



UNDP Pakistan Annual Report 2024





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Foreword by the **Secretary** **Ministry of Economic Affairs**

The long-standing trusted partnership between the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Pakistan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to play a vital role in strengthening Pakistan's response to the challenges and complexities in the development sector.

Unified by our shared commitment to a sustainable reform process, innovation, and development, our collaboration remains fully aligned with the Pakistan's development priorities, SDGs and UNDP's global mandate. This partnership reflects our collective resolve to overcome obstacles and build a more prosperous, equitable future for all Pakistanis.

As Pakistan navigates evolving socio-economic challenges, we remain committed to a balanced recovery that ensures no one is left behind. UNDP's support has been instrumental in shaping the vision of the Government, various Roadmaps, developing a framework for the Homegrown Economic Plan, and advancing sectoral strategies. These initiatives have provided a structured approach to reform, securing high-level support and laying the groundwork for continued progress.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on creating an enabling environment for better development partner coordination and international support, driving Pakistan's transition toward long-term economic resilience and prosperity.

From improving infrastructure to facilitating climate-resilient and sustainable economic growth, the Ministry of Economic Affairs remains committed to mobilizing international assistance, accelerating recovery, and building resilience. Through a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach, we are reimagining a future where resilience and innovation drive a transformative change in Pakistan.

Dr. Kazim Niaz

Secretary
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Government of Pakistan



Message from the Resident Representative UNDP

With only five years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan, business as usual will not get the job done. Raising the alarm in 2023, UNDP's Integrated SDG Insights Report, submitted to the global SDG Summit, indicated that Pakistan is on track to achieve only 35 out of 169 SDG targets. At the same time, development financing is shrinking globally, while millions remain vulnerable. We must act now to bridge these gaps and build a future where no one in Pakistan is left behind.

Pakistan's increasingly existential exposure to the impacts of climate change, rising temperatures, melting glaciers and extreme weather threaten lives and livelihoods. But solutions are emerging – nature-based solutions are more promising, women are gaining green skills, youth are leading climate action, and communities are innovating for resilience and prosperity. At UNDP we have accompanied our national partners along this journey, supporting renewable energy, disaster preparedness, and sustainable livelihoods to lay the foundation for sustainable growth.

Economically, Pakistan continues to progress toward stabilization, driven by timely fiscal reforms, sustainable growth strategies, and a keen eye toward the role of private sector in SDG achievement. UNDP is helping prepare youth for the future through digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and green job opportunities. We are also advancing governance reforms, access to justice and human rights, ensuring broader participation, and more accountable institutions that serve the people.

The clock is ticking. The next five years will determine Pakistan's trajectory. UNDP remains committed to walking this path alongside Pakistan and our development partners, working together to create a just, fair, and sustainable future.

Together, we must act with urgency and determination to leave no one behind.

Dr. Samuel Rizk

Resident Representative
UNDP Pakistan



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Protecting Pakistan's

GLACIERS



In 2004, **Sabrina Khan's** village in Passu, Hunza, was devastated by a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF).

"There was chaos when we heard the news. A lake in the Batura Glacier had overflowed, and we were told to evacuate immediately," she recalls. **"We left everything behind, praying we would still have homes to return to."**

That terrifying moment sparked Sabrina's lifelong mission to protect Pakistan's glaciers.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Years later, she earned a degree in Space Science from the University of Punjab and **joined UNDP's Glaciers and Students Project**, a pioneering initiative training local students, faculty, and government agencies to monitor glacial health. As part of the world's "third pole," Pakistan's glaciers are critical to the region's water supply but are melting at an alarming rate due to climate change.

As an intern on the project, **Sabrina was among 394 people trained to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** and Automated Weather Stations (AWS) - cutting-edge tools for tracking glacier changes.

"It was my first time using QGIS software," she says, crediting the project for providing hands-on experience in advanced glacier analysis. While many local students and researchers from Gilgit-Baltistan traveled to remote glacier sites to install monitoring systems and collect environmental data, **Sabrina** contributed by analyzing satellite imagery and climate models, helping to track glacial retreat from afar.

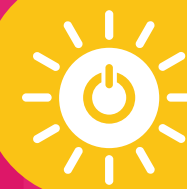
"Being part of this project transformed my perspective. I want to bring new knowledge and solutions to help protect these vital ecosystems for future generations," she says.

