, communities, state and society at large, all have enormous capability when confronted with crisis. But a country and its people should not have to bank on heroism every day, across a population of 220 million people, and over 150 districts. After over seven decades of a variety of governance models and experiments, the results are in: Pakistani resilience is no excuse for failure. Reform is urgently needed, and eminently within reach. Only a myopic Pakistani elite stands in its way. Luckily, Pakistan belongs to its effervescent and bold young women, men and children. Over sixty percent of Pakistanis are below the age of 30. They should not have to constantly draw upon heroic resilience. Surviving crises is not the end, it is a beginning. The youth of Pakistan should be able to enter their primes in an ecosystem that empowers and enables them — not one that demands resilience.

“
In every instance, Pakistani state and society manufactured immediate short-term responses that allowed for the crisis to dissipate without the actualization of the worst fears of international organizations and local civil society.
”

“ Crisis governance is useful when there is a fire raging, but it is of little use when times are relatively normal. ”



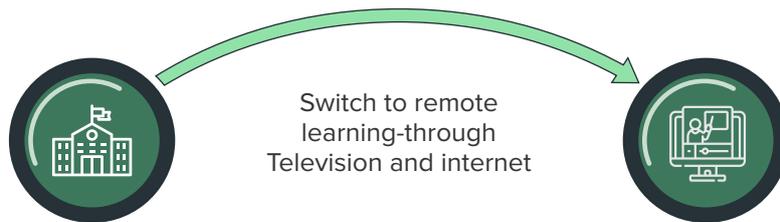
The Crises Conundrum

Any crisis has three angles: the before, during and after. The 'before' and 'during' elicits structural and systemic deficiencies that become compounded with the crisis. The 'after' pronounces the ramifications that require a system overhaul.

The following infographic depicts a national snapshot of the 'after' of several crises faced by Pakistan since 2000 till date, along with future projections based on secondary data, and their dredging impacts. These data illustrations offer evidence of the aftermath of each crisis, in an effort to inform public policy for crafting effective crisis responses.

The Aftermath of COVID-19

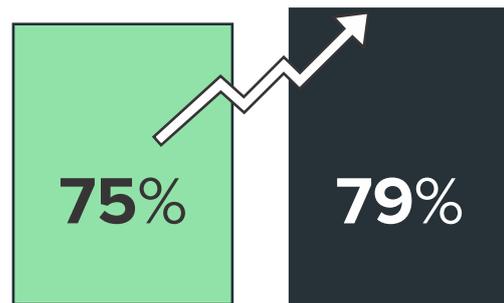
Education



the pandemic has forced **930,000** children out-of-school **4.2%** increase in the current 22 million out-of-school children

98% of the richest **15%** of the poorest **20%** **20%** ownership of one or more of remote learning technology

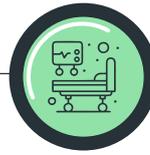
Learning Poverty



Aggregated loss in GDP (Consolidated Students' Incomes)



Health



Inaccessibility of Essential Health Care Services



Shortage of Medical Staff



Interruption in Supply Chain of Essential Medicine, Vaccines, and other Health Products



Mental Health of Health Care Workers (HCWs)

April 2020 - June 2020

10.1% Depression

25.4% Anxiety

7.3% Stress



as of December 2020,

10,300

Health Care Workers tested Covid-19 positive

People Who Sought Medical Facilities



17% Reported Being Poorly Treated

6% Found OPDs Closed

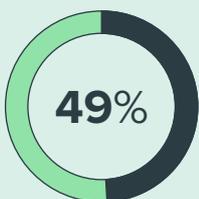
6% Saw SOPs being Not Followed at Health Facilities

14% Faced Transport Issues

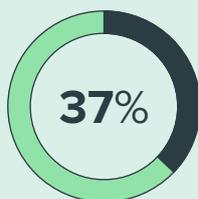
7% Faced Shortage of Medicine and Non-cooperation by Medical Staff

Employment & Income

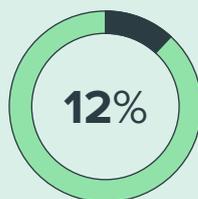
Labour Market Crisis



of working population badly affected



lost their jobs or could not continue working



experienced a reduction in their income



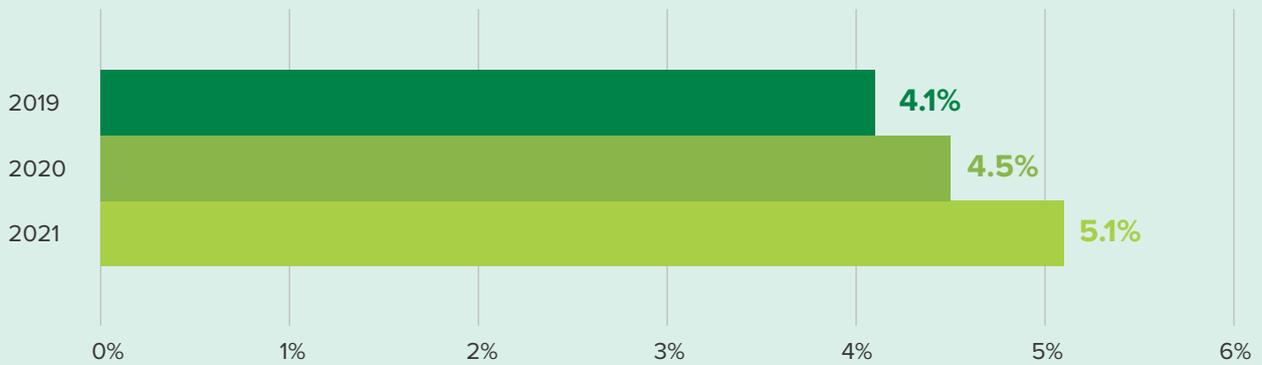
Labour Market Crisis

74%

out of the affected were in the informal sector



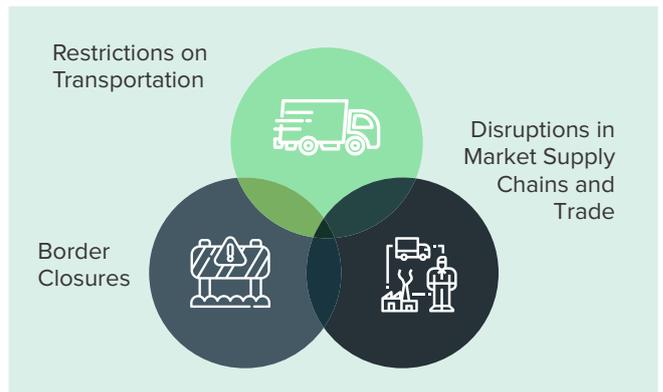
Increase in Unemployment Rate



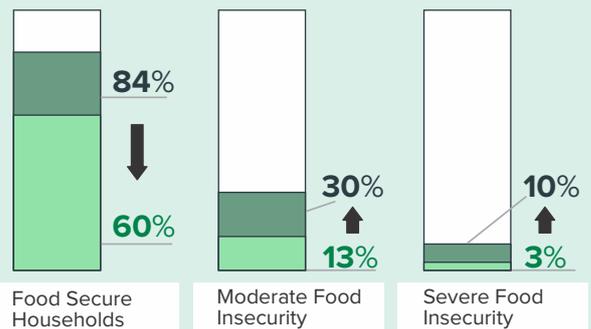
Food Security



Based on Integrated Context Analysis
 an estimated **2.45 million** population was deemed vulnerable to food insecurity



Levels of Food Security (April 2020 - July 2020)

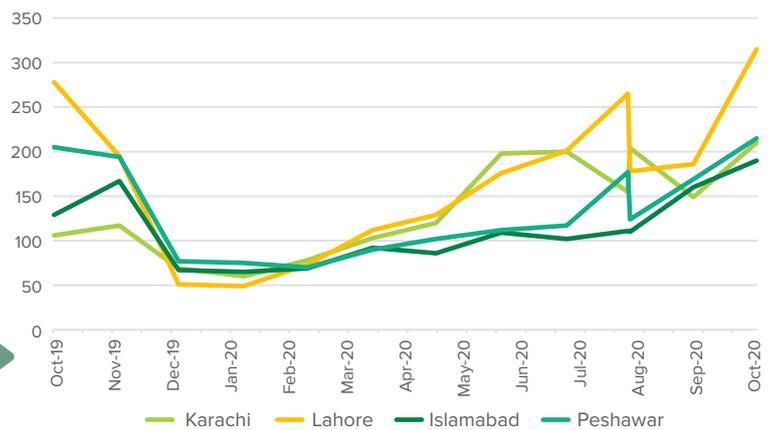


Environment and Climate



A decrease in air pollutants such as NOx, Sox, CO2, PM2.5, and PM10 when strict lockdown was in place, beyond which the air quality worsened again

Variation in the Air Quality Index (Oct 2019 to Oct 2020)



The Aftermath of Other Crises

Climate Change



Global Outlook

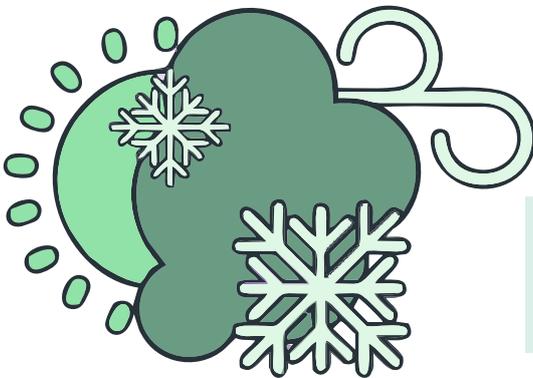
11,000

extreme weather events

2000

to

2019



over
475,000
deaths



\$2.56
trillion
(in PPP) losses

Without Prevention and Intervention, What Will it Cost?

Between

\$140bn and \$300bn



2030

2050



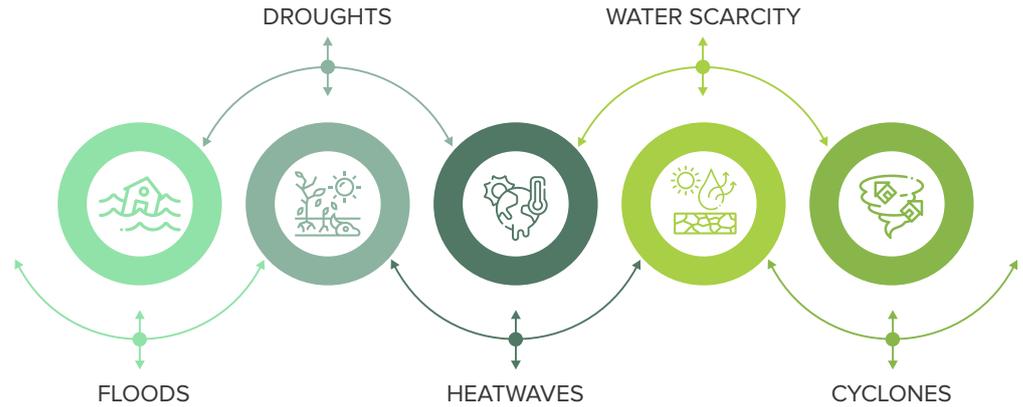
Between

\$280bn and \$500bn

Climate Change



Pakistan Outlook



2000 to 2019

Pakistan

29.1

On the Climate Risk Index



502.45

Fatalities/year

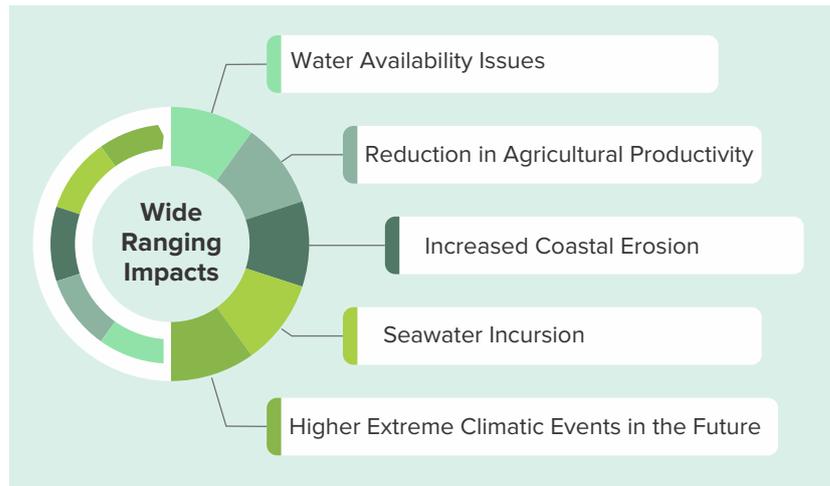
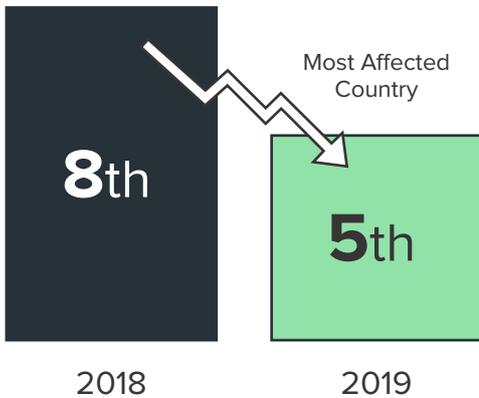


\$3.77

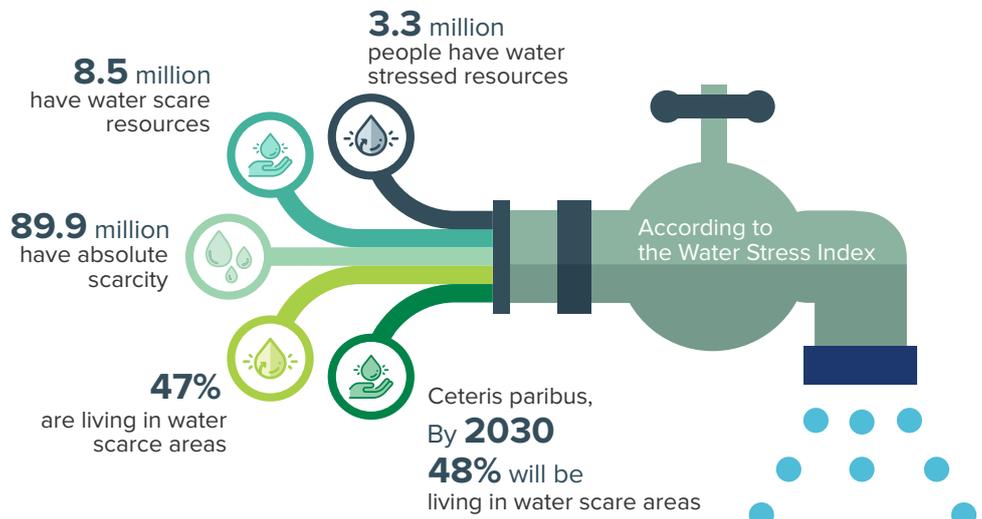
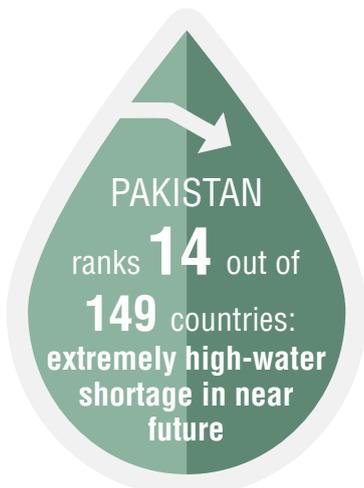
billion/year
Economic Loss

173 disastrous events/ year

Pakistan Ranked

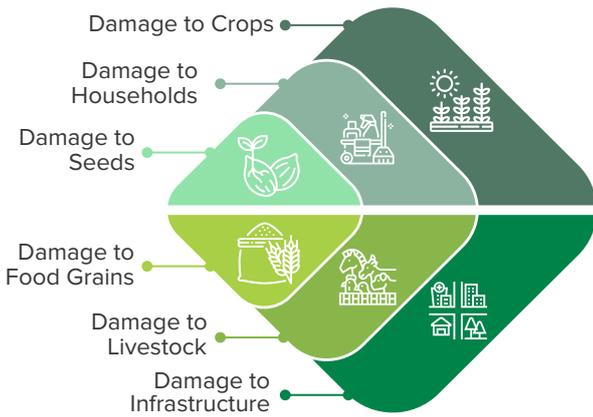


Pakistan is on the Brink of Facing an Acute Water Shortage

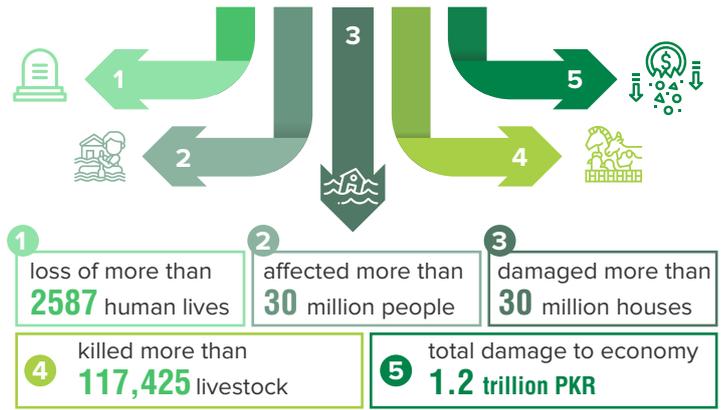


Floods and Flash Floods

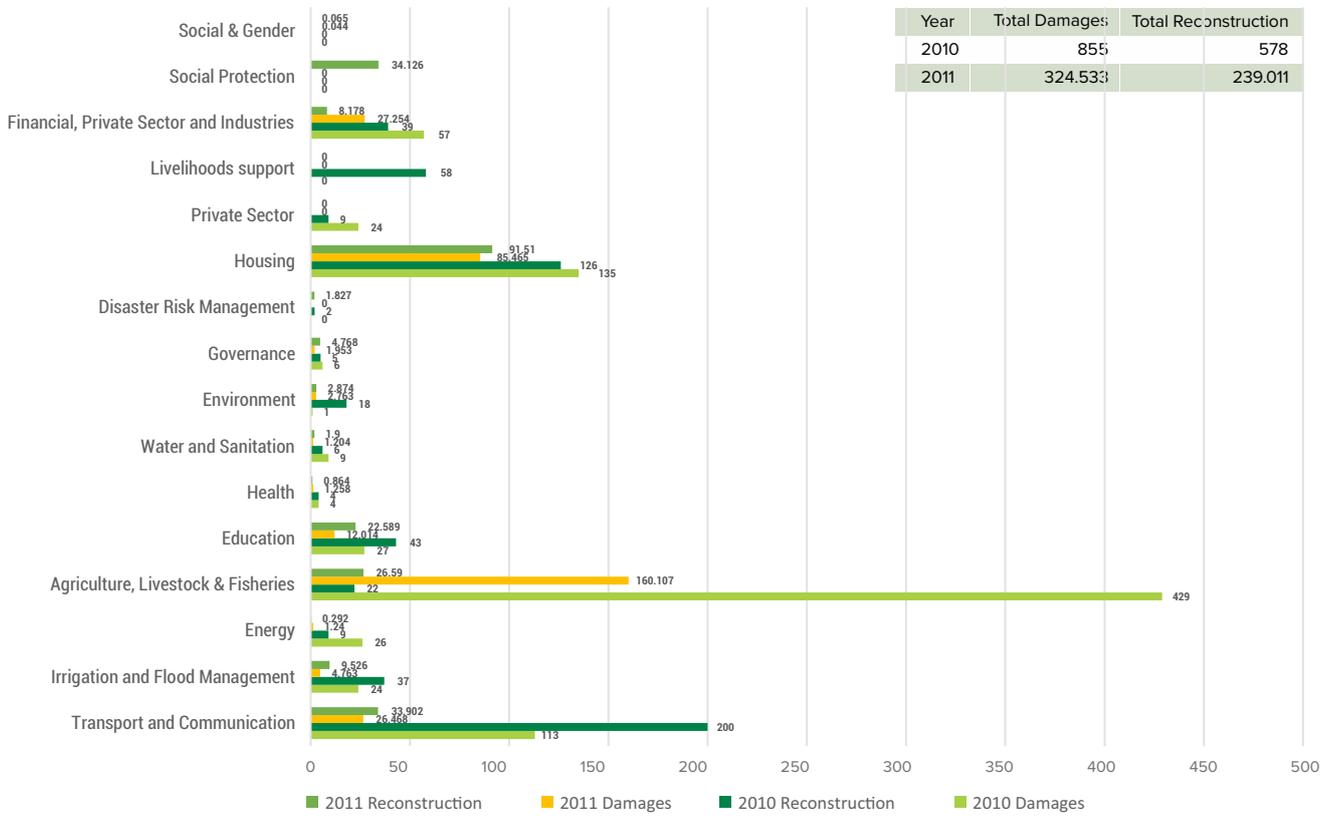
Immediate Impacts



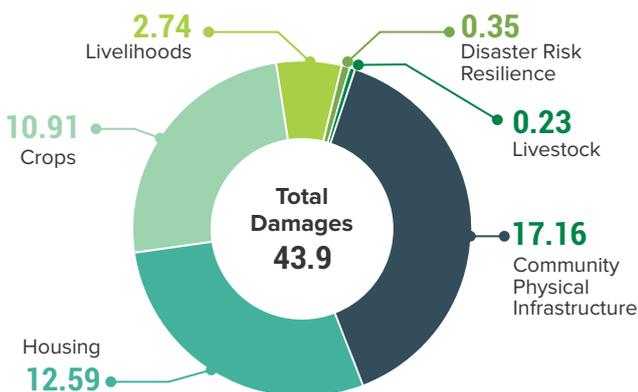
Floods of 2010, 2011 and 2014



Sector Wise Flood Impacts 2010-2011 (PKR billion)



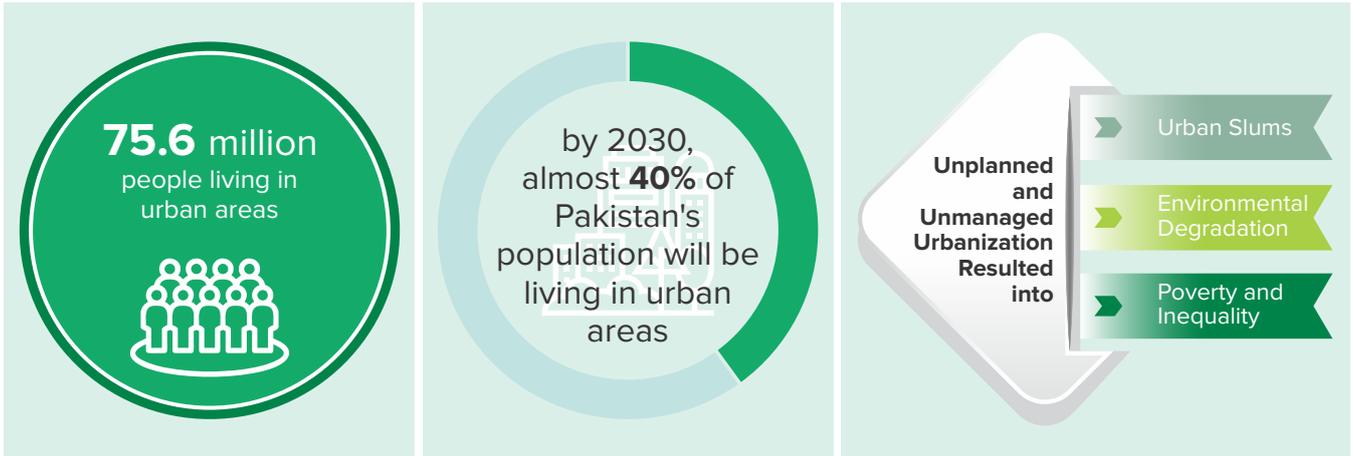
Sector Wise 2014 Flood Impacts (PKR billion)



Flood Driven Damage (2010-2014)

	2010	2011	2014
Lives Lost	1700	520	367
Housing affected	1120,978	998,376	129,880
Health facilities affected	436	901	-
Educational institutes affected	-	4,096	-
Livestock loss	-	115,500	1,925
Requiring food assistance	3.6 m	194,969	-
Total people affected	20 m	9.6 m	2.5 m

Unplanned Urbanization



40% of Pakistan's urban population is living in informal settlements

75.6
million people in urban areas

30.24
million people are living in cramped up spaces-slums or katchi abadis



What is needed?

Adequate management and resource allocation to prevent escalation of further governance-based crises such as

Construction of Illegal Slums on Marginal Lands more Prone to Floods and Earthquake

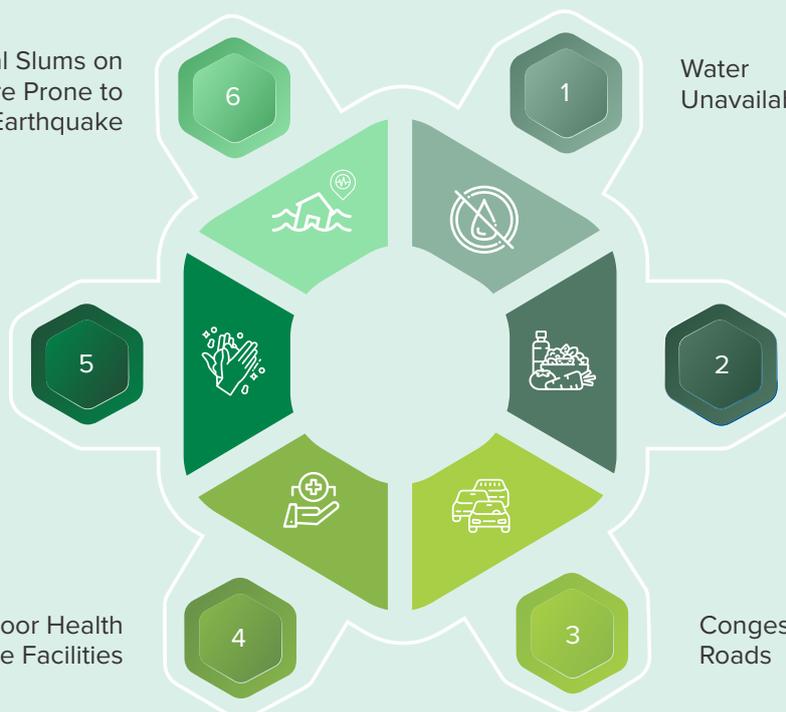
Water Unavailability

Poor Sanitation and Hygiene

Food Insecurity

Poor Health Care Facilities

Congested Roads



Deforestation



in 2019-2020,
the forest industry contributed

51.5 billion PKR
to GDP

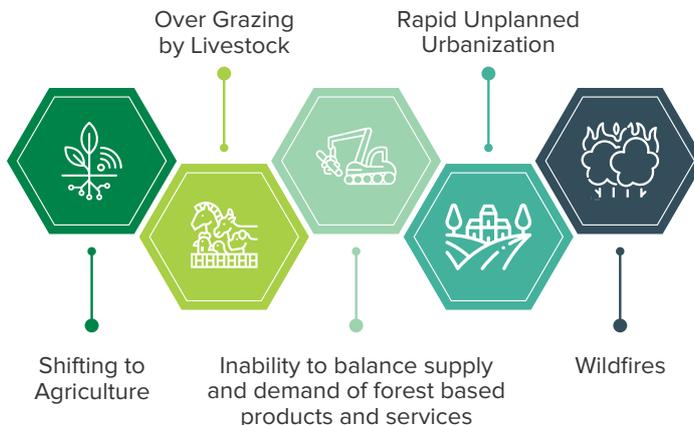


Employed

51.5 million
workers



1% Forest area lost per year due to



From 2001 to 2020
Pakistan lost
16% naturally
regenerating
forest



'Ceteris paribus'

By 2030, Pakistan
might lose more than
11% of naturally
regenerating forests
at the current annual
growth rate.

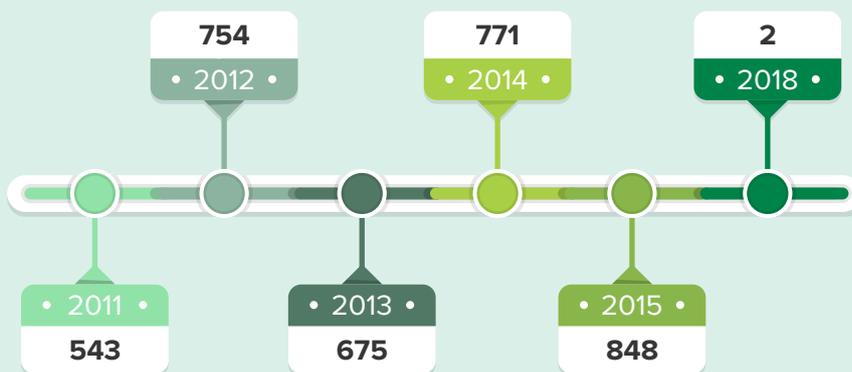
Earthquakes

Pakistan
ranked **19** in 2019

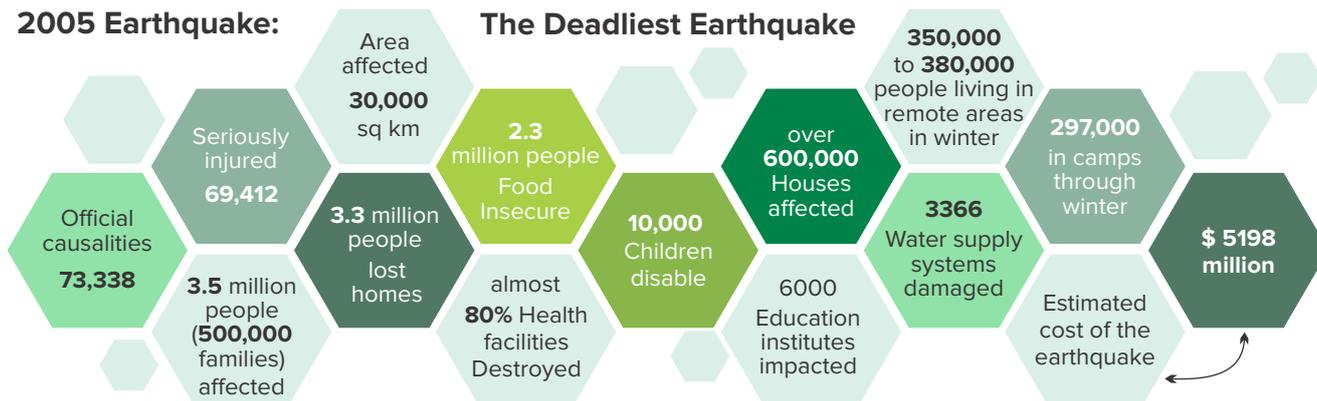


HIGH RISK CATEGORY

Pakistan's Earthquake History (2011 – 2018)



2005 Earthquake:



Earthquakes and Their Impacts (2005-2019)



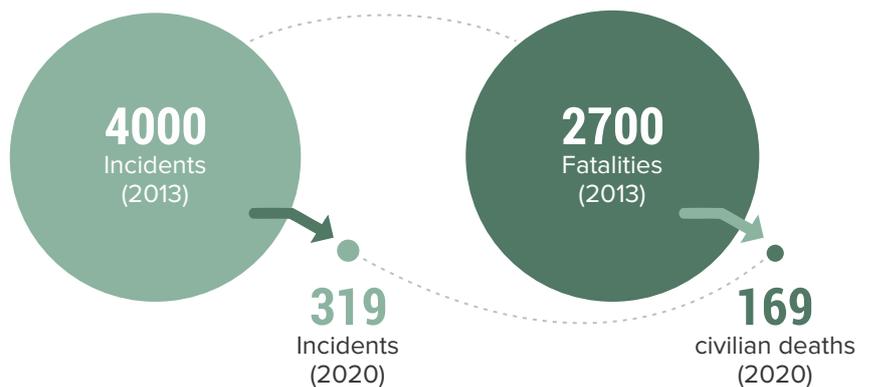
Terrorism

Domestic Events of Terrorism

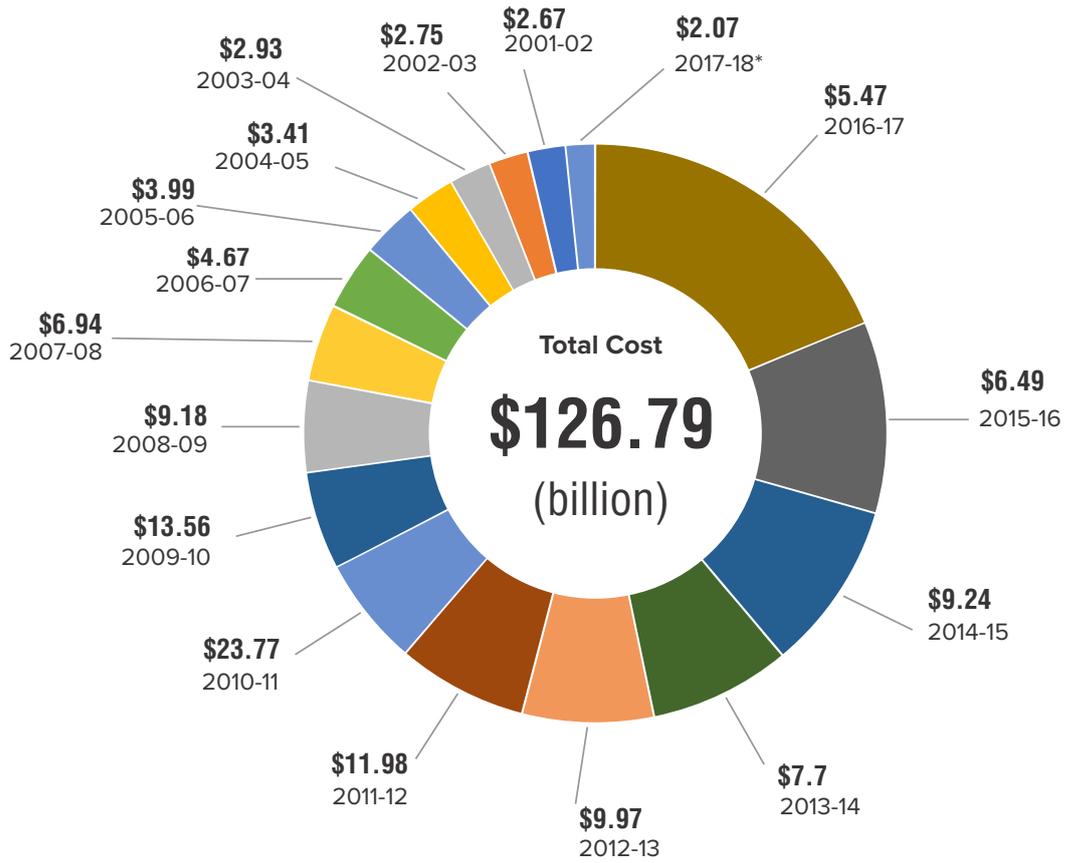


25th

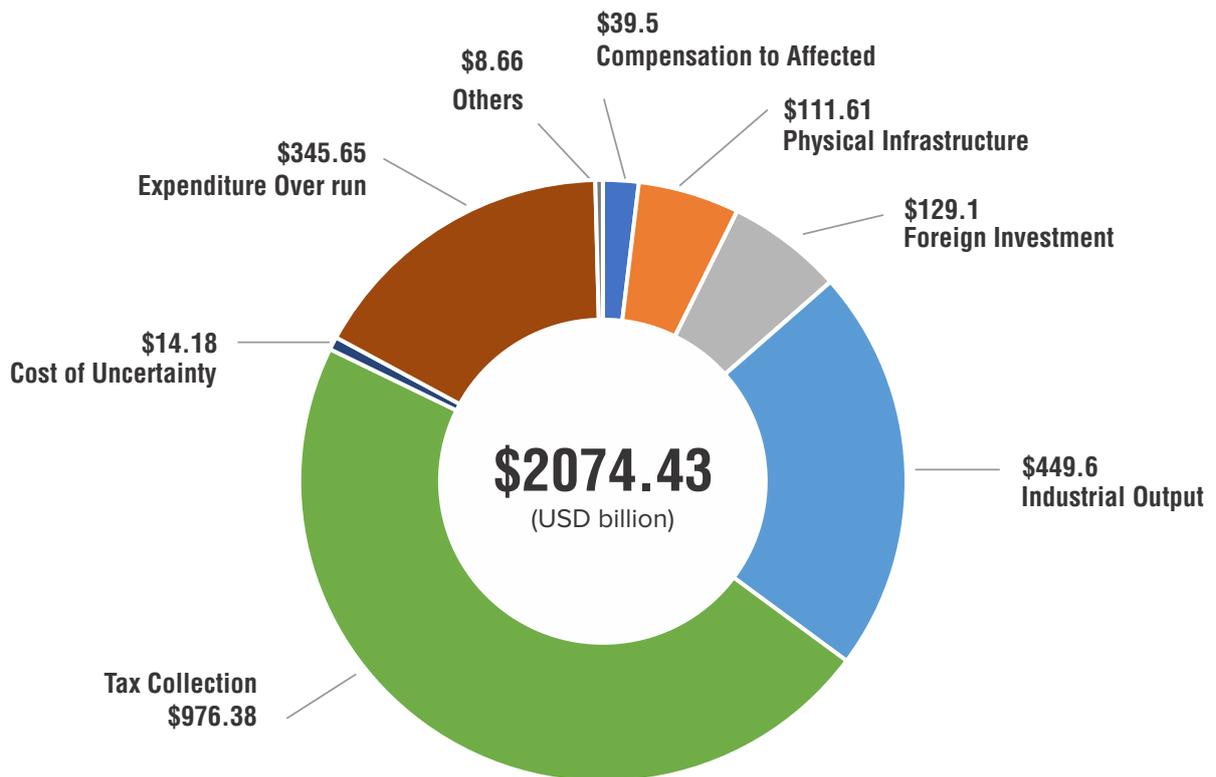
most fragile state in 2020,
from 10th in 2010



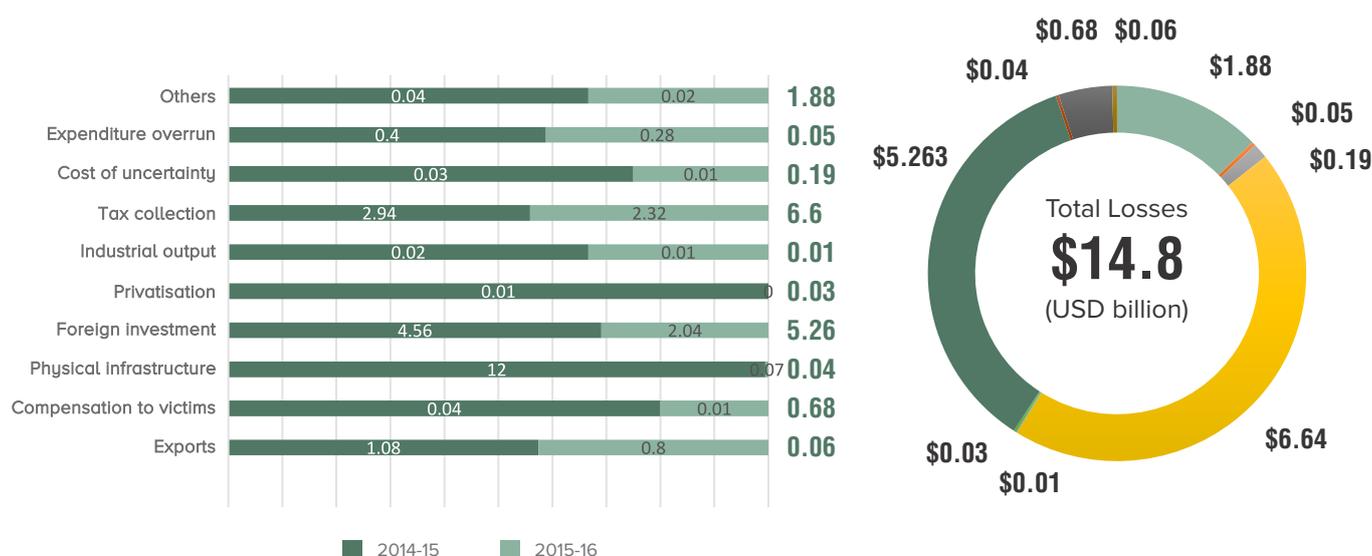
Cost of War on Terror (2001-2018)



Losses due to War on Terror in 2017-18 (USD Million)



Losses by Sectors due to War on Terror (2014-2016)



List of Sources for Infographic:

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Forged from Crises: Integrated Innovation

“ Crises provide a breeding ground for innovative technology-driven solutions to reduce the adverse impacts of future crises. ”



By
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Crises led Innovation

Natural disasters, crises, and pandemics such as Covid-19, expose state fragility but also present a valuable opportunity for change. They provide the nudge needed to produce these creative moments to transform governance through testing innovative technical solutions.