Key Achievements in 2024

UNDP

781,678 individuals

accessed HIV prevention services, with 37 new prevention sites expanding coverage to 11 new underserved areas, including Peshawar and Quetta.



Legal awareness sessions led to a fourfold surge in reported cases to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Dispute Resolution Councils, rising from

4,768
in 2023 to

17,792
in 2024,
strengthening legal empowerment.



Five mediation centers established in Balochistan improved access to justice for

3.2
Million people

including 1.5 million women, enabling faster, fairer dispute resolution.

197 early warning

systems installed in KP and GB now issue real-time alerts for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), protecting vulnerable communities.



2,000
flood-affected households

gained access to clean energy and safe drinking water, reducing health risks and improving resilience.



UNDP supported the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) in registering

102,500 new voters

primarily women, for the 2024 elections, contributing to a rise in women's voter turnout to 43%, up from 39.7% in 2018 - a significant step toward political participation.



260,000
individuals

benefited from renovation of 16 hospitals and 43 schools in Balochistan, improving access to essential services.



07

Voter education campaigns reached

85.5 million

people, increasing awareness and civic engagement nationwide.

167 micro-projects

by 95 village councils improved safety, mobility, and public services in three merged districts, strengthening local governance.



35,745 individuals

17,351 women, restored their livelihoods in flood-hit areas, regaining economic independence.



15 green business centers

in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) helped women entrepreneurs launch and expand sustainable businesses, boosting incomes and local economies.



1,000 young people (including 50% women)

trained in green skills across four districts in Sindh, preparing them for climate-smart job opportunities.



8,670 youth

and micro-businesses, including 2,000 women-led ventures, received training and microloans, expanding entrepreneurial opportunities and access to financial resources.



5,426 inmates (including 257 women)

benefited from renovated prison facilities in KP, improving living conditions and rehabilitation opportunities.



Our PARTNERS

Partnerships at the heart

In Pakistan, we work closely with government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and international allies to tackle critical priorities - from climate resilience to digital innovation and effective governance. Our **Country Programme Document 2023-2027 (CPD)** is implemented in close collaboration with the Government at all levels, ensuring national ownership, mutual accountability, and impact in achieving sustainable development results.

These partnerships go beyond collaboration - they are the foundation of our shared mission to expand choices and opportunities, creating a more just and sustainable Pakistan.

None of this would be possible without the trust, respect, commitment, and collective action of our partners. Your dedication and expertise fuel innovation, drive transformative change, and ensure that no one is left behind.

Thank you for being part of this journey.
Together, we are shaping a prosperous future for Pakistan.





Top Funding Partners



Turning the Tide: UNDP & Partners Unite for Flood Recovery

In 2022, catastrophic floods affected millions across Pakistan. In response, UNDP, in collaboration with national and international partners, swiftly launched recovery efforts to help communities and build resilience.

With initial core funding and the support of local partners, we **assisted over 13,000 individuals in the two of the hardest-hit districts in Sindh and Balochistan**, helping families restore livelihoods and rebuild vital infrastructure. We partnered with the Government of Pakistan, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and European Union to **undertake the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and prepare the Resilient Recovery, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Framework (4RF)**, an effort that catalyzed \$10.9 billion in pledges at the 2023 Geneva Conference.

With support from multiple development partners, UNDP is also implementing the Flood Recovery Programme, which has since supported over 272,000 people with climate-resilient infrastructure, livelihoods, and institutional strengthening.

For vulnerable communities, these efforts mean renewed hope. As climate threats escalate, **UNDP remains committed to bridging local action with global solidarity, proving that resilience is built not alone, but together.**

Joining Hands for a Sustainable Pakistan

UNDP Pakistan and the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) have launched a groundbreaking partnership to drive sustainable development across Pakistan by engaging the private sector in climate action, social impact, and the SDGs.

Since its launch in 2024, the initiative has already set a transformative precedent. OICCI's 211 member companies, which have collectively invested over US\$20 billion in Pakistan since 2012, are committing to sustainable business practices. Through capacity-building workshops, knowledge-sharing forums, and strategic consultations, UNDP is working with businesses to help align with global sustainability standards and accelerate climate-resilient investments.