An example of such an innovation in Pakistan, is the very successful, cash transfer program, the Ehsaas program. This program is built off the platform of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) which was established in 2008, but went through a learning curve by incorporating the lessons learnt from the temporarily dislocated persons (TDP) crisis in 2009 and flash floods in 2010. If handled well, Covid-19 could allow us to radically transform and upgrade Pakistan's social protection regime converting it into a crisis-resilient social protection system in Pakistan.

The pandemic has provided a creative moment to reimagine the social contract between citizens and state amidst the state struggling to provide essential services to the people. Can people count on their state when disaster ensues?

Pakistan championed the 'Whole of Government' approach in designing and rolling out Ehsaas Emergency Cash, the largest social protection program in the country's history. The program commenced just 10 days after the lockdown began, delivering one-time cash grants

totaling more than USD 1.2 billion, to more than 16.9 million households, covering 109 million people – approximately 50 percent of the country's population. It was able to do that in 10 days as infrastructure and building blocks of such a program were laid a decade ago using the robust citizens database of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

NADRA – Building a Crises-Resilient System

NADRA can play a pivotal role in any such transformation, as it has been dealing with disasters in the past. Utilizing technology, it houses the real and unique sets of biometric as well as biographical data of its 122 million citizens. NADRA's inclusive and robust citizens' database had proven time and again, that it can increase access to critical services and benefits. NADRA has been in the technology front line in all disasters. Identity authentication, and credential verification of the victims of disaster, performed by NADRA, are the key steps for any kind of relief or benefit in-kind or cash transfer.

The massive flash floods in 2010 affected about 20 million people across the country. There was already a trust deficit between the donors and the previous government, triggered by mismanagement of donor funds for the 2005 earthquake. Despite bureaucratic resistance, the technical team of NADRA used this moment to pioneer an ID-based solution that devised a secure and accurate way of identifying the

affected population and ensuring transparent disbursements to them. Using the citizens' database, NADRA teamed up with commercial banks to issue an ATM card known as the 'Watan Card'. The cash that was uploaded on these cards could be drawn by the targeted beneficiaries without any hassle.

Previously, a similar solution was rolled out to people internally displaced by the Army operation against terrorists in Swat and Malakand in 2009. This experience strengthened NADRA's response in the wake of floods because, by this time, we had learnt to implement more stringent validation checks for ensuring the eligibility of targeted beneficiaries.

With the support of World Bank and development partners, a total of PKR 77 billion was distributed to 2.84 million families, an average of over PKR 27,000 per family. Eligible families were given ATM cards loaded with cash that were activated upon registration. The money spent by these families supported the local economy. The benefits were even spread to the neighbouring districts not directly affected.

There is a key lesson here. Different crises gave the required nudge to the technical team of NADRA to establish a robust platform for disaster management. Importantly, in providing immediate relief in the wake of temporary shocks, NADRA ended up augmenting state capacity. The experience an organization builds in times of disaster, becomes the crucial building block for service delivery in future.

Benazir Income Support Program – Case in Point

Perhaps the most relevant example of this is the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). The BISP would not have been possible without the hard experiences gained in years when the government was firefighting to deal with the TDP crisis and floods. The platforms developed for these crises became the crucial learning material for rolling out social protection to the poor. While critics could find flaws with certain aspects of BISP, there is no denying that it is the first rigorous, targeted, and evidence-based scheme for social protection. It offers the basic platform on which all future social protection programs will be built. Indeed, even the Ehsaas program has been built on BISP's platform.

COVID-19 and Social Protection

While the BISP and its recent variants have been relatively successful in

reaching out to the extreme poor, the present health crisis in the shape of Covid-19 affords us a valuable opportunity to radically upgrade our social protection and extend it to those who live on the thin edge of vulnerability. These are not the extreme poor but people in rural and urban areas who are most vulnerable to income and health shocks. These are people who eke out a marginal existence daily, and transition in and out of poverty

Pakistan's most vulnerable workers, the daily wagers in its 74 percent labour force without a formal contract, are easy to overlook, not only in disasters, but in the best of times. According to Dr. Adnan Haider, 19.2 percent daily wagers are working on daily wages, 27.1 percent of daily wagers are working without any formal contract and 31.4 percent daily wagers are working on the streets without any contract. These people are vulnerable even in the best of times. They bear the brunt of escalating food prices, economic slow-downs, and sudden health expenses. Various surveys have highlighted that this stratum spends a disproportionate amount in 'out of pocket' expenditures on health emergencies.

Attending to this vulnerable group in the present lock-down can also set the stage for devising a long-term crisis-resilient social protection scheme that improves their ability to deal with routine income and health shocks. Various government agencies have the technical wherewithal to do this. The BISP updated survey provides a good entry point to identify this segment. Already, income support is given to those living below the poverty line, based on a country wide survey consisting of 100 questions. Eligible BISP beneficiaries are identified through proxy means testing. Households receiving a score of 16 and below are deemed eligible for the BISP or Ehsaas cash transfer. The same platform can be used to devise a social protection scheme for daily wagers. The data can be refined further by reconciling it with data analytics from NADRA's citizen database. The database contains a dedicated field that classifies the profession of ID card holders, which can be used to identify, to the best approximation, the segment of daily wagers. Complimentary databases from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and the State Bank of Pakistan could also be used to define a precise categorization. Not only does Pakistan have the ability to roll out social protection programs for daily wagers, but also for other vulnerable communities that cannot sustain income shocks. An integrated approach with structural reforms, is required.



“The experience an organization builds in times of disaster, becomes the crucial building block for service delivery in future.”

“
The key of digital
transformation lies
in an integrated
database.”

Integration is Key

Pakistan's social protection strategy was historically fragmented with 200 social safety net programs, overseen by multiple organizations such as Ehsaas, BISP, Zakat, Bait-ul-Mal, Division of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Nets, and others. There is a lack of a common framework to target beneficiaries resulting in potential overlaps in support extended to certain groups and limited coverage to others. It is a good omen that efforts are underway to address this challenge. Recall that several of these programs have been ongoing for over ten years, and may require a re-evaluation of their targeting to ensure consistency and coherence. Hence, it is never too late to restructure these programs. It will grow the social safety net in terms of coverage and decrease the cost of operation.

An integrated data mechanism database of such programs is a dire necessity. Data sharing among institutions related to social protection or social safety net programs, will aid in developing a targeted, strategy, thus, making the programs more effective. Once such a database has been developed, it can be used to roll out different schemes in the future, such as vocational training, health insurance, and the like. In short, while Covid-19 has exposed our unpreparedness for dealing with a health calamity, we have at hand, a valuable opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art platform for social service delivery to the most vulnerable, and shock-prone segments of our society. This will help in making Pakistan more crisis resilient and will be a major step towards fixing the fast-breaking social contract between the state and citizens.





Towards Transformative Social Protection

“Pakistan’s response in times of crisis proved that social protection for the most vulnerable is well within the capabilities of middle-income countries.”



By
Safiya Aftab

Executive Director
Verso Consulting

“Having a social protection infrastructure in place is invaluable in times of crisis.”

The Role of the Government

Among the many lessons that 2020 has taught the world, is that the role of government in modern life is far from over. Countries where publicly funded health systems were not a priority, suffered immensely through last year. On the other hand, countries like China, whose draconian lockdown was criticized by many in the first quarter of 2020, emerged relatively unscathed, given that it was the epicenter of the COVID-19 virus in the beginning.

A key area that has been brought into sharp relief by the crisis of the past year is social protection. As economies have reeled under the onslaught of a virus that rendered everyday interaction potentially dangerous, people across the world have faced job losses, reduced hours, loss of businesses, and shrinking of the economic space/income in general.

Social Protection During the Pandemic

In the early days of the pandemic, Pakistan too responded by ramping up social protection for the most vulnerable sections of society. The federal government announced a package of relief measures worth PKR1.25 trillion on March 25 2020, including measures such as food packages to daily wage labourers, and lump sum cash relief to existing beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). This includes the deferment of loan payments for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) entrepreneurs, tax

relief measures for exporters and short term relief on utility bills for consumers with limited usage.

While this was the biggest relief package ever put out by the government in Pakistan, the payments to households were calculated to cover the cost of essentials (food and basic supplies) for just two to three months. Nevertheless, given limited resources, the choice was to offer more substantial relief to a few households or to extend coverage as far as possible. In effect, the government trebled the number of beneficiaries already serviced by BISP, a policy that made sense given the poverty impacts of COVID. The government's inability to offer more relief was a key element in its policy of limiting the lockdown (which was not a very stringent lockdown for the most part) to two months, from end March to end May 2020. Thereafter, the emphasis has been on encouraging people to observe Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and effecting “smart lockdowns” in specific localities where an extended outbreak occurs.

The merits or demerits of the government's COVID policy notwithstanding the events of the last few months, has demonstrated how having a social protection infrastructure in place is invaluable in times of crisis. It is important to remember here that just a decade ago, Pakistan's limited social protection landscape consisted almost entirely of social insurance measures (payments to formal sector and government workers against contributions deducted from

salaries, with matching grants from government), with some limited assistance to the poorest of the poor through largely discretionary systems such as Zakat and Bait ul Maal. It was not until BISP was launched as a proxy means test based large scale cash transfer program in 2010, that social assistance was really put on the map in Pakistan.

Even before the outbreak of Covid-19 a broader based Ehsaas programme encompassing BISP was launched to further Pakistan's social protection agenda. This also included a series of programs to help households graduate out of poverty. The number of beneficiary families under Pakistan's social protection programme, have increased from about 1.76 million in FY2009, to 4.5 million, with an additional eight million receiving one-off cash grant under the COVID-19 response in FY2020 (till 10 July). Provinces initiated their own programmes, like Sindh has set up a Social Protection Unit in the Social Welfare department. Frequent disasters in Pakistan and the recent COVID-19 pandemic have prompted all provinces to invest more in social protection. There remains a question: how integrated are these efforts towards a collective goal of reducing the impact of crisis on vulnerable populations?

It is perhaps time to look back on the gains of the last decade, and reflect on how these initiatives can be extended. The crisis of COVID-19 has tested the governments' ability of reaching out to the most vulnerable population, despite fiscal constraints. Pakistan's response in times of crisis proved that social protection for the most vulnerable, is well within the capabilities of middle-income countries, even lower middle income countries like Pakistan, who are trying to reform sub-optimal taxation systems and manage fiscal deficits.

Issues with Existing Schemes

It is true that the national socio-economic registry for the BISP unconditional cash transfer is in the process of being updated. But such detailed systems of targeting are expensive to implement and may not remain relevant for too long in economies where informal sector employment and dependence on agriculture is the norm, household incomes are given to significant fluctuation, and asset holdings change fairly fast. What is more likely, is that their circumstances changed over the decade since the data

was collected, and that many households lay just at, or barely below the cutoff line that was used to determine eligibility for the cash transfer. In any event, the delay in the updating of the national socioeconomic registry may lead to a situation where both inclusion and exclusion errors in the BISP beneficiary lists, are likely to increase significantly.

Second, although less likely to be discussed in the national press, beneficiary selection in the Zakat and Bait ul Maal schemes could also do with forensic auditing, not least because it is highly discretionary. One would surmise that inclusion errors are less likely here, as amounts disbursed are typically small, and would only benefit those falling well below poverty lines. Nevertheless, the possibility of exclusion errors occurring is significant, given that Zakat committees may not be making an effort to identify new potential recipients, or may not be able to verify conditions in marginalized households who do not participate in the social life of the community. Given their performance, their role in times of crisis where the vulnerable population is looking for immediate relief, the identification of potential beneficiaries is highly unlikely. Whether these are households featuring religious minorities, or have differently-abled members, or they simply live at the outskirts of main settlements, there could be many reasons why they simply do not feature in the consciousness of Zakat Committee volunteers tasked with identifying beneficiaries. The same is true of Bait ul Maal, which because of limited resources, functions very much on a first come first served basis with practically no advertisement of its services (to avoid being overwhelmed with requests that they cannot meet).

Way Forward

One way to proceed is to assess Pakistan's highly fragmented social protection as a whole, including its utility in times of crisis, decide on a few priority areas and find ways to consolidate support in two or three schemes. It is also advisable to thoroughly review targeting systems and assess the feasibility of periodic asset surveys – would a universal approach where key public services are upgraded significantly be feasible in the longer run? These decisions do not have to be made overnight, but a debate should commence.

Governments across the world have taken extraordinary measures to help their citizens stay afloat – fiscal stimulus packages in Europe have been as high as 32 percent of 2019 GDP (in Italy), and 24 percent of 2019 GDP (in Germany).¹ Even the United States has put out major relief packages' recent being a bill of USD 1.9 trillion for extension of USD 300 weekly jobless aid supplement one-year expansion for the child tax credit and periodic payments to many households.² The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has offered assistance of USD 107 billion to developing countries over the last year to deal with the COVID-19 related economic emergency.³ Countries which already had strong public health systems' or different forms of large-scale benefit systems' have been in a better position to roll out relief at short notice

DID YOU KNOW?



BISP was originally meant as a cash assistance program at a time of food and fuel inflation (the 2007-08 global oil price inflationary spiral), and was based on a nationwide census of household assets held in 2009. Ten years later, the unconditional cash transfer programme remains Pakistan's flagship social protection initiative, with a new national socio-economic registry underway to upgrade the 2009 census.

1. Bruegel. (2020). "The fiscal response to the economic fallout from the coronavirus." Bruegel data sets. Available at <https://www.bruegel.org/publications/datasets/covid-national-dataset>.
 2. The Wall Street Journal (2021), "House Passes \$1.9 Trillion Covid-19 Stimulus Bill; Biden to Sign Friday." Available at <https://www.wsj.com/articles/house-set-to-approve-covid-19-relief-bill-11615372203>
 3. International Monetary Fund (2021), "COVID-19 Financial Assistance and Debt Service Relief." Available at <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/COVID-Lending-Tracker>

The Security Nexus

“ Comprehensive national security, good governance, and a rules-based society should remain the overarching goal for Pakistan if it wants to make a mark in the comity of nations. ”



By

**Aizaz Ahmad
Chaudhry**

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The Evolution of ‘Collective Security’

In its most basic sense, security is a concept that has obliged nation states to pursue ways by which the sense of survival is enhanced. In fact, the very concept of security is what predicated the formation of nation states. This nuance of security has, at times, been a double-edged sword. Many countries have justified waging wars against another in the name of security, which in turn, has brought to the fore, destruction and deaths. Two World Wars, the creation and use of atomic weapons, deaths of millions of individuals, were enough for the conscience of nation-states to envision a new world, one where there would be an interdependent nature of national security. The United Nations (UN) was a direct product of this vision and based on the idea that international cooperation and mutual respect provides far greater security and stability than narrow nationalism and hegemony. The UN Charter laid down a powerful foundation for the evolution of a new paradigm of collective security. In simpler terms, the principle argued that a country was only secure as long as its neighbour was secure.

However, with the passage of time, serious challenges to this concept of collective security arose. Among the most prominent of these challenges was the Cold War, which forced countries to join security alliances, and in a manner, polarized the world. This created a direct challenge to the concept of collective security because countries were picking sides so as to ensure their own national security. The end of the Cold War

brought a brief relief and euphoria to the international community. The charm and magnetism of globalization brought countries together again. However, this time, it was not national security that brought them together, rather it was the promise of liberal democracy and market economy. This new normal transformed collective security to a comprehensive collective security paradigm. Now, countries were bound by a global socio-economic normative framework with the commitment of promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As good as the promise of a comprehensive collective security sounded, it unfortunately, was short-lived. Unilateralism emerged as a dominant theme in the national security framework of countries, to the extent that they began to even supplant multilateralism. This was further compounded by issues of xenophobia, anti-immigration, Islamophobia and protectionism in international trade, making the world further insecure and complex. Even basic human rights safeguards, such as the Right to Protect, were misused by powerful countries to further their own agendas, which included pre-emptive use of force and regime changes in countries which did not tow their lines. Hence, the evolution of national security has been a constant, consistent and an adaptive process on display in the international system.

The Local Narrative

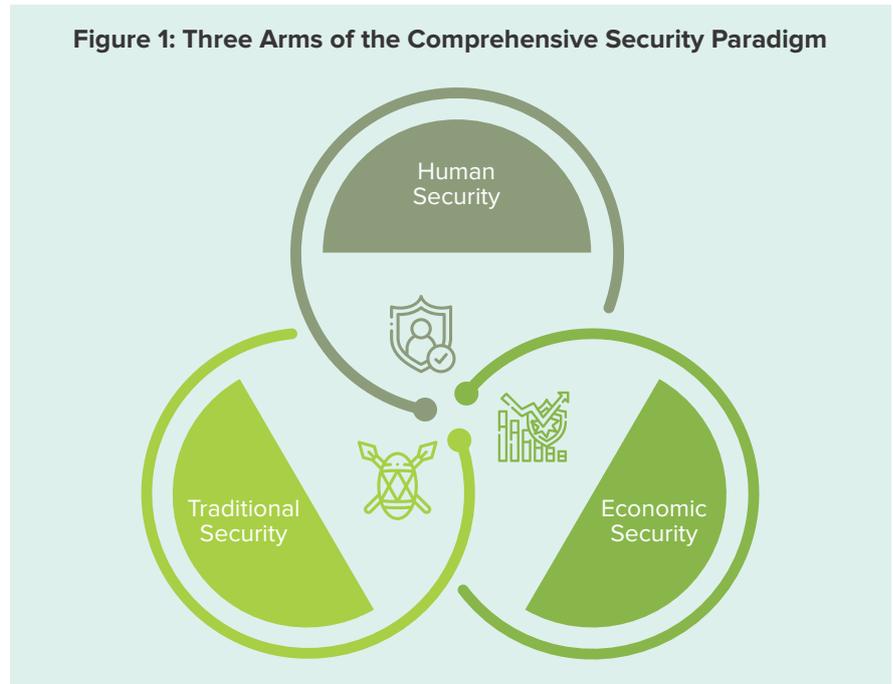
For quite understandable reasons, Pakistan, right from its independence in

1947, was deeply concerned about its survival and security as a nascent state. The threat from the eastern neighbour obliged Pakistan to look towards the West for its defence needs. The geo-strategic location of Pakistan also brought its own share of challenges and opportunities for the country. However, over time, the nation of Pakistan learnt that a mere focus on physical security may be necessary, but not sufficient. It must be coupled with securing the other two pods: economic and human security. With complex challenges that include, non-traditional security threats such as water and food insecurity, cyber and hybrid warfare, strategic coercion and lawfare, Pakistan, like other nations, was left with no choice but to re-think the concept of its national security, in more comprehensive terms of traditional security, economic security, and human security.

Traditional security apparatus in Pakistan is already quite robust. It is the economic security that is now assuming greater importance within the overall concept of comprehensive national security. The present government in Pakistan is keen to base its foreign relations on geo-economics rather than geo-strategy. The focus on regional connectivity is also a part of this vision. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is meant to unleash economic opportunities, not only for Pakistan and Western China, but also for the entire region. Exploring new avenues of cooperation with the United States in education, public health, agriculture, information technology, science and technology, as well as economic and commercial collaboration with neighbouring Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa, alongside outreach to other regions, are all being pursued with the objective of enhancing Pakistan's economic security. However, this prong is heavily dependent on the good governance of the country. That in turn requires political stability, and a clear consensus amongst the political, business and other elite of the country on the centrality of strong economy for a bright future of Pakistan.

Human security, the third element of the comprehensive security paradigm, is no less important. Human resource is the ultimate strength for any country. Investing in people's education and good health, generating employment opportunities, and meeting their housing and other basic needs empowers them, which in turn enhances a nation's national security. The United Nations has undertaken significant work in setting the benchmarks that every nation must achieve to enhance its human security. From Millennium

Figure 1: Three Arms of the Comprehensive Security Paradigm



Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals, the roadmap for every nation is well laid down. The key is implementation. To that end, rule of law and equal opportunities for all segments of the society, is the best way to empower the masses. Just like a national consensus on economic security, the nation also needs a social compact to bring human security at the center of national governance mechanisms.

The relevant question to ask is, if the direction is so clear, and roadmaps too have been well laid down, where is the issue? A number of areas can be identified that require immediate redressal. First is the question of political will, which is un-dented by any political expediencies and manifests through strict adherence to rule of law. The second imperative is implementation of all that has been agreed and planned. The third element is a devolution of power and resources to grass root levels, accompanied by a strong system of accountability to root out corruption. Finally, coherence and coordination amongst key stakeholders is of critical importance. Such a multi-pronged approach can provide a basis from where the country could begin to address a host of other pressing issues, such as water shortages, food insecurity, alarmingly high population growth rates, poor literacy levels, weak public health infrastructure, and low yield agriculture. It is a tall order, but there is no short-cut. Comprehensive national security, good governance, and a rule-based society should remain the overarching goal for Pakistan if it wants to make a mark in the comity of nations.

In Pakistan too, the concept of national security has undergone a phenomenal change. There is an emerging consensus that the security of the state of Pakistan must be pursued in its comprehensive sense, which is predicated on three prongs: national or physical security, economic security, and human security. Only this tripod of comprehensive national security can provide Pakistan a stable environment to exploit its full potential as a nation. However, the shift from the narrower sense of national security to comprehensive security, was never going to be easy.

“The charm and magnetism of globalization brought countries together again.”

Climate Action for Change

“ The Germanwatch Climate Risk Index 2020 ranked Pakistan as the 5th most affected country on long-term as well as respective yearly indices. ”



By

Hammad Naqi Khan

Chief Executive Officer and
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The Crises of Climate

Climate change is one of the foremost issues at hand and tackling it should be a topmost priority. Pakistan ranked consistently as one of the top ten countries affected by climate change, while contributing a very negligible percentage in greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions.

The 2004 tsunami and the earthquake of 2005 acted as agents of change in diverting mindsets from a reactive approach to a proactive approach. The 2010 floods were the largest climate-induced event in the history of the country that led to the biggest displacement of population, at nearly 20 million. They paved the way for the drafting of the national Climate Change Policy 2012, with subsequent development of a framework (2015-2030) and enactment of the Pakistan Climate Change Act 2016.

The recommendations provided in the Climate Change Policy under different sectors should be implemented through consistent and long-term initiatives to gradually improve the resistance of the vulnerable communities and ecosystems. In addition to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Pakistan is also a signatory to the Kyoto Protocols (2005). The commitments on all relevant international treaties and

declarations need concrete and quantifiable efforts.

Climate-Smart Agriculture in Pakistan

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) focuses mainly on soil/land preparation, selection of most appropriate seed quality and type, on-farm water management, irrigation practices/high-efficiency irrigation methods, crop period, sowing and harvesting techniques, integrated pest management, storage, value chain additions, and wise marketing of products. These activities are directly related to conserving natural resources to get optimum benefits by an intelligent decision-making system. The land planning may contribute to better utilize the land for the most appropriate use or crop which gives more benefit. The high-efficiency irrigation methods consume only 20 to 30 percent water as compared to flood or furrow irrigation practices. The innovative seed varieties require less time to mature, resistant to pests, require less water, thus, the cropping intensity can also be increased multiple times, thereby achieving more benefits in less time and resources. The innovations in cropping methods, irrigation practices, and harvesting techniques improve the shelf-life and quality of agriculture products, hence, earn more profit through value additions.

RECHARGE PAKISTAN PROGRAMME

Multi-Sectoral Initiative

Ministry of Water Resources	1	5	Academia
Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)	2	6	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
Provincial Relevant Departments	3	7	Local Communities
Research Institutions	4	8	Miscellaneous Partners



Function

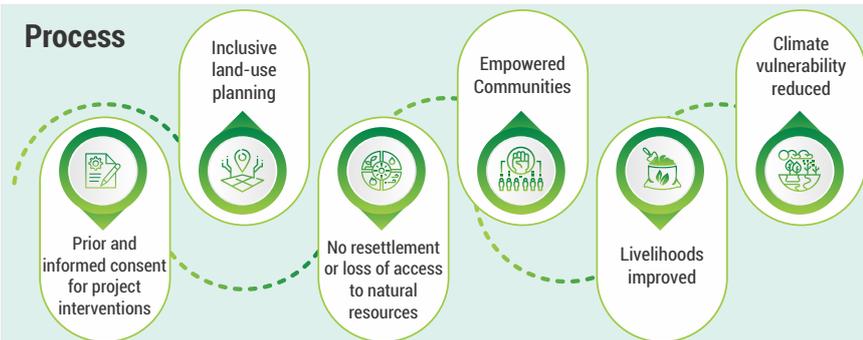
To conserve natural resources incorporating nature-based solutions instead of engineering methods.

Three Facets



The Recharge Pakistan programme brings innovation across all its implementation areas. This will be the first project in Pakistan to implement ecosystem based adaptation interventions at a large scale to manage flood water and advocate for more flexible and integrated decision-making and responses in the floodplain areas. Second, the project addresses hill torrents as part of integrated flood risk management. The implementation of Eco-System Based Adaptation (EbA) interventions for reducing flash flood flows during extreme weather events and harnessing their potential, especially in arid and drought-prone areas such as Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), will help reduce the significant contribution of hill torrents to the flood peaks in the Indus River.

Process



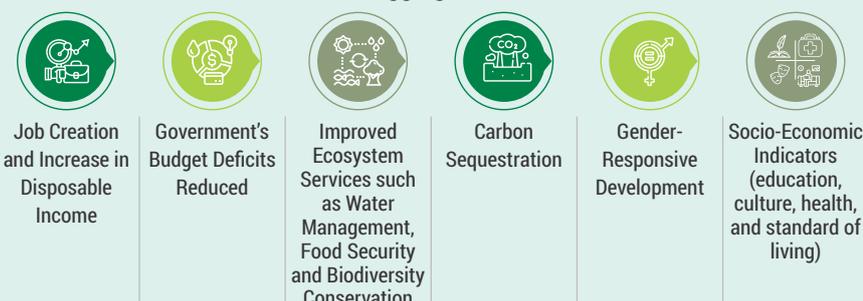
Impacts

- Reducing escalating flood risks through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in the Indus Basin
- The installation of Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS).



The project's implementation partners, particularly the government representatives, will safeguard long-term engagement and replication of its activities, as well as stakeholder coordination, by ensuring that the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Provincial Advisory Committees (PACs) meet regularly during and after the project. Besides, as EbA measures are inherently long-lasting, they will continue to provide benefits to vulnerable communities that are also enabled to sustain and replicate interventions through community-based natural resource management and flood risk management efforts which requires funding opportunities that can be provided by local and international donors.

Impact Measurement Tools Gender-Disaggregated Indicators



“In particular, the lack of a strong disaster response mechanism will jeopardize decades’ old progress through a single major unfortunate incident.”

Agriculture employs roughly 25 million people in Pakistan and is the main income source for 34 percent and 74 percent of economically active men and women respectively. Yet, women have limited access and control over productive resources (e.g., land, irrigation infrastructure, and agricultural inputs), lack of awareness in case of improved technologies, value addition, marketing, limited access to extension, and financial services. In Pakistan, agriculture is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by representing approximately 41 percent of emissions. With a growing population and evolving dietary preferences, food demand is expected to increase significantly soon by driving the commensurate increase in the agricultural sector emissions. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that helps guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate.

CSA aims to tackle three main objectives:

- Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes
- Adapting and building resilience to climate change
- Reducing or removing greenhouse gases GHGs

CSA provides the means to help stakeholders identify agricultural strategies suitable to their local conditions to better respond to climate change. In this regard, WWF-Pakistan under its Sustainable Agriculture and Food Programme (SAFP), identified and tested climate-smart interventions under the following thematic areas;

- Climate-Smart Crop Protection
- Soil Health Improvement
- Climate-Smart Livestock Management
- Promotion of Agroforestry
- Livelihood improvement
- Water Conservation
- Promotion of Precision Agriculture

The results of Climate Smart Interventions (CSI) derived against each thematic area were validated through field trials established in collaboration with leading agriculture institutions of the country. The results indicated that

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate.

through the adoption of climate-smart crop production and protection practices, improved irrigation, water management, conservation tillage, and application of precision agriculture practices, CSI has the potential to overall reduce 23 percent of GHG emission with an increase of 22 percent in crop yield, along with 26 percent increase in profitability. Finally, agroforestry and large-scale tree plantation programmes are important to sequester the GHG emissions from rapid land-use change and deforestation in the country.

The impact of changing climatic patterns is now visible on the development front. This impacts the environment, soil, water, crops, and humans as well. Due to heavy rainfall and episodes of drought, there are impacts on soil and the crop yield. Furthermore, the increasing climate change-related disasters are causing uncertainties in predicting available runoff, which hinders the government and private agencies to plan accordingly. Due to this, non-seasonal and non-regulated flows increase the dependency on groundwater, which ultimately depletes the water table and consequently deteriorates groundwater quality.

Sustainable Development and Economic Growth

We need to promote sustainable development and economic growth to ensure that development does not further negatively impact the environment. As population grows and consumption increases, we are likely to see costs imposed on the environment. The environmental impact of economic growth includes increased consumption of non-renewable resources, higher levels of pollution, global warming, and the potential loss of ecologically important habitats and biodiversity. However, not all forms of economic growth cause damage to the environment. It is important to include environmental protection costs in the feasibility

“ In Pakistan, agriculture is the single largest contributor to GHGs by representing approximately 41 percent of emissions. ”

of all interventions and no-go areas clearly defined and preserved. With increased incomes, individuals, businesses and governments have a greater ability to devote resources to protecting the environment and mitigate the harmful effects of pollution. Also, economic growth caused by improved technology can enable higher output with less pollution.

In this regard, the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) has a critical role to play. It has already framed and regulated national policy, plans, strategies, and

programmes dealing with climate-related disaster management including, environmental protection, preservation, pollution control, forestry, wildlife, biodiversity, climate change, and desertification. The MoCC has to legislate and implement the already framed policies and roadmap that Pakistan has committed in the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol, and also the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), given most of the goals directly or indirectly lead to a sustainable environment.



The Urban Predicament

“ With the frequency of disasters anticipated to increase in the coming years, we need solutions stemming from policy frameworks as well as community-based interventions, to retrofit and prepare our urban environments. ”



By
Sundas Shahid
Urban Resilience Expert

Pakistan is no exception to the global trend of urbanization. It has the highest rate of urbanization in South Asia, with 36.1 percent of the population living in urban areas. This is anticipated to rise to 50 percent of the population as predicted by the United Nations Population Division. Urbanization is inherently interconnected with economic development, social development and environmental protection.

Cities are also epicenters where the impact of hazards brought on by climate change manifest most affluently. Urban flash floods, increased precipitation, heat waves, worsening air quality and water scarcity are all interconnected outcomes of climate change, that perpetuate and fuel each other towards worsened impact. As population increases and densities burgeon, our cities remain inept to give equal basic urban service and facilities to our communities. In the face of climate induced disasters, our cities are unprepared to respond to and mitigate its impact given the current state of urban provisions that do not suffice even on normal days. With the frequency of disasters anticipated to increase in the coming years, we need solutions stemming from policy frameworks as well as community-based interventions, to retrofit and prepare our urban environments.

Policy and Institutional Structure on Urban Resilience

The guiding national level policy for all other national commitments introduced by the government of Pakistan is the

Pakistan 2025 One Nation - One Vision Policy, devised in 2014 by the federal government. Key policy objectives are: mitigation, adaptation, energy security and energy access. Other pertinent policies are the National Climate Change Act 2012, Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017, National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2013, and National Disaster Response Plan 2019, that delineate a policy framework for better coordination mechanisms, a Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), multi hazard vulnerability studies informed development, resilient key infrastructure, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning at the local level.

Other initiatives on Urban Resilience include the Clean Green Pakistan Movement (CGPM) under the current government, which aims to minimize impacts through institutional strengthening and grassroot initiatives.

The Climate Resilient Urban Human Settlements Unit at the Ministry of Climate Change has been established to coordinate with provincial and local departments for projects on 'Climate Resilient Safe and Sustainable Cities'. They also facilitate project implementation through international funding and development partners.

Despite the existence of these institutional structures and policy frameworks, we are yet to consolidate a specific policy that caters to resilience at an urban scale. Given rapid population growth, Pakistan is in dire need of an institutional framework that specifies

pate in project formulation and implementation. Decentralization needs to be further designed not just to reduce the institutional distance between the national, provincial and local scale, also to transfer resources and build capacity locally. Another pertinent need is for the local government officials and representatives to remain in place for an adequate period of time to ensure project completion.

Local governments have a unique standing, as they are closer to the realities of the field, and have in depth knowledge of climate change induced hazards as opposed to managerial and policy knowledge from the top. They also have access to networks and communities through which implementation of projects can be more successful. What we need is a seamless system where communication can be fostered from all levels of governance to ensure that policy is informed by field knowledge to benefit the local communities.

Another caveat is the lack of data to inform disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation. Strong data systems have proven to produce policies, projects and frameworks, that can adequately address the constantly changing disaster landscape in cities. It enables informed decision-making, improves the quality and effectiveness of public services, and utilizes resources more efficiently. Collecting data from local communities further ensures their participation and makes the process all the more inclusive.

Resilience planning at the city level also necessitates understanding of the environment through a data informed lens as climate change risks coupled with systemic development risks (increased mobility, lack of land use planning, governance issues) creates a complex ecosystem of hazards. Figure 1 depicts the cause and effect, impacts and outcomes of risks that manifest themselves in the city of Rawalpindi. It illustrates the intricacies that exist within the built environment that we often overlook when devising strategies and policies pertaining to climate change and building resilience in cities. For example, increase in mobility will also impact the air quality, further problematize solid waste collection, and interrupt water and sanitation systems. The complexity with which these risks overlap elucidate that we need a multi-hazard and data-informed approach to adequately approach resilience for cities.

Where is the Community?

More often, it is the at risk population which is affected the most by climate change that has absolutely no role in the

The Gender-Urban Relationship

Community participation models employed need to be gender sensitive that take into account the differentiated needs of women, children and the differently abled. Climate change and its associated hazards impact women disproportionately considering that they are mostly relegated to domestic chores and settings, and lack representation in the labour market and the political sphere. It is pertinent to get the women out of the house and encourage them to take up space in important forums so that the projects that we implement do not cause further gender marginalization.



policy and projects that have a direct impact on their lives. In the processes of gathering data and policy formulation, we overlook the very people whose lives we aim to improve. However, the reality is that nobody understands the city, its characteristics and their predicaments better than the communities themselves. For adequate planning and responsiveness to disasters and climate change impact, we need to distill their demands in a systematic manner in planning processes. We need to create a sense of community to mitigate the distrust that the locals have harboured over the years owing to the inefficiency of systems and governments.

Way Forward

No city would be able to build itself back if the government does not invest in its people, their capacity and skills, and acquiring their trust to build systems of resurgence post disaster. Building community resilience and infrastructural resilience of city services are not distinct, yet at the policy level, this vacuum continues to inhibit the overall resilience of cities. We need to strengthen individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and services in cities to mitigate, adapt, and continue to thrive in the event of a disaster.

While working with policies and institutional structures, we often forget that we are planning for the very environment that we live in; the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, and feeds the crops that we consume, are all part of the eco-system that we must protect. Urban resilience is a concept through which we can achieve that by strengthening our communities as well as our city's infrastructure.

“ The formulation of an urban resilience policy should bear in mind this rural to urban shift, as well as the presence of rural characteristics in urban spaces. ”

“ We need a multi-hazard and data-informed approach to adequately approach resilience for cities. ”





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The economic impacts delineate just one side of the coin – the human aspect has been far worse.

”

The Human Factor: Pakistan's Social Protection Response to Covid-19

“ Central to the progress of this program lies its use of data and ability to widely share across programs through digital tools. ”

By

Dr. Sania Nishtar

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan
Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety

COVID-19 related economic, financial and social disruption has been unprecedented with the lockdown impacting 24.9 million workers (11.4 million daily wage workers in the formal and informal economies, and 13.5 million self-employed workers in the informal economy). Given that the average Pakistani family has 6.4 members, it is estimated that the disruption affected around 160 million people, roughly two thirds of the country's total population.

The economic impacts delineate just one side of the coin. The human aspect has been far worse. Sudden disruption in livelihoods left everyone helpless, be it daily wage labourers; domestic workers such as part time gardeners, security guards, drivers, industrial daily wagers; beauticians and barbers, waiters, miners, fishermen, shopkeepers, teachers – the list is endless.

In response to the economic impact of the pandemic, the Government of Pakistan launched the Ehsaas Emergency Cash (EEC) programme, allocating PKR 203 billion (approximately USD1.2 billion) to deliver one-time emergency cash assistance to 16.9 million families at risk of extreme poverty.

Ehsaas is the main programme through which the government aims to build a welfare state. It has a total of over 260 initiatives, with the objective to provide safety nets, financial access to health care, scholarships and incentives to students, livelihood

opportunities, and financial and digital inclusion. Ehsaas is already working towards using a standardised beneficiary targeting mechanism, through defined PMT cut-offs for each program, to enable poverty graduation. Additionally, Ehsaas will align program beneficiary populations, to avoid duplication across different Ehsaas programs. Central to the progress of this program, lies its use of data, and ability to widely share across programs through digital tools, to ensure implementation at a large scale, thus ensuring complete transparency of all benefits transferred to a single beneficiary through different programs.

Another important transition, as part of moving to social protection of the future, is offering all social protection services to potential beneficiaries in one place, physically and digitally. To enable this, Ehsaas is setting up physical One Window Centres, Ehsaas app and Ehsaas e-portal linking all Ehsaas services.

“Ehsaas is about the creation of a welfare state by countering elite capture and leveraging 21st century tools and approaches...the programme's premise is grounded in the importance of strengthening institutions, transparency and good governance. We realize that the limited capacity of public institutions and governance challenges often impeded their ability to deliver. Therefore, Ehsaas is also planned with the ambition to fight through all such challenges.”



INTERVIEW

Francisco J. Santos-Jara Padron

Regional Advisor
Livelihoods, Economic Recovery and Displacement
Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Development Programme

“ Resilience is not just about coping mechanisms, it is also about the ability to transform. ”

In your opinion, what are some of the particular crises and resilience challenges in the Asia-Pacific region?

The increasing multidimensional nature of crises relates not only to crises affected by the exposure to natural hazards, but also to fragility and conflict, social cohesion, staggering inequality and socio-economic shocks. With the multidimensional nature of crises evolving, it is also important to go beyond traditional approaches in managing and preventing crises.

The most integral crises faced by the Asia-Pacific region, and the world as a whole, is that of climate change (CC): the one crisis that unites the nature of all crises in the region. In true essence, it is really a ‘climate emergency’ as its effects are increasingly visible, and it has already impacted millions of people, not only in their livelihoods, but also their lives.

In the Asia-Pacific region, this is a matter of emergency and survival. UNDP’s work on ‘Climate Promise’ in some countries is already linked to migration and displacement, as one of those coping mechanisms vis-a-vis the increasing effects of climate events.

With specific regards to Pakistan, we are also looking at urbanization dynamics, interconnected with nature based solutions. One particular initiative that we are collaborating on is about assessing the exacerbated socio-economic impact of Covid-19 among vulnerable groups living in informal urban settings, where rural migrants and other displaced people live together with poor hosting communities. We are selecting a neighbourhood in Karachi identified as one of the pilot areas. This is a field that has huge potential for collaborations and alliances across the region, and across thematic areas such as DRT, governance and rule of law, climate change and livelihoods. While there is an obvious sense of priority related to Covid-19, however, owing to the multidimensional nature of the pandemic, other crises cannot be isolated.

“ Because of the multidimensional and increasingly multi-risk approach of crises in the region, the integration of different risks is the way to go in resilience building. ”

In your opinion, what strategies have worked well to address these crises?

UNDP is developing the risk development programmatic offer, which summarizes five spheres of risk informed development, mutually reinforcing and interconnected. UNDP has been supporting countries in development policy and implementation strategy in this regard, and there has been substantial research on this in Pakistan.

One of the important findings that set the basis for one of the spheres, relates to issues in access to funding. However, there are also other challenges identified, that relate to capacity and implementation.

Linked to migration and displacement as one of the coping mechanisms, the climate emergency is a matter of survival for the Asia-Pacific region. Resilience is not just about coping mechanisms, it is also about the ability to transform systems and communities to better respond and prepare for future shocks and crises. Hence, it is also as a transformative opportunity.

For instance, impacts of Covid-19 on lives and livelihoods has been huge. However, simultaneously, it has also proven to be an opportunity to revisit those development solutions that we have previously been advising or working on. The lesson learnt is that we cannot continue working on a development trajectory that is so dependent on intensive use of natural resources. Such development pathways are also leaving a substantial segment of the population behind.