Looking ahead, UNDP and OICCI will expand this partnership until 2030, focusing on mobilizing private sector investments, promoting public-private partnerships, and implementing UNDP's Gender Seal and Sustainability Impact Frameworks across member businesses.

Together, UNDP and OICCI are driving a shift toward a sustainable economy where businesses could both do well and do good.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Restoring HOPE After Floods

For years, **Rubina Khatoon** and her family built their livelihood through daily wage work in the fields of Mehar, Dadu District, Sindh Province. But when the 2022 floods swept through their village, everything was lost - homes, crops, their only source of income.

“The floodwaters took everything from us,”
Rubina recalls. “We were left with nothing and didn’t know how we would survive.”





STORIES FROM THE FIELD

With their land submerged, hunger and poverty became daily struggles. In the aftermath, UNDP, with support from the Government of Japan, provided Rubina with an agricultural toolkit - including shovels, hammers, and saws - giving her family the means to rebuild from scratch.

“When we received the toolkit, it was a lifeline,” she says.
“It gave us the hope to start over.”

Determined to restore their land, Rubina and her family cleared debris, prepared the soil, and planted new crops.

As the harvest season approached, they saw the fruits of their labor. **“Our fields were growing again, and our community was healing.”**

Rubina’s story is a testament to resilience and the power of support. With the continued efforts of UNDP and international partners, families like hers are rebuilding their lives, one step at a time.

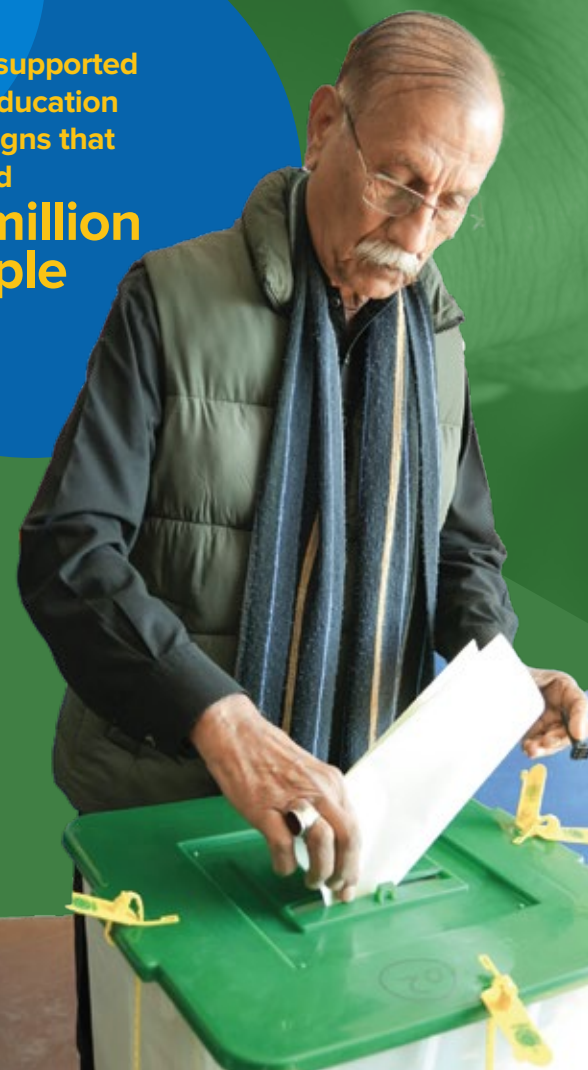
GOVERNANCE
for the FUTURE

UNDP supported
voter education
campaigns that
reached
**85 million
people**

In 2024, Pakistan ranked 129 out of 142 on the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index. Years of fragmented coordination, budget constraints, and frequent turnover have disrupted governance and widened regional disparities in the country. These trends underscore the urgent need for stronger governance and justice systems.

UNDP has been at the forefront of strengthening governance and expanding access to justice. In KP, we supported the establishment of five court-annexed mediation centers, now serving over three million people. We also provided support to KP Police to develop its Policing Policy. Our training programmes in Balochistan and KP improved legal professionals' capacity to handle cases involving vulnerable populations by 17 percent.