In terms of a more micro lens, some of the risk reduction programs that have been implemented in Pakistan include scaling up on the Glacial Lake and Outburst Floods (GLOF) in northern Pakistan, a programme that has proven to be very important, not only for Pakistan but also as a role model for many others. The Institutional Support to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation is also a very important program in Pakistan. An area that requires further focus is viewing these coping mechanisms as ‘transformative mechanisms’ and delving into sub-national lessons and practices as well. Hence, we are also looking at how subnational authorities can be agents of change so that vulnerable populations are not left behind.

Based on the future risk-informed development matrix, if climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is integrated into conflict prevention, it must integrate other risks and resilience aspects. Because of the multidimensional and

increasingly multi risk approach of crises in the region, the integration of different risks is the way to go in resilience building.

With particular reference to Covid-19, what does the socio-economic future look like for vulnerable groups?

This is an extremely important aspect and requires joint discussion, as the effects of this multidimensional crisis, both health and socio-economic related, are still unfolding. I had the opportunity to work with other UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub colleagues at the Covid-19 Crisis Response Task Force, as chairperson at the initial stages of the crisis on the socio-economic impact analysis, and am also currently leading the DPR Korea socio-economic impact assessment for the United Nations. Across the region, the socio-economic impact assessment has also allowed UNDP to better understand and assess the exacerbated impacts in segments of the population that might normally be left behind, such as migrants, refugees etc.

If there is a principle this crisis has unearthed, it is not only that of leaving no one behind, but a whole of society approach – meaning, a society is as strong as its weakest segment.

If there are segments of the population that have traditionally been left behind, are multidimensionally poor with limited access to reliability of services such as health, education and social protection, it calls for a revision of those traditional development and recovery paths that have been proposed.

In many countries, we are also deepening our analysis looking at our interaction with nature. The National Human Development Report 2020 delineates that our impact in the planet is tremendous, to the level of being called an era. This is useful deciding our future resilience approaches.

What does the future look like? The future will be another type of crisis. With the extent and complexity of the impact of the crises still unfolding, the short term seems scary. It will also depend, as it seems, on the the speed of vaccination campaigns to all groups of societies in most countries that have been most impacted, which is still not yet at the level that it should be. So now we are looking at how we can support vaccination campaigns in countries that do not necessarily have the means to do it. The virus did not discriminate, and the recovery cannot do it either. A recovery which does not include access to vaccines for everybody, cannot be a recovery in the true sense.

“ A programme must be designed in a way that is sustainable, risk-informed and embracing the environmental fragility and the reality of our Anthropocene era. ”

According to Adonis, a Syrian poet, we need to recognize the good in evil. Despite Covid-19 causing a tremendous loss in lives and otherwise, it is also a really tragic reminder of the inability to continue on the development paths that we were undertaking before. There is a responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to the benefits of economic growth, jobs, and ultimately the development gains; designing and imagining new ways of social protection schemes; at digital methods for new development paths that also entail some challenges vis-à-vis privacy and ensuring the government and states do not use this crisis as an excuse to step into enabling spaces for engagement and participation of all segments of the society, in an free and meaningful way. This calls for more collaboration, advocacy and vigilance among State, civil society and development partners.

Therefore, crises must also be looked at as an opportunity to look at more nature based solutions engaging youth and other vulnerable populations through more digital means. But in developing a recovery that is more digital, we have to ensure that we are not exacerbating the gaps between women and men, rural and urban, and vulnerable populations. For instance, in Hawaii, the federal government took the Covid-19 crisis as an opportunity to align recovery along a gender-entred agenda.

Finally, a programme must be designed in a way that is sustainable, risk-informed and embracing the environmental fragility and the reality of our Anthropocene era. We cannot continue investing resources in a number of 'dying value chains' which continue to have negative externalities in the environment, including accelerating the effects of climate change. On jobs and livelihoods, we are looking emerging areas and critical economic niches where opportunities can be generated and the response that the new type of society is requiring in the long term, is what should inform the future trajectory of solutions. We need to have an anticipatory approach for policies and tools, in equipping countries with the right skills and instruments, to make it sustainable and all inclusive.

How would you rate the private sector's support in contributing towards long term resilience?

The private sector plays a critical role in the future, not only because of a lack of sufficient funding to achieve development goals, but often because solutions are already existent within the private sector.

When we talk about the private sector, we immediately think about big firms. However, even small micro enterprises need to play an important role, and that role needs to be supported.

For instance, some of the most vulnerable groups, such as refugees or migrants or displaced population because of natural hazards, are very often imparted a short term solution through emergency employment or entrepreneurial skills, but at the end of the day, that does not work too well because of the extent of the impact of the multidimensional risks that we are facing. These risks require a stronger engagement with different partners, including the private sector.

In my opinion, if we look at the effects of the crises, on the new mode of working and the new reality of working from home, and on digitalization and access to internet, I would call for private sector support on policy and solutions in different areas, especially digitization. Access to internet must be looked at as a public good, given the future is more digital and solutions will be crafted accordingly as well. The private sector's role in implementing these solutions at the national and sub national levels, is critical.

Looking at livelihoods or skills, is not just looking at short term employment. We are looking towards the fourth industrial revolution without fear. Countries that are already going through this revolution prove that the numbers of employment or livelihood opportunities are multiplied. That is where we need to look at how UNDP supports governments in agile and flexible ways. Pakistan has a lot of promise in this regard. What we truly need, is to be together in an anticipatory flexible place, so countries are better prepared.

“ What does the future look like? The future will be another type of crisis. ”





INTERVIEW

Muhammad Abdullah Khan Sumbal

Chairman
Planning and Development Board
Government of Punjab

“ There is no one-size-fits-all strategy for crises response as the nature, extent, and impact of all crises varies. ”

What are some of the particular crisis and resilience challenges in your region?

Punjab has experienced different types of crisis and resilience challenges. These include floods, earthquakes, locust attacks, and the biggest of all, the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a usual practice at the Planning and Development Board, that we allocate budget to risk mitigation and prevention, such as for floods and locust attacks, or any other crisis situation that is expected in the near future. Apart from budget allocation, timely release of budget for adopting appropriate mitigation and preventive measures is also essential. Pre-empting floods or other crises, in time, also poses a challenge. There is no one-size-fits-all strategy: every year we have to develop a new strategy, keeping in mind the development and economic context of that time, for developing mitigation, preventive measures, and early warning systems for dealing with such disasters. It has become a run-on-the-mill situation for us, where we constantly need to re-think and re-strategize.

COVID-19 has altogether been a distinct challenge, where we were implementing, learning, troubleshooting, and re-strategizing all at the same time. Limited resources and shortage of medical staff and facilities came across as a challenge that we had to deal with. Yet, another challenge for any government is to deal with the dilemma of balancing between crises response and socio-economic development; as allocating funds to crisis response also implies cutting down budget for other expenditures. For instance, during the first wave of COVID when Punjab's revenue recovery through tax was already low, we not only had to set aside funds for the COVID response strategy, but also had to give tax relief of PKR 18 billion to businesses to keep the economy afloat.

What are the core strategies to address these challenges? Have these been successful?

I would reiterate that there is no one-size-fits-all strategy for crises response as the nature, extent, and impact of all crises



varies. However, in generic terms, what has worked for us, is making the crises response strategy a part of our yearly proceedings. We ensure every year that prior to budget allocation, we set aside an amount for crises response and mitigation strategies. This also includes developing early warning systems – such as weather forecasts to warn about floods or locust attacks – and re-visiting the strategy every year to adjust according to newly acquired information or predictions. Similarly, timely release of the appropriated funds is also essential, without which no amount of strategy or budget allocation is likely to work.

In addition, a new strategy we have adopted despite facing internal criticism, is making our budgets more inclusive to ensure greater ownership of policy making at the public level. For instance, last year before releasing the final budget in June, we made our tentative budget plan public and invited everyone to give their suggestions on it. Out of the total responses we received, at least 1300 suggestions were quite substantial. Giving public the choice to make suggestions on the budget allocation increases ownership of the budget amongst public and builds their trust in the government.

What role can other stakeholders play in creating a sustainable long-term resilience strategy?

Government of Punjab, like all other provinces, is very keen on working with the private sector. However, massive trust deficit of private sector in government authorities does not leave much room for this partnership to flourish. We are still in the learning phase to develop good Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and this will only improve with time. For instance, during COVID-19, for the Ehsaas Cash Transfer Programme, the government of Punjab and the federal government, proved to work quite effectively together, with financial sector banks. Thereby, if PPPs are given a chance, their development, and private sector's trust in the government will improve with time. What is required is that the private sector, despite trust deficit, keeps on working with government.

“ COVID-19 has altogether been a distinct challenge, where we were implementing, learning, troubleshooting, and re-strategizing all at the same time. ”

“ Giving public the choice to make suggestions on budget allocation increases ownership of the budget amongst public, and builds their trust in the government. ”



INTERVIEW

Shakeel Qadir Khan

Additional Chief Secretary
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“Currently, our resource growth is not equivalent to our resource gap.”

What are some of the particular crises and resilience challenges in your region?

When we talk about the crises of our region, which includes erstwhile FATA as well as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), one of the biggest challenges we have been grappling with since the last one and half decade, has been the action against non-state actors. The impact this has had on the security situation has resulted in a security crises for the region.

There are many crises that uproot from this, including the displacement of people, which we have largely overcome, however its far reaching after-effects still require time.

A direct by-product of this challenge is the governance and rule of law aspect. Over a period of time, the writ of the state weakened. The state responded and gradually took back that writ through decreasing space for these actors. Now, we have reached a point where we are confident that the state is functioning with complete writ.

The security crises was indeed a huge challenge; a lot of energy went into tackling this crises as a result of which we could not attribute due time and diligence to other crises such as climate change and the abnormal growth of urban areas. This resulted in sluggish economic growth and the speed with which we should have created jobs and upgraded our infrastructure, could not happen.

The challenge of social protection has two angles: social protection during the crises and then after the crises. The former is more or less taken care of fully and our response was adequate. For the latter, we need to do more work, so that we can introduce more peace-time social protection initiatives.

Last but not the least, the challenge of sufficient resources to address all these challenges is a significant issue. Currently, our resource growth is not equivalent to our resource gap.

“The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is ready to offer its strategic advantage to the private sector.”

What were the core strategies to address these challenges? Were they successful?

The primary crisis was security which we were able to overcome to a large extent. But its fallouts, are what really need to be addressed.

For instance, social protection schemes and cash handouts during emergencies were provided quite liberally, with a lot of support from bilateral agencies including the United Nations. Our success lies in successfully supporting almost 4-4.5 million people through social protection. This was an exercise executed well provincially and our performance under pressure remained remarkable.

Moving forward, displacement has different dynamics in which return is a very important aspect. This is also a priority agenda item that we have successfully addressed. Almost 99 percent of the population is back in their areas of origin, a huge achievement.

As far as the human aspect was concerned, there were strategies in place which have worked, in terms of restoring livelihoods, providing compensation for damaged houses, and addressing the security, governance and rule of law situation.

In the context of FATA, we changed the overall governance structure of the region following the merger – extension of police, extension of local government, better land settlement etc – these are the major strategies that were in play. Some strategies have reached completion, while others are in process. It is a long term goal, but the beginning has been positive.

On the social protection front, the most important aspect is to have a proper policy in place. A lot of work on this has been carried out. There is a social protection policy draft ready and with many initiatives for the socially challenged population, for vulnerable groups, for women etc. We are also actively working with the federal government on their flagship social protection program, the Ehsaas program.

On the climate change front, the billion tree tsunami and the 10 billion tree tsunami are both flagship programs initiating from KP. Since we possess almost 65 percent of the total forest area of the country, our province plays a major role in contributing to the challenge of climate change. Needless to say, a lot of work has been done to tackle this crisis and we are still working towards achieving more.

Urbanization is a relatively new challenge. Given our engagement in responding to other crises, we could not give due attention in addressing this one. As a result, our cities are not as properly managed as should be. Issues include solid waste management, traffic management, sewerage, water and sanitation issues, management of storm water and so on and so forth. However, since the last two years, there has been an acute realization in the government regarding addressing this challenge, with projects worth billions of rupees in the pipeline.

So the crux is that the government is well aware of all the challenges and is confronting them head-on. While some counter-strategies have reached completion, some are in process of implementation, and some are in the pipe line - being finalized or in the design phase.

The last area is economic growth and job creation. Ensuring a healthy economy and healthy job creation growth rate is very important and enables the population in accessing most of the services the government provides. There is a lot of work being done in this regard including supporting the industrial and agriculture sector, increasing irrigated area for cultivation, supporting SMEs for rapid job creation, and supporting the I.T sector and start-ups through investments. Going forward, we also aim to address the issue of unemployment, currently higher for the province as compared to the national average.

In your opinion, what role can other stakeholders play in creating a sustainable long term resilience strategy?

The private sector is divided into two areas: One is the ‘for-profit’ initiatives and second is the non-profit partnership.

The non-profit partnership comes into play particularly in times of crises and addresses the areas of social protection, climate change etc. A huge partnership of philanthropy between the public and private sector was seen during the major natural in the last few years. Hence, this model has worked well and roles are well defined for both sectors.

The for-profit is a newer area with laws developed since the last 3-4 years. Areas where the private sector can partner with the government include the road, health, urban and infrastructure development, and economic growth sectors.

The government is ready to offer its strategic advantage to the private sector. Moreover, the government will also be mindful of propriety rights in the event that an idea originates from the private sector.

Last but not the least, we deeply value the technical and advisory role of international partners, a domain with a lot of value and potential.

“Almost 99 percent of the population is back in their areas of origin-a huge achievement.”



INTERVIEW

Naseer Nasar

Director General
Provincial Disaster Management Authority
Government of Balochistan

“ The Government of Balochistan is instilling serious efforts to formulate a vigorous disaster-risk management system in the province in line with international and national priorities. ”

What are some of the particular crises and resilience challenges in your region?

Historic records indicate the province of Balochistan has witnessed several types of natural and human-induced disasters. Some of the most devastating disasters which have caused widespread fatalities and losses include the 1935 earthquake in Quetta, 2008 earthquake in Ziarat, and 2013 earthquake in Awaran. In recent years, climatic changes have increased the probabilities of riverine and flash floods; with notable flooding occurring in 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2018, 2019 and 2020. In addition to the impact of climate change, the province's proximity to the Arabian Sea makes the province vulnerable to tropical cyclones accompanied by heavy rains and flooding, which has become more pronounced during the last two decades. Recent examples of the June 2007 Gonu Cyclone, October 2008 Yemyin Cyclone, and May 2010 Phet Cyclone, have impacted the Balochistan coastline. Furthermore, a major part of the province is comprised of barren and undulating land with occasional rainfall and a weak irrigation system, due to which the province is consistently prone to the risk of drought. In recent years, Balochistan faced severe droughts between 1997-2002, and 2018-2019. According to research conducted by the National Disaster Consortium in 2019, 14 of the province's districts faced severe drought.

The 2005 devastating earthquake, 2010 super floods, and other disasters, gave a wakeup call by necessitating the implementation of a proactive approach, with more focus on preparedness and mitigation, thereby supporting the establishment of a resilience infrastructure—comprising of response, rehabilitation and recovery phases—for the future. Subsequently, after the promulgation of the National Disaster Management Act in 2010, a robust disaster risk management system has been in place in the form of the establishment of National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities in the country, while at the district level, the Disaster

Management Authorities are slowly strengthening and shaping up. However, there is a dire need to achieve more milestones in this domain so that in the future, the local government and at-risk communities themselves have the capacities and knowledge to respond to disaster timely and efficiently.

Given certain crises such as climate change are global and widespread, it is essential to learn from best practices around the world. The government of Balochistan is instilling serious efforts to formulate a vigorous disaster risk management system in the province in line with international and national priorities. This policy is being presented to further strengthen the disaster management system of Balochistan and enable all stakeholders – government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and local communities – in developing a disaster resilient culture in the face of emerging disasters. Efforts include building capacities, increasing public awareness and encouraging preparedness to preserve lives and livelihood assets.

What are the core strategies to address these crises? Have these been successful?

We have been using various strategies, for example:

- Operationalize a vibrant disaster management system throughout the province;
- Develop a scientifically based multi-hazard, vulnerability risk assessment profile of the province, which shall provide a base for developing disaster management plans;
- Prioritize sustainable development and resilient infrastructure through effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures to tackle the adverse impacts of climate change and other potential risks;
- Enhance the capacities of all stakeholders through regular training, awareness raising sessions, regular drills/simulation exercises, and scientific research;
- Engage disaster prone communities in risk assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring to develop disaster resilient communities at local level; and,
- Strengthen an effective and efficient emergency response management system capable to prepare for, and respond to, all types of emergencies and disasters.

In your opinion, what role can other stakeholders play in creating a sustainable long term resilience strategy?

At the advent of any disaster, the local communities and front-line defenders are the ones most affected. While local residents make attempts to combat the effects of disasters and the risk of hazards through collective efforts and volunteerism, they are still not professionally trained in first aid, search and rescue, or emergency response management. Therefore, we

are creating a system through proper planning, to develop capacities in order to enable the communities at stake for developing a coordinated mechanism of self-help, and supporting the government organizations in reducing the risks and in being prepared for any emergencies on a 24/7 basis. Not only this, we are also working on:

- To develop a community-based disaster risk management framework with close collaboration of relevant government organizations, especially Civil Defence, Rescue 1122, Social Welfare, Pakistan Red Crescent Society and other NGOs for strategizing and implementation;
- To develop a uniform standard curriculum on community-based disaster risk management to ensure its amenability and ownership at local level;
- To establish fully equipped local level disaster management committees with the support of district government, NGOs and Civil Societies;
- Training local level disaster management committees to conduct MHVRA and develop Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plans of their respective areas under the supervision of the disaster management authorities and local government, to ensure quality assurance, data validity, and reliability; and,
- To prepare, similarly, a team of volunteers at community level.

In doing all the above activities, we are aiming to involve civil society organizations to support us and strengthen our disaster risk management system.

“ We are creating a system through proper planning, to develop capacities in order to enable the communities at stake for developing a coordinated mechanism of self-help. ”



INTERVIEW

Sharif Hussain

Director General
Provincial Disaster Management Authority
Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

“Public-private partnership needs to be encouraged.”

What are some of the particular crises and resilience challenges in your region?

Among the general environmental crises rampant throughout the country, earthquakes and flash floods are especially found in this region. The latter is made more severe with increasing encroachment on the river beds.

With regards to specific crises in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) is a frequent occurrence, especially in the northern part of the province.

Climate change is also a severe crisis, as the erratic behaviour of seasons gives birth to a plethora of other challenges.

The lack of proper building codes encompassing multiple hazards is a major issue. While improvement has certainly occurred, especially in the post 2015 earthquake period, there are still several privately established buildings who do not keep this facet in mind during construction, with regards to earthquake resilience.

Deforestation is also a significant crisis. A major reason that accounts for this is the cutting of trees, which is a major source of income for those living in the hills. Moreover, the use of wood for fire, and fuel for cooking and heating, is also a reason why trees continue to be cut heavily in those areas.

Urbanization is also gradually building into an issue. With a majority migrating to major cities, city centers are facing acute stress on services, space and resources.

The maintenance of security and rule of law is also a critical governance challenge in the region. In order to counter this, several security operations have been carried out to date. This resulted in the displacement of several people. Addressing the displacement and resettlement crises is still an ongoing activity.

“ With regard to the specific mandate of PDMA, in making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a disaster resilient province, we installed telemetric stations at seven points in the province that have supported us in identifying the onset of floods. ”

What are the core strategies to address these crises? Have these been successful?

PDMA developed a Return Policy Framework with regards to the return of the Temporarily Dislocated Persons (TDPs), in collaboration with the provincial government, the United Nations Agencies (UN) in Pakistan, community organizations as well as some volunteers. This Framework was partially successful in achieving the return of the TDP's to an extent.

We also initiated and held a series of Cluster meetings on tackling COVID-19 in clusters, with the support of the provincial government.

With regard to the specific mandate of PDMA, in making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a disaster resilient province, we installed telemetric stations at seven points in the province that have supported us in identifying the onset of floods, an hour or two prior to its arrival. This initiative still has a long way to go given the full requirement of the installation of these stations, is needed at a 100+ locations.