Pakistan's 2024 elections marked a democratic milestone, with **12.5 million new women voters registered since 2018**. UNDP supported voter education campaigns that reached 85 million people, while our advocacy efforts helped register over 100,000 new voters, primarily women. More than half of the Election Commission of Pakistan's trained officers were women, leading to the adoption of an Accessibility Reform Action Plan, making the electoral process more accessible and representative.





Boosting Electoral Participation

UNDP is assisting in driving up electoral participation as part of its global effort to enable **800 million people to vote**. In Pakistan, this support delivered significant milestones, including registration drives that helped **NADRA add 102,500 new voters ahead of the 2024 general election**. In parallel, voter education campaigns reached over 85 million people nationwide, raising awareness about the importance of voting and the electoral process.

By expanding access to the ballot and promoting greater participation, **UNDP is contributing to strengthen democracy in Pakistan**, ensuring that more voices are heard and represented in the political landscape.

At the local level, **95 Village Councils** in three merged districts of **KP launched 167 micro-projects to improve public services**. These initiatives - ranging from Public Liaison Councils to disaster risk reduction and electrification roadmaps - have strengthened local governance and restored trust in public institutions.

Our National Governance Programme improved intergovernmental coordination, bridging provincial and national policies. In partnership with the Auditor General's Office, we conducted an SDG Audit on Quality Education, identifying systemic inefficiencies and areas for improvement.

To support vulnerable populations, especially in the context of private sector activities, we partnered with the Ministry of Human Rights for the implementation of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and a human rights due diligence framework. Support to the National Commission on Human Rights led to its A Grade accreditation by the Global Alliance on the National Human Rights Institutions. We also collaborated with the International Labour Organization to strengthen labor and environmental rights, with a focus on disadvantaged communities.

To empower women in climate action, **15 green business centers now promote biodegradable products, wool processing, and oil extraction**. Additionally, 1,000 young people in Sindh, including 50 percent women, received green skills training, helping create a workforce prepared for climate-resilient jobs.

Harnessing digital innovation, UNDP is also developing a digital dashboard for the Ministry of Economic Affairs to improve aid effectiveness and a Disaster Management Dashboard for the Government of Sindh. These tools will improve data-driven decision-making, ensuring faster, more coordinated responses to climate-related emergencies.



We mobilized the private sector, identifying a **US\$7.9 billion** pipeline of **44** bankable green projects



UNDP's second-generation SDGs Plus Programme integrated policy, financing, and innovation to accelerate progress. The District Development Plans for 20 of the least-developed districts provided policymakers with a clear strategy to tackle regional inequalities. Punjab's Integrated Financing Strategy and Public Expenditure Review ensured that, even under financial constraints, resources were allocated toward SDG priorities.

Recognizing the need for climate-resilient investments, we mobilized the private sector, identifying a US\$7.9 billion pipeline of 44 bankable green projects. We conducted feasibility studies for three green initiatives worth US\$580 million in sustainable transport and clean energy, preparing them for the 2025 SDG Investment Fair.

Through our collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, we further analyzed a US\$7.5 billion green project pipeline, prioritizing five infrastructure and renewable energy projects worth US\$650 million.

To address fiscal constraints, we promoted innovative financing solutions, including nature performance bonds, debt swaps, and blended finance. A partnership with JS Bank Limited mobilized US\$0.27 million for four SDG-linked firms focused on sustainable transport, plastic waste recycling, and environmental literacy.

We joined hands with the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and UNDP's Finance Sector Hub to strengthen Integrated National Financing Framework. Through this collaboration, we strengthened the capacity of federal and provincial officials to align public finance with SDG priorities. Our partnerships with private sector leaders, such as Jazz, OICCI and Fatima Fertilizer, further advanced climate action and sustainable investments.



Responsive Governance in the Merged Districts



When Nusrat Bibi was elected as a village councilor in South Waziristan, KP, she was among the first women to hold office in the underserved Merged Districts. Yet, like many new representatives, she faced challenges in navigating the local government system and addressing her community's needs.

To bridge this gap, UNDP provided specialized training for 713 elected representatives, including 64 women, in North and South Waziristan, KP. These sessions equipped them with the knowledge and skills needed to serve their communities.

"These trainings have helped me understand my roles and responsibilities and how best to serve my people. I will now return to my village and apply these learnings," says Nusrat Bibi.

Through capacity building and advocacy, UNDP is strengthening local governance and empowering women leaders in some of Pakistan's most remote regions.