We have also collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Pakistan and initiated the installation of hydrological stations. We have developed a concept note with the assistance of FAO on a 'Very Early Warning System' (VEWS). This has been presented to the provincial government and if implemented, the impacts will enable timely protection of human beings and physical assets from climatic and flood devastation. We are also actively seeking financial support in this regard, from donors, as well as the provincial government.

Apart from this, we have already been working in the areas of preparedness, mitigation, adaptation and response to address different crises. All these are built around a multi-stakeholder approach and we ensure that all counterparts remain on board.

Another method through which we ensure all stakeholders are

involved in the consultation process, is by developing forums and policy dialogues around areas that require addressal. For instance, our forum to discuss relief strategies for TDPs remained quite successful.

In terms of Covid-19, we have done tremendous work through providing relief material as and where needed.

In your opinion, what role can other stakeholders, including private sector, play in creating a sustainable long term resilience strategy?

As aforementioned, building structures are very vulnerable. The private sector can assist in ensuring proper building codes through financial as well as technical support.

In terms of disaster insurance, businesses can play an active role. Through their support in mitigation and resilience, the stresses on society can be reduced, along with improved capacities and reduced load on the financial exchequer.

A lot of focus on rehabilitation by the provincial and federal government is being centered in merged areas, but work also needs to be done in settled areas.

Public-private partnership needs to be encouraged, Together with private stakeholders, the participatory approach will increase more responsibility taking and better preparation for disasters.

While international donors and the UN have always provided support, their presence and spending in the province has certainly reduced. Hence, moving forward, we would request for increased role and support from the international community, especially when we see increased frequency of disasters due to climate change: where Pakistan as a country and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a region has minimum contribution to the ill effects/carbon foot print.



INTERVIEW

Syed Salman Shah

Director General
Provincial Disaster Management Authority
Government of Sindh

“ Implementation of a disaster risk reduction framework is fundamental if we want to build resilient communities and reduce risks. ”

What are some of the particular crises and resilience challenges in your region/area?

In an event of crisis, Sindh lacks response mechanisms such as the lack of a central command and a rescue force or disaster/crisis response force. Last year, we had major incidents including plane crash, collapse of buildings, road accidents, and gas discharge at Kemari Port. Communities, government and policy makers are not fully aware of disaster risk reduction and resilience. The biggest challenge would be to create awareness and change the behaviour of the community and responsible institutions, before the onset of such incidents.

What are the core strategies to address these areas? Have these been successful?

Implementation of a disaster risk reduction framework is fundamental if we want to build resilient communities and reduce risks. This can only be done if we follow a roadmap by enhancing awareness, addressing gaps in policy making and implementing policies on ground. We are aware that the current institutional capacity is not ideal, but a step towards a collective goal can help us achieve the target. The government of Sindh, with the support of the international community, has initiated programmes to enhance capacity at provincial and district levels. Regional level trainings and workshops have been done, which will now be conducted for all 29 district DDMA officials.

We are also mobilizing communities through piloting volunteer forces via ‘Community Emergency Response Teams’ (CERT) in six districts of Sindh. These teams have been formed on a 60/40 ratio of men and women from within the community and local institutions/NGOs already working on ground. By the end of this programme, we will have at hand, a trained human resource of nearly 1,000 volunteers across Sindh, acting as our supporting mechanisms in building a resilient society.



“ An effective coordination mechanism and implementation of best practices, can help mitigate challenges. ”

In order to give due importance to disaster risk reduction in development programmes, line departments have been trained on suitable preparation of project concept notes (PC-Is). A response team has also been mobilized built along the same model as the Rescue 1122 force. PDMA is also procuring 230 ambulances to respond to health emergencies.

What role can other stakeholders play in creating a sustainable long-term resilience strategy?

In Sindh, Karachi is the hub of industrial estates. Private sector is our major stakeholder to address challenges posed to the environment. An effective coordination mechanism and implementation of best practices, can help mitigate such challenges. Urbanization is another big challenge the province is facing at the moment. In the event of a disaster or a crisis, the associated issues with urbanization can complicate matters further.



INTERVIEW

Syed Shahid Mohyiddin Qadri

Secretary Relief, Disaster Management and Civil Defence

State Disaster Management Authority
Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir

“ The location and geomorphology of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, makes it vulnerable to natural and human induced disasters. ”

What are some of the particular crises and resilience challenges in your region?

The location and geomorphology of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), makes it vulnerable to natural and human induced disasters. Figure 1 outlines region specific challenges:

The effects of these disasters are exacerbated by poor infrastructure, scanty emergency response services, and poverty, particularly in rural areas, lowering coping mechanisms at all levels. During recent years, AJ&K has suffered from a series of natural disasters, including the 2005 and 2019 devastating earthquakes, horrendous river floods of 1992, flash floods of 2010, 2013 2014, and cloud burst of 2019 in Leswa. Thousands of precious lives were lost and cost the region billions of rupees as large-scale infrastructure, housing, livestock, agriculture, equipment, and other assets of livelihoods were all destroyed.

What are the core strategies to address these crises? Have these been successful?

State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) is determined to reduce harsh impacts to the maximum extent possible through different strategies, outlined below. Although these strategies have been quite successful, they still require more improvement. Through better coordination and continuous capacity building, following measures are being/have been taken:

- Strengthen disaster management administration at state and district Level;
- Enhance disaster management system in the stages of pre, during and post disaster approach;
- Establish mechanism for monitoring and assessment of disaster risk;



- Promote mechanism for disaster risk reduction measures into development;
- Promote disaster risk management at local and community level; and,
- Strengthen capacity of players in disaster management.

In your opinion, what role can other stakeholders play in creating a sustainable long term resilience strategy?

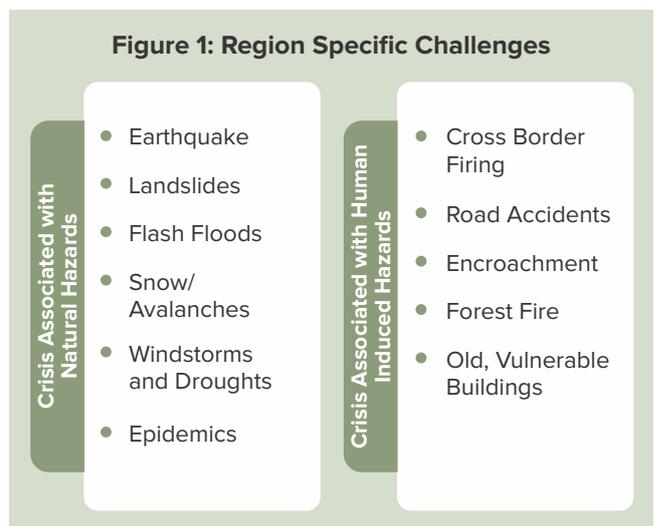
SDMA ensures the roles of each and every stakeholder through a consultative process. The government’s role has been identified as follows:

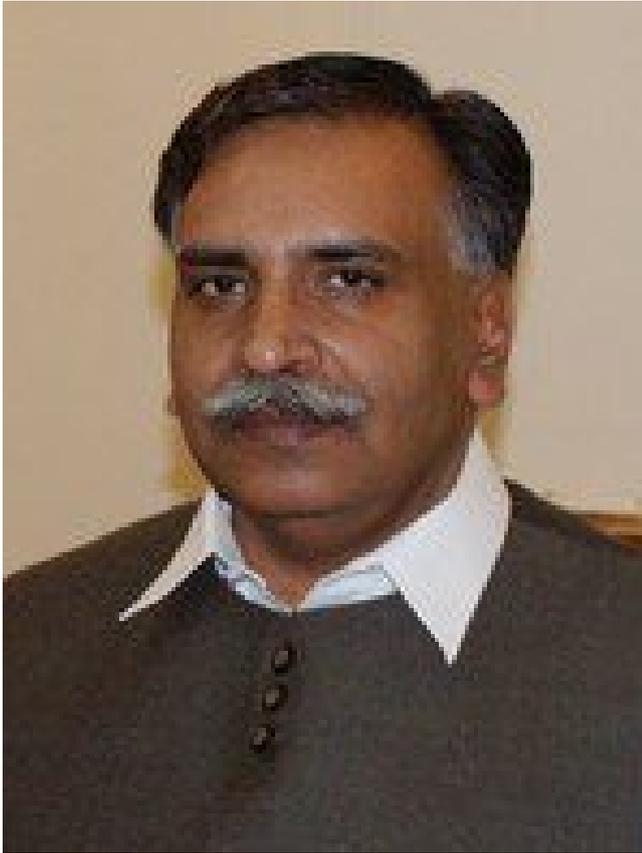
- Establishment of Emergency Centre in their own departments for smooth coordination and timely response in case of emergency;
- Provision of cranes, dumpers, loaders, tractors, road rollers, heavy trucks, generators, search lights, and other necessary equipment at the scene of the incident;
- Availability of standby skilled trained and qualified staff that have the capacity to deal with any type of disaster;
- Repair, maintenance and replacement of hanging and damaged electric wires in case of disaster, in collaboration with power supply companies;
- Establishment of mobile emergency teams for on spot repair of vehicle/fire tenders and other heavy machinery;
- Keeping sufficient stock of search lights, heavy duty bulbs, lantern, light torches, trolley, ropes toe-chain, helmets, etc. required in emergency;
- Keeping standby arrangement to meet all emergencies related to electricity breakdown and in case of electrocution;
- Displacement of heavy machinery out of rush area to meet any emergency and reduce reaction time;
- Removal of debris, obstacles and roadblocks to ensure smooth flow of traffic;
- Remove any encroachment obstructing relief work;
- Restoration of normalcy after disaster or major livelihood disruption in the state; and,

- Other department specific activities in relation to disaster risk management.

The role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is also crucial in maintaining a smooth flow of operations. Following functions have been identified for the NGO sector:

- They will work in close coordination with the government departments in relation to disaster risk management as per the core functions, mandate, and resources at their disposal;
- They will help mobilize communities and develop local level capacities for early warning, disaster preparedness and response;
- They will help implement programmes for community vulnerability reduction e.g. strengthening livelihoods, safer construction practice, and drought mitigation;
- They will participate in Disaster Risk Management activities such as training, public education, damage assessment, rehabilitation and construction projects in hazard prone areas;
- They will help formulate Disaster Risk Management Plans in order to share resources and information; and,
- They will closely collaborate with SDMA to ensure strategic policy and operation implementation.





INTERVIEW

Qamar Masood

Senior Member
Board of Revenue
Government of Balochistan

“ Development is an ongoing challenge in the province. ”

What are some of the particular crises and resilience challenges in your region?

The primary crisis is COVID. The provincial government has worked hard to address this pandemic through establishing centres and distributing protection equipment. However, while the situation has definitely improved, much more work needs to be done. Our pace is slow given our limited capacities. We are grateful to the support of national and international donors who played a significant role in helping us manage this crises, along with our own officers, all executed through the Balochistan Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

Other major crises include the national climate crises. The crises is very much prevalent in this part of the province. Balochistan has had very nominal drains as a result of which there are reports of a severe drought approaching the province soon. We have developed a strategic plan of action at the PDMA level and donors will also be approached to be engaged for public assistance in remote areas.

Development is an ongoing challenge in the province. Again, the issue is of limited funds as opposed to big development needs, especially areas of education, water supply, dispensaries etc. We are exploring ways of combating the limitation, including soliciting donors' assistance, who have been very forthcoming in the past as well.

What are your core strategies to address these challenges? Have these been successful?

A cross cutting limitation across all sectors is the limitation in funding. For instance, just for education only, at the current rate, we need a five-fold increase in resources to be able to address the out-of-school children. So at a general level, more resources is a requirement.



© ndma

In terms of specific challenges, other strategies are being employed. For instance, for COVID, the focus is on creating awareness raising, as only if one is properly educated on the subject, can the spread of the virus be limited.

Capacity building of government officials is something we are trying to focus on. Government officials lack policy making skills owing to a lack of time, and no innovation has been brought in policy making. We need policy reforms. Training on policy making must be imparted to all government officials. The capacity of the bureaucracy needs to be enhanced as well. Training programs and research work is needed. The Balochistan Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) needs to be non-politically powered.

In your opinion, what role can other stakeholders play in creating a sustainable long term resilience strategy?

Given our limited capacity, the private sector is the future for a truly prosperous province.

I urge government and partners to work together in developing resilience plans. There are a number of anomalies that are already under consideration, but the pace is very slow.

Targeted interventions need to be designed based off research. The focus should be on long term plans rather than short term plans, and the private sector must be fully engaged through the process.

If Balochistan is to see prosperity, the private sector has to be put in priority. In addition to a centralized public private policy, each department must install their individual public private mechanisms, a practice which will prove to be extremely beneficial for international and domestic investors.

“ The focus should be on long term plans rather than short term plans, and the private sector must be fully engaged through the process. ”

The Future is Innovation

Complex and new challenges like Covid-19 cannot be solved with business-as-usual. At the Innovation-Accelerator Lab at UNDP Pakistan, we work with our programmes and partners to test new approaches to tackle complexity. The Lab offers future thinking and strategic foresight as a way to inculcate long-term thinking by envisioning and experiencing the future 10 years from now. This is critical for the policymaking process in the new world post Covid-19. The Long Time Project have flagged that, “[O]ur capacity to care about the future is crucial to our ability to preserve it. We need to feel an emotional connection to future generations.”

In the piece ahead, the Lab has conducted an experiential exercise for the readers to imagine what the future looks like and connect with it, so that we can make those policy changes today. The exercise has been done using a ‘Weak Signals Approach,’ which, according to Sitra, is an ‘indicator of a potentially emerging issue that may become significant in the future. Weak signals supplement trend analysis and they can be used to expand on alternate futures.’¹ This analysis can be built using desk reviews, research, and especially conversations emerging in community or social media. It can also be built by looking at events and using subjective interpretations.

1. Dufva, Mike (2019), “What is a Weak Signal?” Available at <https://www.sitra.fi/en/articles/what-is-a-weak-signal/#:~:text=A%20weak%20signal%20is%20the,become%20significant%20in%20the%20future.&text=Weak%20signals%20can%20also%20be,the%20selection%20of%20alternate%20futures>.



Imagining the Future Post Covid-19

With the third wave of Covid-19 in full force, we zoom out from the current crisis management and map out emerging disruptive signals of how the new world is beginning to reimagine itself, from public policy to urban spaces.



By
Javeria Masood

Head of Solutions Mapping
Innovation-Accelerator Lab
UNDP Pakistan

It is helpful to think through potential futures like a designer. For that, a visual is first required. Figure 1 delineates a ‘futures radar’ using weak signals, that puts together explorations, reflections, and actions visually built to see emerging signals of disruption. The radar has been put together from analyzing emerging news reports, desk reviews, social media and conversations.

These signals are spread and organized around multiple segments to get a sense of foreseeable futures, some that are happening at this moment, and some that are yet to come. These segments include Governance, Policy and Politics, Infrastructure and Urbanism, Lifestyle and Work (behavioural lens), Industry and Production, and Economics.

The radar can be read from inside to out. The inner space shows the more immediate signals and patterns, while the further you move away from the core, one can see future scenarios and long-term consequences. The dynamics, interconnectivity, and dependency of these signals across sectors show a glimpse of the new normal, the post-Covid-19 landscape.

As we look forward, the following are some key questions that emerge:

The New City

Spanish flu outbreaks in the early 20th century redefined some spatial configuration of our houses through vestibules with the addition of a sink, and the modern-day powder room. How are we re-imagining the form and functionality of our built environment to cater to the post Covid-19 world? Will this give way to micro-housing units, age-friendly development, and the much-needed decentralization of cities? Can we imagine going as radical as plug-in cities and portable habitats? Will new urban governance models be embedded in planning? What does the transition from Covid-19 lockdown to the ‘normal’ look like? Can we apply tactical urbanism as a way to smartly create safe zones within our cities by laying on existing infrastructure?

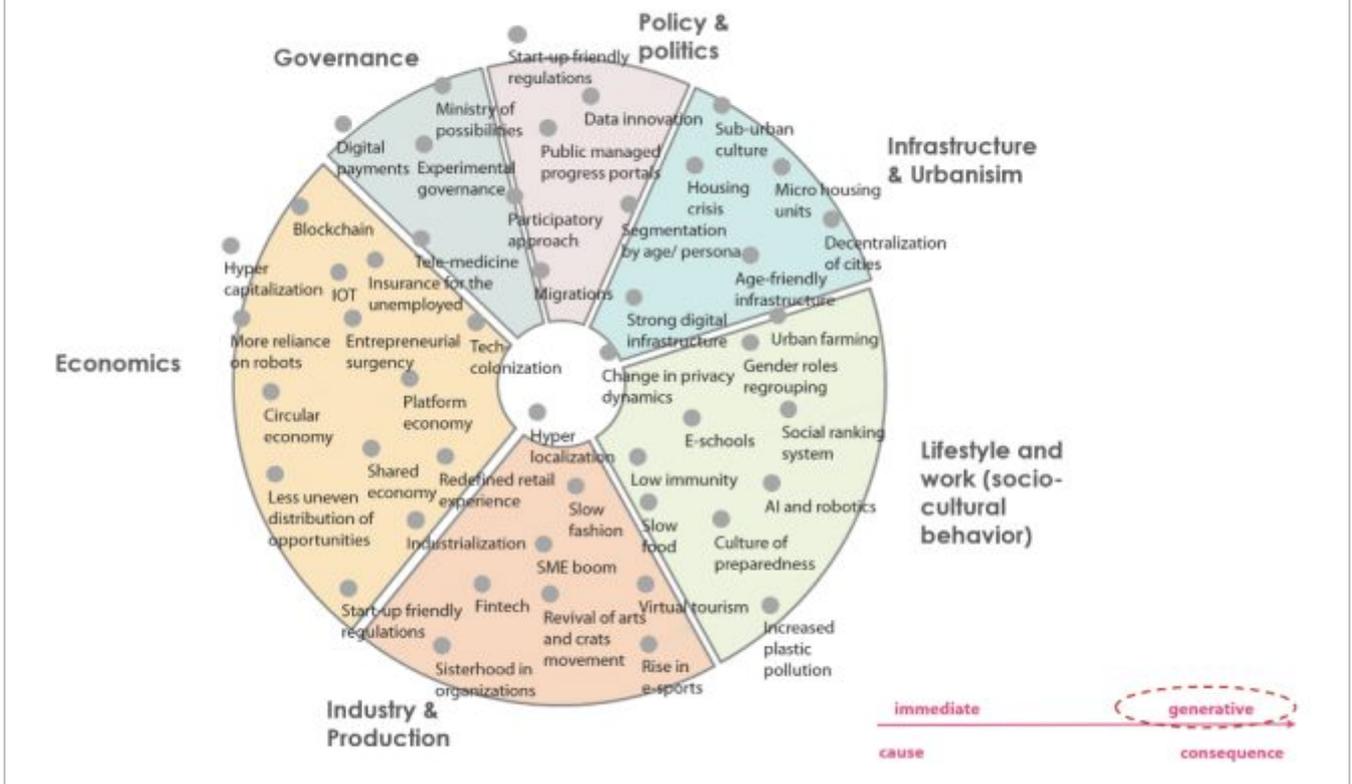
Schools of the Future

Closing of schools for the connected population meant moving classes online. With only 12.4 percent of population that has used internet and digital tools in Pakistan, the education gap is causing more disparity between socio-economic segments. In response to this concern, tele-education programs have been launched, but the idea is new, the execution urgent, and the

1. Household Integrated Economic Survey 2015-16

Figure 1: COVID-19 Futures Radar:

For Signals of Potential Future Disruptions



Source: UNDP Innovation Acc-Lab Pakistan

gap still not filled. With the acknowledgment of the need for alternative programs, will the education system be made more adaptive? Can we design a school of the future? What would it look like, and how will it ensure equal distribution of knowledge across the board? Will learner’s characteristics direct curriculums? Will we redefine the engagement models of books and lessons? Is the future of higher education looking like learning-by-doing?

Moving to Alternative Economies

With most offices and academic centers on a break, and industries in partial dysfunctionality, our economy has been deeply affected. There are many liabilities and uncertainties. Immediate solutions are not able to cater to the myriad of surfacing problems. While we are seeing some organizations and start-ups pivoting their role in response to Covid-19 and its implications, we are also not oblivious to a focus toward (somewhat) equal distribution of aid/opportunities. Does this mean we are two steps closer to a platform economy and one step closer to the donut economy?