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR ALL



Pakistan's poverty and social protection landscape presents a complex picture. According to the latest Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Pakistan is among the five countries with the highest number of people living in poverty. Around 38.3 percent of the population lives in multidimensional poverty, while 12.9 percent are vulnerable to falling into this category. The country also struggles with high informality in employment, with 72 percent of non-agricultural jobs lacking formal protections. Economic shocks from COVID-19 and climate disasters, including the 2022 floods, have pushed millions into poverty and livelihood insecurity.

Key Highlights from the NHDR 2023-24 Survey

- Digital development drives human progress. Districts advancing in digital transformation also show higher human development levels.
- Pakistan falls in the moderate digital development category, although KP and Balochistan lag, featuring in the low digital development category, highlighting a significant digital divide.
- The most in-demand workplace skills in Pakistan include social media marketing, content creation, and e-commerce, reflecting Pakistan's evolving digital economy.



UNDP's 2024 economic transformation efforts were anchored in the National Economic Recovery Plan (NERP), developed under the Prosperity for Pakistan Initiative. This plan provided a roadmap for fiscal stabilization, ensuring equitable resource allocation and targeted investments in marginalized regions.

Our National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2023/2024, *Doing Digital for Development: Access, Adopt, Anticipate, Accelerate*, highlighted the role of digital technologies in reducing socio-economic disparities. The report introduced Pakistan's first-ever Digital Development Index (DDI), mapping digital progress across the country and identifying gaps for youth and women.



Infrastructure investments in Balochistan improved 16 hospitals and 43 schools, benefiting over 260,000 people, particularly women and children. Additionally, over 800 persons with disabilities, including 234 women, received assistive devices, improving their mobility and access to economic opportunities.



16
Hospitals

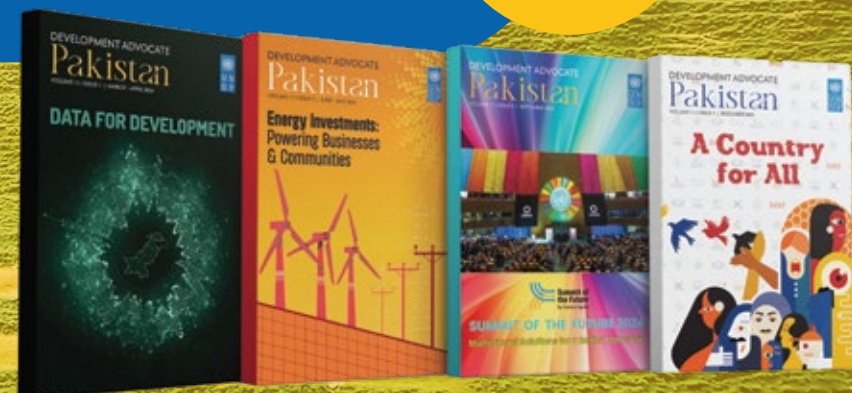


43
Schools

Benefitting over **260,000** people, particularly women and children

Talking Policy

- UNDP Pakistan's flagship policy publication, **Development Advocate Pakistan (DAP)**, remains a leading source for analysis and dialogue on equitable development. Recent editions explored key policy themes, including **Data for Development**, **Energy Investments**, **the Summit of the Future**, and **A Country for All**, driving informed discussions and shaping Pakistan's development agenda.





Pakistan faces the challenge of transforming its growing youth population into a driver of economic progress. However, rapid population growth has outpaced job creation, limiting opportunities for a skilled, future-ready workforce. This gap hinders socio-economic progress by leaving millions of young men and women underutilized, highlighting the urgent need for expanded employment and skills development initiatives.

Across Balochistan, Sindh, and KP, we built the capacities of 8,670 young people, including 55 percent women, for employment in the digital and vocational economy. Within just three months, all 311 vocational graduates from Sindh secured jobs in local industries, while 241 digital skills graduates found online employment.

To support local businesses, we launched the BizHub web portal in KP, connecting investors with businesses in the region. This initiative empowered women entrepreneurs and boosted their economic participation.





Enabling the Economic Empowerment of Youth

Skills development and economic empowerment of young people is a priority for UNDP in Pakistan. Under its Stabilization and Inclusive Development Programme, UNDP and the Sarhad Rural Support Programme launched "village banks", providing interest-free loans to help women-led businesses thrive.