Disrupting Social and Cultural Norms

Staying safe will require us to stay

distant and move as many interactions as we can, online. This may go on for a long time because of the threat of relapses. With Ramazan followed by Eid, will we see some major changes in our cultural settings? As a society that relies heavily on social ties, will these changes have an impact on our social structures? Will our expectations around relationships change? Will this shrink our social boundaries and make us more comfortable with isolation? Will the concept of privacy and perception change, and trickle down to other streams? Are we seeing social currency models as a new communal acceptance?

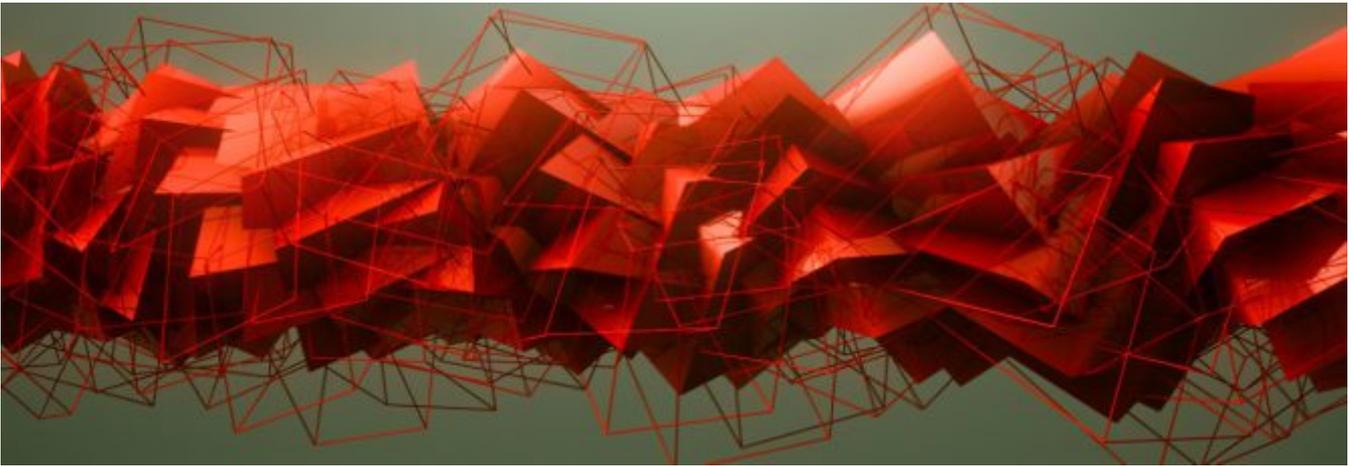
The Future of Health

We may see low immunity as a result of frequent hand washing, sanitization and isolation. That may leave us more vulnerable. How will we adapt? Is the current trend of tele-medicine going to meet the demand?

Expanded Social Welfare

The informal job sector and people dependent on daily wages are becoming more vulnerable. Many are also undocumented. The estimate is that 12.3 million to 18.5 million people in Pakistan will lose their jobs, according to the Ministry of Planning, Development and

“The world we live in has been shaped by design solutions and is set on the foundation of empathy – sometimes driven by incremental progression and cultural changes, and sometimes as a reaction to an event.”



Credits: Flux by the courtesy of Plato Art Space

“ A pandemic came out of nowhere, halted the entire globe, and highlighted all our weak links. It is requiring a complete systemic restructuring; it would be unwise to completely waste this crisis and not mold it through foresight and empathy. ”

Reform.

Meanwhile, the government's Ehsaas program has launched a web-portal that will map and provide opportunities to people who have lost jobs in this time. Most recently, the government also shared its Green Stimulus plan in which they are providing an opportunity to people, who have recently lost work, to plant trees for the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Programme.

Is this going to push us to create a strong welfare program for the future? Perhaps a public-private partnership model?

Future of work

The lockdown and changes in work modalities has a high acceptance rate.

The automation, capacity building, and the balance of the supply and demand cycle in the knowledge-based economy, is dictating our work responses. Will the future of work take on faster? Has the pandemic busted some myths in this reference? Will this mean more employability of women and differently abled people? Can we accept more remote, yet effective businesses?

All these questions point to future possibilities and projections. It is time to reimagine a world of the future, while living in the present.

Stories from the Future – an Experiential Lens

What Does Tomorrow Look like Post Covid-19?

How can we become better ancestors to our future generations? Human beings are cognitively not good at thinking about the long-term. That is why futurists help decision makers connect with the future emotionally to develop empathy in order to kick-start better decisions today, and also to stay ahead.

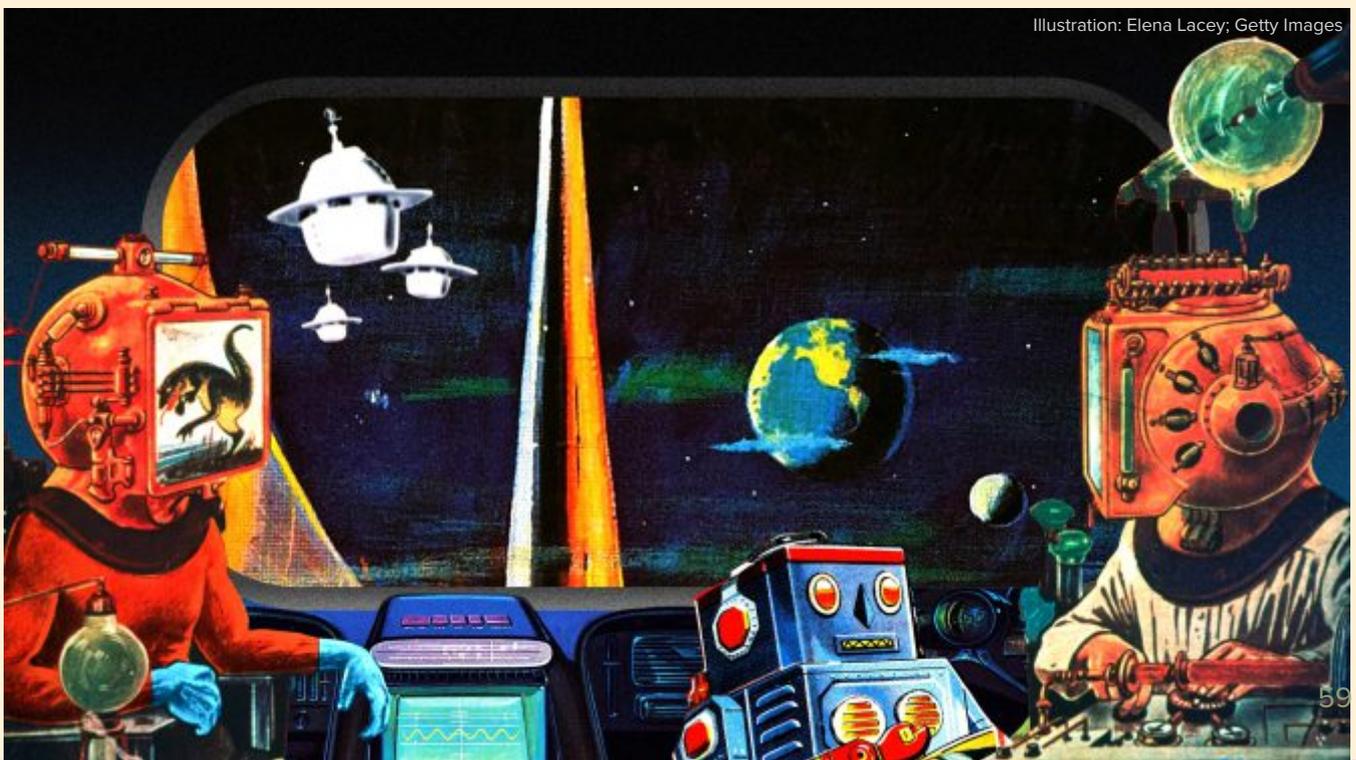
Envisioned by

Javeria Masood

Year 2020:

Raza has been working at a reputable private enterprise for the last four years. He was very excited to get the much-awaited promotion to be an Assistant Manager for the technology division. Two weeks into his new role, the first case of Covid-19 was reported in his city. A couple of weeks later, the government announced a lockdown. He had planned a retreat for his new team for work planning and team building, and decided to postpone it for a month as he anticipated the lockdown to be over by then.

Illustration: Elena Lacey; Getty Images



Year 2021:

It's April 2021. A year has passed. Raza now goes to the office two days a week, after seven months of completely working remotely. He had to translate all his coordination and management work into digital components. He introduced a system of informal chats with colleagues to get to know them, do an emotional check-in, and enjoy virtual quarterly lunches. Last year was a challenge. 63 percent of his colleagues did not have office programs installed in their personal computers. 38 percent did not own compatible computers. 23 percent shared tech devices. 33 percent did not have consistently stable internet. 11 percent had no internet at all.



Instant City: Living Air-Tight. Beomki Lee and Chang Kyu Lee

For these challenges, his firm has had to acquire and distribute new devices, buy expanded connectivity packages and facilitate flexible hours, but with lack of infrastructure, nothing could be done to provide access or stability of access where that lacked. The overall performance markers fell short, but the management is happy to still be in the market when many businesses had to do major cuts.

The psychological and social toll these times took on people presented itself as a bigger challenge. Mental health awareness and hybrid working modalities are still new and being explored through testing and iterating.

Year 2025:

Fahd is a consultant at the Simulations Policy wing of the government. His job is to use science fiction and gamification to create simulations based on real-time qualitative data for the government to make decisions on. A few years ago, he could not have thought of having a discussion on simulation projected futures work. Now, major universities are offering this program and all provincial governments have dedicated teams for this work. Policy advocacy and planning reforms have come a long way from internal facing to now being completely participatory. Citizens can project their asks, wants and problems as experiential journeys on the dedicated public portal, that calculates and visualizes how each change, or lack of it will age across multiple sectors.



Verner Panton's futuristic Visiona 2 exhibition (1970) was staged on a boat docked on the Rhine. The immersive environment collapsed the differences between wall and floor, rendering every fuzz-textured surface perfect for reclining. That, combined with the bright colored lights marking different zones, gave the space a hedonistic air. Courtesy Panton Design, Basel

Year 2026:

In 2019, Hina took maternity leave. She was anxious about coming back to work with the responsibility of being a new mother. Two weeks before her rejoining, the entire company shifted to remote working in response to Covid-19. Working from home has been a blessing for her. She can manage taking care of her baby, home chores, and work deadlines. She looks back to think how a pandemic proved helpful to make a case in front of her boss to allow her flexible hours and remote working. She now goes to the office only as and when needed. She has a digital notebook that manages all her tasks, meetings, reviews, and documents. It allows access to review her team's ongoing and completed work. She can request meetings in Pods anywhere in the city through her company's membership. These portable office desks were developed back in 2021 as the new way of working. Pods are bubble-shaped spaces spread across the country. Each is equipped with digital devices, connectivity, and a basic office desk and chair. The furniture is made of synthetic micro-polymers instead of fabric for hygiene purposes. Every time a member enters, the Pod self-sanitizes. They vary in capacity from one person to four people. Sometimes, Hina wonders how her office has changed from a five story building of open plan, to 150sq floating Pods.



Instant City. 1969. Archigram

The Air-ship. William Heath Robinson.

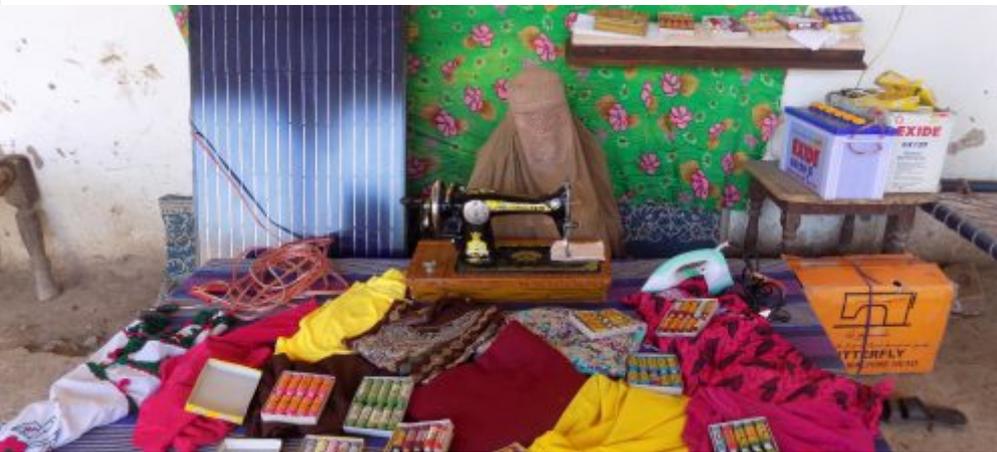
Year 2027:

After wrapping up a full day of work, Murtaza is closing his x2f kiosk. Over the last two years, he has opened 11 kiosks in Islamabad. It is a hybrid retail model where you walk in the kiosk, pick items through virtual reality (grocery, dairy, wearables, medicine, tea/coffee), check them through simulations, get access to your bank account through eye scanner, and make payment. The customer is completely touch-free. On the way out, you can pick your shopping from any of 50 shoots across the city or get it delivered to your home. Murtaza hardly passed grade five and had no access to connectivity till 2020. Life of a daily wageer got difficult during lockdowns, so he had to be experimental. He obtained digital literacy through a government skill-building program, and today, manages a successful chain with nearly 60 employees.



Displaced People, Displaced Dreams

A New Beginning for Shahnaz



By
Shahzad Ahmad

Communications Officer,
Stabilisation and Development
Programme, UNDP Pakistan

“ Sometimes, a
nudge is all that
is needed. ”

As a result of the security operations against non-state actors, over five million people were displaced in the northern region of the country. Several challenges emerged as a result, including damaged infrastructure and disruption of economic activity. 2008 saw the complete halt of all activity, in eight tribal agencies.

In 2015, with the shift from blanket operations to targeted ones, safe, voluntary, dignified, and assisted returns for the displaced families back to their areas of origin in the Newly Merged Districts (formerly known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas-FATA), were announced by the government. By 2019, almost 95 percent of the displaced families had returned home. Nevertheless, most of these areas lack basic social services and livelihood opportunities. Hence, in its true essence, life has still not returned to 'normal' for these people.

One such story is that of Shahnaz, a 32 years old widow and mother of seven children, belonging to one of the thousands of affected TDP families, who lost their house, possessions and source of livelihood upon return to Bara, Khyber Agency, FATA.

Being the breadwinner of the family, Shahnaz was distraught on not being able to provide for her children. There were a few local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who were working towards rehabilitating the TDPs. However, their resources, both human and financial, were extremely limited.

One such NGO, the Society for Human and Institutional Development (SHID), was a key support system working in Peshawar. Together with support from the United Nations Development Program Pakistan and FATA Secretariat, SHID helped 100 vulnerable families in the area, to revive livelihood activities and create new sources of income.

“I was very excited when I heard that UNDP and FATA Secretariat is providing cash grants and livelihood opportunities to the returning TDPs.” Shahnaz said.

A three days Business Management Skills Training (BMST) was organized for Shahnaz and 99 other females at village Akka Khel, Bara Khyber Agency. The participants of the training were provided basic understanding of business functions and parameters adapted to cater to local needs in simple Pashto language.

After receiving livelihood training and a cash grant of PKR 22,000, Shahnaz purchased a sewing machine, along with other necessary items, and established a small tailoring business inside her house.

She now successfully runs a small tailoring business and sells stitched dresses to the villagers. Her motivation coupled with financial support and a polished skill set, is now able to earn her a decent income to support her family's livelihoods, and with that, a decent chance at life.

War between Lives and Livelihoods

Zarina's Empowering Struggle

By **Shahzad Ahmad**

Communications Officer, Stabilisation and Development Programme, UNDP Pakistan

& **Somiya Khanum**

Social Mobilizer, PAWD

Zarina Bibi, aged 46, lives in Meeziwam village, Tehsil Sararogha, South Waziristan District. Her husband, who was working with the Frontier Constabulary, was kidnapped and killed by unidentified men during the time of unrest in South Waziristan District.

Growing up, the only role Zarina had ever lived was being a hardworking homemaker. The death of her husband thrust her in a conundrum – how would she put food on the table for her children knowing she could not send her sons out to earn, due to fear of them being murdered too. “After the death of my husband, we did not have any immediate source of income, the only hope was the pension of my late husband,” she said. It was a war between prioritizing lives or livelihoods.

However, owing to some family dispute, her husband's brother not only denied her pension, but also forced her to leave the house. Devastated and helpless, Zarina fled to Karachi in the hopes of building a safe life for herself and her kids. She lived there for six months before moving to Bannu city.

Once the environment settled in South Waziristan, Zarina decided to return, “When I came back, our house was completely damaged and nothing was left there”. Without any permanent source of livelihoods, her family depended on food assistance from the World Food Program, and on the charity of local residents.

Zarina's first glimmer of hope came in the form of the first women community organization, set up in collaboration between UNDP Pakistan, FATA Secretariat and the Poverty Alliance Welfare Trust (PAWT), in 2016.

The organization aimed at prioritizing the recovery of women in the area



through providing them bouts of employment. Zarina was engaged for a period of 15 days, during which she did minor repairs to her damaged house. At the end of her work cycle she was paid PKR 7,000. “I am very happy that at least someone took the initiative to include women participants in their activities. UNDP through PAWT, gave me the opportunity to not only repair my house, but also paid me cash to support my family,” beamed a hopeful Zarina bibi, who is now positive about her future and is grateful that she was given this push to create a meaningful life for herself and her children.

“ Growing up, the only role Zarina had ever lived was being a hardworking homemaker. ”



Battling Insecurity

Small Grants, Big Impacts

By
Shahzad Ahmad

Communications Officer,
Stabilisation and Development
Programme, UNDP Pakistan

“It was the darkest day of my life. My family and I had to cross the mountains during the night to flee the area. My brother and father stayed in the village to look after our belongings.”

Akhtar Zaman owned a general store at the road side of his remote village, Enzar Kalay, in South Waziristan district. The store was not only the sole income source for his family, but was also the only store in the entire area; established by his father in 1950.

In 2008, Zaman and his family, due to insecurity in the area, fled from South Waziristan to Karachi. “It was the darkest day of my life. My family and I had to cross the mountains during the night to flee the area. My brother and father stayed in the village to look after our belongings,” said Zaman. “With a heavy heart, we left our fully furnished house and a successfully running shop, with stocks worth more than two hundred thousand rupees. After a few days, my father also joined us in Karachi.”

Zaman started his new life in Karachi, working as a labourer and started making some money to meet his daily expenses and save a little.

After clearance operations by the

security forces in South Waziristan and return of peace in the region, Zaman and his family decided to go back to their native village in 2012. “When I reached back to my village, I found my house intact except two rooms that were full of luggage. These rooms, along with all belongings, were burnt by the miscreants. With a heavy heart, I went towards my general store, and its condition shocked me. The roof had collapsed and there was nothing left except a non-functional fridge that was lying in the debris of the shop.”

To add to the agony, record books of the shop were also lost. These books contained details of clients who had purchased items on credit. He estimated that stocks crossing nearly PKR 200,000 were borrowed from the shop at that time. While some people returned the money, many denied owing him anything.

“I was very depressed to see the situation of my store. After a difficult emotional struggle, I gathered myself





and decided to start from scratch, and purchased stock items from the PKR 12,000 savings money. Thereafter, I began shop operations and started by selling items such as candies, biscuits and snacks for children. Though income from the shop was less, however, I had no other option for income generation. My shop was devoid of most daily items and several clients had to return empty handed from the shop. If I had a good stock of things to sell, my daily return would have been encouraging," said Zaman.

After a few months, the Pakistan Army constructed two new shops for Zaman at the road side. "Though the shops were reconstructed, the biggest challenge I faced was that the sales were very low, and I did not have enough capital to restock my shop," stated Zaman.

During May 2016, UNDP's FATA Stabilisation and Development Programme (SDP) supported by generous funding from the Department for International Development – UKAid, initiated Community Resilience and Recovery Support to FATA's Returning TDPs project in the district. Through this project, vulnerable and eligible individuals were provided business management skills trainings and grants to support them in reviving their livelihood sources. The project identified Akhtar Zaman as a potential candidate for this humanitarian assistance.

Zaman narrated, "After a few weeks, the project team invited us to a business development training in the nearby area.

During the training, we learnt basics of business management, record keeping and communication with customers. One of the best lessons I learnt from the training was that empathy and effective communication are key to a successful business."

Zaman continued, "UNDP provided a business grant of PKR 22,000 to me in June 2016. I used this grant to restock my shop." He further mentioned that this grant also helped him build goodwill in business with dealers to buy more stocks on credit in the future.

"I am thankful to these trainings. I am still practicing the skills I learnt during the training that has helped me in expanding my clientele. A customer from a neighbouring village came back with a complaint about a purchase he did a few days ago. Thanks to the business management lesson, I patiently listened to his complaint and replaced his item. After this incident, many new people from his village started visiting my shop and become my regular customers," beams a happy Zaman.

Zaman is planning to fully refurbish his shop. "Thanks to the small grant, my business is prospering day by day. Nearly two and half years after receiving the grant, I have stocks of around PKR 80 to 90,000 at my shop. I have also expanded the shop and am now selling new items such as slippers, fruit, vegetables, sugar, cooking oil, flour, cold drinks and chicken, to name a few. I aim and look towards a day where my shop will house all that is needed to meet the requirements of every client."

“ One of the best lessons I learnt from the training was that empathy and effective communication are key to a successful business. ”

Flooding the Valley – Glacial Lake Outburst Floods

Warning in Time

By

Mahwish Bukhari

Communication and Reporting Officer, GLOF-II Project



“Based on feasibility surveys, an Automated Weather Station (AWS) has been up and running since mid-March 2021, as the first step to a hi-tech EWS.”

“We are in a state of constant distress, not sure when we will be wiped out with this flood”, says Bibi Tawoos, a local resident. Referring to the recent flood she added, “The flood lasted for 35 hours and we saved our lives by taking shelter in our orchards and fields.”

Hunza valley, often known as heaven on earth, faces the brunt of climate change impacts and is at a constant risk of induced disasters. A recent example is the danger posed by the surging Shisper glacier, in Hassanabad village of Hunza valley. This called for streamlining disaster risk management in the area.

Amidst 28 varying glaciers in the valley, Shisper, covers an area of almost 24.9 km² with a length of 12 km. Originating from Shisper Peak, the glacier intercepts heavy glacial melt from its neighbouring Muchuhur glacier, resulting in an ice-dammed lake that was blocked by debris in November 2018. Considering its location adjacent to Karakoram Highway (KKH), an emergency has been declared by the government of Gilgit-Baltistan, to aware the locals for effective response and preparedness against any unforeseen glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) event.

“Households are asked to evacuate; power plants and irrigation channels

What Has Been Done?

A 30-member Hazard Watch Group (HWG), comprising of 10 women and 20 men, has been established in Hassanabad village to observe the lake development. Mock drills and trainings have been imparted to these groups on disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response in partnership with Gilgit-Baltistan Rural Support Programme (GBRSP). Moreover, the Community Based Disaster Risk Management Committees (CBDRMC) formed have been formally registered with the Social Welfare Department to ensure the sustainability of project interventions in a true sense by creating linkages between line departments, district administration, civil society members and communities. In addition, efforts have also been made with district administration Hunza, Ghanche and Kharmang districts, Agha Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), and community of Shisper valley in response to the surging glacier.

Shisper Glacier

Shisper's

surge history goes back to **2016** when it started to **gradually slide downstream**

Gaining velocity of upto **43** meters per day in **May-June 2018**

In recent years, **2 disastrous GLOF events** have occurred on **23rd June 2019** and **29th May 2020**

Peak water discharge of **5000** and **3500 cusecs** respectively

Detrimental effects on Karakoram Highway: **road erosion causing traffic disruptions for days end**

DID YOU KNOW?



The process of glacial lake formation is facilitated by the growing mass of the glacier due to extremely low winter temperatures; the dense glacial ice formed acts as an obstruction to hamper the discharge of water resulting in GLOFs in summers. The melt from the Muchuhur glacier further intensifies the volume of the lake water due to closure of fissures in the Shisper glacier. The same repetitive phenomenon has been occurring every year causing distress to the local communities.

have been destroyed as a result of the flood water, also impacting the accessibility to drinking water for us”, says Mehmood Abbas, another villager impacted by the flood.

Satellite images from February 2021 suggest the lake length to be 650 meters, hence making the area highly vulnerable to the risk of an even bigger GLOF event. This warranted the need for an early warning system (EWS).

Based on feasibility surveys, an Automated Weather Station (AWS) has been up and running since mid-March 2021, as the first step to a hi-tech EWS. It not only monitors lake movements but provides real time data to safeguard the communities from any potential glacial flood. River discharge measuring gauges have also been installed to further monitor and evaluate the existing situation. An alarm system connected to the AWS will be triggered in any emergent situation to prevent damages to infrastructure, livelihoods, and loss of human life.



“Glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) risk reduction in northern Pakistan”, GLOF-II project is a joint initiative of UNDP and Ministry of Climate Change with funding from the Green Climate Fund.

The Tsunami Wave

Technology Leads the Way

By
Institutional Support to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation-II Project (CCAM-II)



“ Given the vulnerability of coastal areas to natural disasters, such as cyclones, tsunamis and earthquakes, life can come to a halt for communities residing along the coast. ”

“Information technology was new to me before attending the training. Now, by using a smart phone and laptop, my online business is becoming my main source of livelihood, which is making me and my family resilient to any disaster,” says Rukhsar Dawood, hailing from the Alyani Para area of Ibrahim Hyderi, Malir.

Given the vulnerability of coastal areas to natural disasters, such as cyclones, tsunamis and earthquakes, life can come to a halt for communities residing along the coast. The worst affected are the fishermen, who are left with no sources of income to survive, given their income already is very meager.

To support their men and ensure livelihoods do not get disrupted, women of the area are in a constant struggle to maintain a steady source of income, be it less or more, while remaining within their homes.

Under the Tsunami and Earthquake Preparedness Project of UNDP, the women of Malir coastal communities have been able to gain essential skills to

be able to play a vital role in improving their economic conditions.

Under this program, from amongst 86 women, 70 attended an extensive four-day capacity building training on livelihood empowerment, conducted in the local language.

28 years old Rukhsar was one of the participants.

Through the training, she was able to obtain essential technology navigation skills which allowed her to significantly expand the outreach of her micro stitching business.

Previously, Rukhsar used to earn about PKR 8000 per month. Three months after expanding, she is now making PKR 12,000, and is hopeful that her small business will grow further. She feels more financially secure and is inspiring the women around her to improve their sales and reach more customers by going online and becoming more tech savvy.



The Tsunami Wave Countering through Communication

By
Institutional Support to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation-II Project (CCAM-II)

“Because of a lack of facilities, we hardly get any opportunities to learn and refine our skills. This training is a great opportunity for us to learn and share our knowledge with other communities. Even though I have a busy schedule at home, I manage to conduct awareness raising sessions in the community. I will continue serving my community in the future as well,” states Malaika Ameer Ali hailing from Mubarak Goth.

Awareness raising carries huge significance in terms of tsunami preparedness. Under the Tsunami and Earthquake Preparedness Project of UNDP, awareness raising and training communities in disaster mitigation and preparedness, has proven to be key for effective handling when disaster has struck.

Malaika, a 17 years old volunteer from the Mubarak Village, is also the Deputy Team Leader of the youth group in her community.

She has participated in the training of youth volunteers and also conducted a Maritime Community Awareness Raising Session in her community. The literacy rate in the community is low and people mainly communicate in the local language. Malaika volunteered to bridge the communication gap within the community. She effectively assisted the district team as a translator in livelihood trainings as well, swiftly translating for everyone.

Malaika is highly motivated to benefit her community as a volunteer. In the evenings, when she has some time to herself, she often gathers women from the village and conducts brief first-aid sessions. She also conducts such sessions with other community members with the help of other



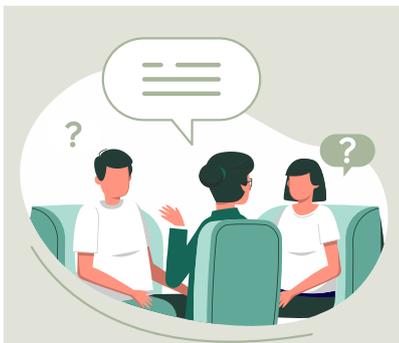
volunteers. People like Malaika have been the pillars that have kept the coastal communities afloat during times of crises.

“ Awareness raising carries huge significance in terms of tsunami preparedness.”

Rising out of the Pandemic

Addressing Psychosocial Trauma

By
Decentralization, Human Rights and Local Governance (DHL) Project,
UNDP Pakistan



To date, **39,954** individuals have been reached through the provision of psychosocial services including:

150 through individual counselling sessions for people with COVID-19

109 through individual counselling sessions regarding Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues

38,645 through live webinars

12,00 through community outreach volunteer group members

Mustafa, an electrical engineer being the sole earner in a family of six, was accustomed to working hard to financially support his family. However, this quickly changed when Mustafa was infected by COVID-19 and his community went into lockdown to try and curb the spread of the virus. As a result of his illness, Mustafa became immensely anxious, worried he would be responsible for infecting his family. His anxiety was compounded by the isolation caused by lockdown, and by financial issues. As a COVID-19 patient, Mustafa had to abstain from going to work, while his salary release was on a halt.

Mustafa's mental health began deteriorating. The pressure that he would not be able to meet the needs of his household was immense. Before the pandemic, he had been successfully managing his mental health despite being diagnosed with a bipolar disorder. Feeling isolated and constantly living in a fearful state, the lockdown and COVID-19 situation triggered his mental health.

While watching television one day, Mustafa found out about the 'Helpline 1093', an initiative of the local government department Sindh in collaboration with UNDP, providing psychosocial support to the general population. He soon got connected with a psychologist.

"I am so grateful for this initiative that the local government has taken. I desperately wanted to talk to a mental

health expert because I was unable to cope with the current situation" Mustafa said to his psychologist.

This helpline initiative focused on supporting the most vulnerable sections of the society by creating a support structure and referral mechanism managed by a trained psychologist. By embedding the support to the government department, the project supported telephone based psychosocial support to the victims of Gender based Violence (GBV) and COVID affected communities through dedicated Helplines and the Virtual Call Center in Sindh.

He recounted that, "At the point when lockdown started, everything felt strange. The threat of Coronavirus had been building throughout the weeks, and apart from washing my hands excessively, I did not think it would get as bad as it did. It got worse as I tested positive for COVID-19". He was unable to think of a single positive thing and felt as if he was drowning.

Through the helpline, Mr. Mustafa was provided with psychosocial support, tailored to his specific needs. He accessed a total of eight psychotherapy/tele-counseling sessions over the phone. The therapy sessions helped him change his perspective on the current situation and he was able to focus on the positive side of events. It also boosted his self-esteem and made an impact on his professional and personal life.

To ensure the privacy a pseudo name has been used instead of real name

Rising out of the Pandemic Nurturing the Forgotten

By
Decentralization, Human Rights and Local Governance (DHL) Project,
UNDP Pakistan

“It was not just the food for trans-people; receiving these relief packages saved their integrity as they would otherwise roam around on the street to find some work and be at risk of discrimination and abuse,” says Sapna.

At the center of the pandemic, lies the transgender community that has borne the brunt of the negative consequences of COVID. This community, marred by inequalities in opportunities and resources, experienced loss of income and homelessness, and faced an increase in discrimination and stigmatization. Their most pressing needs, access to food/ration items and emergency housing, were magnified and intensified as a result of the pandemic. These realities were revealed in the pilot socio-economic assessment conducted by UNDP, with support from UNFPA.

Based on the findings, a protection center for transgender persons in Islamabad/ Rawalpindi and the distribution of relief packages in all the four provinces, was undertaken.

Initially, 125 food relief packages to transgender persons who lost their incomes in Islamabad and Rawalpindi were distributed. This was later extended to rest of the country, with food relief packages distributed to transgender persons and other vulnerable groups (including persons with disabilities and women led households) across all provinces.

Namkeen from Peshawar shared that fear of virus contraction coupled with financial crises, resulted in mental and psychological challenges for trans-persons. Namkeen explained, “Receiving food packages enabled us to save some money and pay our house rent that month,” thereby reducing the intense stress and pressure they were



facing.

Gul Baggi, based in Multan, explained that the month of Ramzan was one of the most difficult times during pandemic. “By then, most of our community members had spent whatever meager savings they had, and wanted to observe fasting with usual reverence. When trans-persons were provided with food packages, their self-esteem was boosted, and they were able to participate in this important cultural event.”

“ At the center of the pandemic, lies the transgender community that has borne the brunt of the negative consequences of COVID. ”

Water Woes

Changing Destinies

By

Institutional Support to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation-II Project (CCAM-II)



Ghulam Rasul laments his plight, “I am a poor man and own a very small piece of land. The lack of water is not giving me enough crop yields to feed my family and I have to purchase wheat from the market. This is putting more burden on me than I can carry. I feel trapped and helpless”.

Ensnared in the mountain region of Gilgit-Baltistan, sits the picturesque village of Dagoni at an altitude of 8819 feet. With a population of 2832 people, the community was facing acute problems common to most villages in the region, namely unpredictability in the flow patterns of water. Mountain regions are at the front line of climate change. Disturbances in hydrology disrupt their lives. High altitudes permit only single cropping, and if there is insufficient water, the cropping season is impacted, which in turn forces the community to buy grains from the market. This is a common challenge in the community with poor households more acutely hit by water scarcity.

The community has collective land holding of 266 hectare of barren, land but channeling water from source requires putting in place a 12,900 feet long irrigation channel to provide community access to water for agriculture.

Life for women and men was getting more difficult by the day, and mired in a poverty trap, there was little that they could do to change their lives. The cycle of poverty was taking its toll on women and girl child education, as more girls were kept at home to help with mounting water related chores.

The approval of the community request by the Global Water Challenge/The Coca Cola Foundation for implementation of an irrigation scheme

by the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization in collaboration with UNDP, was like a dream come true for the inhabitants.

“I was saving to send my daughter to Skardu for education because I wanted a better and brighter future for her, but the last few years have eaten away our savings,” says Batool a young mother. “Now, with the successful completion of this irrigation scheme I can once again start planning her future,” she adds. The daughter is a primary school student now and this scheme may change her destiny.

The water source was distant and working on this project was not easy for the community with delays caused by Covid-19, but the prospect of the reward at the end kept them mobilized and motivated. Village Dagoni is all set to embrace its new future with new hopes and dreams for its future growth and development.

By replenishing 1.1 billion liters of water back to nature and community, the residents of village Dagoni will not only have food security but also contribute to environmental enhancement by planting trees and expanding rangelands to contribute their share to the ecological restoration of a beautiful but fragile mountain region.



“ Mountain regions are at the front-line of climate change. Disturbances in hydrology disrupt their lives. ”

Water Woes Making a Difference

By
Institutional Support to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation-II Project (CCAM-II)

Born in Skardu and raised in Islamabad, Saima Bibi found it difficult to adjust to life after marriage in Village Tholdi, Gilgit-Baltistan. Despite the harsh living conditions, most of the community was content living in the village, however, challenges pertaining to farming and variations in water flow patterns, were gradually increasing.

Dependent on agriculture for subsistence, the lack of availability of adequate water at the right time was soon becoming a food security concern for the community.

As resource managers, women face the brunt of the scarcity and carry the burden of domestic and farming workload. The remoteness of the area and lack of opportunity to diversify in income, are also common constraints faced by mountain women.

The mountain region of Gilgit Baltistan is known for its nature landscapes and spectacular views, but the communities that live there lead a very challenging life. Often the communities have collective land holdings, but not the means to make barren land cultivable. Water sources are far and building irrigation channels is beyond their meager means. Poor harvest sometimes forces them to buy grains and vegetables from the market, depleting their already minimal savings.

Mounting difficulties made the community reach out for support. They sent a resolution to the Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization (MGPO) to help them bring 238 hectares under productive use. MGPO worked closely with the community to put in place not only an irrigation channel, but also to build community capacity for local

stewardship. The local community is now organized with an institutional platform for decision making with 50 percent representation of women in the community organization.

The 2100 population of Village Tholdi now has a 9900 feet long irrigation channel, with a 7000 gallon storage tank that provides water to meet the needs of the entire village. Household income has increased, women workload has decreased, and the community is empowered to plot its future trajectory.

The project will accrue economic, social and environmental benefits to the community and replenish 2.57 billion liters of water back to nature and community. Living in the age of climate change and pandemics like COVID 19, it is becoming more important than ever, for mountain communities to be self-sufficient in meeting their food requirements.

Saima, along with some other families, was weighing the option of migration to avoid the looming crisis. The irrigation scheme has been a boon for the community. They have landscaped the barren land and planted trees – both timber and non-timber– and increased farming activities to now have surplus that they can sell in the market, and use agriculture not just as a means of sustenance but income generation.

“Nobody wants to leave their home and abandon their ancestral lands, but circumstances were making some of us consider this drastic option” says Aapi Nisa, a local woman. “This project has transformed our lives and we can now look forward to the future without fear” she adds.



“ Household income has increased, women workload has decreased, and the community is empowered to plot its future trajectory. ”

The Search for Employment A Community's Struggle

By
Shahzad Ahmad

Communications Officer, Stabilisation and Development Programme, UNDP Pakistan



Pakistan is undergoing the most rapid demographic transition in its history. According to the National Human Development Report 2017, youth unemployment is one of the biggest emerging challenges in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in the newly merged districts (erstwhile FATA) is the highest at 11.8 percent, as compared to rest of the country at 5.6 percent.

The crises of unemployment is one that resonates within an entire community. The already limited livelihood opportunities and productive economic infrastructure was damaged as

insecurity surged in the area. However, with the restoration of peace in the newly merged districts, nearly all the displaced have returned to their hometowns.

To reactivate the economy of the newly merged districts and ensure medium to long-term employment, income generation and reintegration of residents of erstwhile FATA, the FATA Economic Revitalization Programme (FERP) is providing market-based skill development opportunities to the youth through comprehensive training programmes.

Impact on Youth



1500+ Youth have been trained

in building electrician, plumbing, heavy machinery, tailoring, auto mechanic, refrigeration & AC repair, motorcycle repair, solar panel installation, hospitality management, tile fixing and marble shining.

Impact on Women



801 women trained in machine embroidery, fashion designing, crochet work, quilt making, dress making, Adda (embroidery) and Mazri work

Impact on Persons with Disabilities



Provided training to **28** youth with disabilities to give them a path into employment.

Technical and vocational skills training by



Conducted by:





“We were going through a very difficult time of our lives after returning to our villages. On one hand, my family lost our house, shop and land and on the other hand, I had to quit my studies because my family was unable to pay for my tuition fee. These miseries put me in utter depression. This training opportunity actually turned my life around and gave me hope to improve the living standards of my family.”

Karim Ullah, Tehsil Miran Shah, North Waziristan.
(trainee, hospitality management)

“We had nothing left in the village after years of insecurity. This skills development training course in tailoring has provided us an opportunity to learn and earn for ourselves and our families and rebuild all we have lost.”

Muhammad Bilal, North Waziristan.



“Through this course, I learned the modern concepts of hospitality management. Our trainers taught us to develop our businesses and focused on developing our communications skills. This training has been a great learning opportunity which has helped me gain new skills that will help me in building my career.”

Umar Ali, Khyber District.



“The women of North Waziristan have never had an opportunity to receive such kind of trainings before. We received such trainings and tool kits for the first time. The training enhanced my existing skills which enabled me to earn an income and support my family. Initially our husbands were uncertain of our participation in the training; however, they soon realised its importance and wholeheartedly supported us throughout the duration of the training.”

Khanshida Bibi, machine embroidery training beneficiary, North Waziristan District.





“I have always taken an interest in mechanical work. This course gave me an opportunity to enhance my skills and enabled me to earn a living”.

Muhammad Riaz, Tehsil Shawa, North Waziristan, trainee of Motorcycle repair training.

“There is no electricity in our area. To meet their electricity needs, people residing there have installed solar panels on their farms and in their houses. Almost 70 percent people rely on solar panels for their daily businesses. After completing this training, I plan on starting my own business of solar panels fitting in South Waziristan.”

Muhammad Nawaz, Wana, South Waziristan.



“The motorcycle repair tool kit I received after completion of training helped me establish my own business. I have rented a shop and started a fully equipped motorcycle repair workshop in my village.”

Zahid, Trainee motorcycle repairs.

“The usage of refrigerators and Air Conditioners (AC) is increasing day by day. After completion of this course, I am hopeful to get a job as a refrigeration and AC technician”.

Hafiz Ullah, South Wana, Waziristan District, trainee Refrigerator and AC repair.





“I am happy and thankful to receive this training as well as a toolkit as it equipped a differently abled person like me with a new skill set. The training has made me financially independent and also be a helping hand for my family.”

Sanam, Khyber District. Trainee, Adda work.



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