Facing financial struggles, Nazo, who lives in Nowshera, KP, used this loan to launch two home-based ventures. Today, she supports her husband, has rebuilt her flood-damaged home, and sends her children to a private school.

"When I started earning, everything changed. The hopelessness faded, and my family saw me differently," says Nazo. "Seeing my son earn on his own felt like a dream."

Through skills development, job creation and economic opportunities, UNDP is helping young people like Nazo gain financial freedom, break barriers, and build brighter futures for their families.

GOING CLEAN and **GREEN**



Pakistan is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, with floods, droughts, and melting glaciers threatening lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. The country is warming at a significantly higher rate than the global average, with temperatures projected to rise between 1.3°C and 4.9°C by 2090. Building climate resilience is essential to preserve ecosystems, ensure sustainable growth, and protect communities.

In 2024, Pakistan became the first Asian country to access support from the Global Shield against Climate Risks, a joint initiative of the G7 and the Vulnerable 20 (V20) Group of Finance Ministers. This financial safety net is designed to close the protection gap through pre-arranged financing. With UNDP's technical support, the Ministry of Climate Change identified priority areas to scale up this vital support.



To support flood-affected communities in Sindh, Balochistan, and KP, our Flood Recovery Programme (FRP) helped restore livelihoods for over

35,000 Individuals, including more than
17,000 Women, by improving access to



markets



social
services



micro-enterprise
opportunities

We provided

15,000 recovery toolkits

and installed solar lights and water filtration systems, benefiting

2,000 households

with clean energy and safe drinking water. In Balochistan,

150 capacity-building

sessions equipped entrepreneurs with income-generating skills.



In collaboration with the Government of Germany through KfW, we are strengthening recovery and climate resilience in flood-affected areas by constructing climate-resilient housing. In Quetta, 800 flood-damaged homes are being rebuilt to better withstand future climate shocks. 40 houses have already been completed, with the remaining 760 planned for construction in 2025, alongside community infrastructure improvements to support long-term recovery and resilience.

We expanded Early Warning Systems (EWS) to 197 stations across 18 high-risk districts of KP and GB, protecting 700,000 people from glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). The Pakistan Meteorological Department and disaster authorities received technical support, while community training sessions prepared residents for emergencies.

UNDP has been instrumental in driving key policy shifts. The Balochistan Climate Change Policy was approved, and the GB Environment Policy is set for adoption in 2025. The Karachi Climate Action Plan was finalized, marking progress toward urban climate resilience.

To mobilize financing for green projects, we helped develop Pakistan's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) and a Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) investment plan. Our partnership with the World Economic Forum secured UNDP Pakistan's role as the National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) Secretariat, improving plastic waste management.

Building Forward Better

When the 2022 floods devastated her community, Asata lost everything - her belongings, her livelihood, and the small tuck shop that had sustained her family for years. With two children to care for, including one with a disability who dreams of higher education, she faced overwhelming challenges.

Through UNDP's Flood Recovery Programme, Asata received critical support to restock her shop and rebuild her business.

"My shop means everything to me and my family - it keeps us going and gives me hope for my children's future," says Asata. "It not only covers my household expenses but also supports my son's education."

By helping families restore livelihoods and rebuild resilience, UNDP is ensuring that recovery is not just about rebuilding infrastructure - it's about rebuilding lives.



With UNDP's technical assistance, Pakistan advanced its 2024 hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) targets, contributing to ozone protection in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector.

The Glaciers and Students Project developed a comprehensive inventory of



**13,032
Glaciers**



combining
Rigorous
Research with



with
Community-Driven
Strategies



This critical data will support the government in safeguarding these fragile ecosystems, ensuring long-term protection against climate change.

Biodiversity conservation is gaining momentum. Under the Kunming Convention, UNDP supported the Ministry of Climate Change in aligning Pakistan's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Programme with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Efforts are now underway to update these targets beyond 2030, ensuring a future-proof approach to protecting Pakistan's rich ecosystems.

To mitigate climate risks, new climate-resilient infrastructure guidelines were introduced for flood protection in KP and GB. These measures will strengthen preparedness and help vulnerable communities receive timely warnings ahead of the 2025 flood season.



Water Woes, No More!

In the lush valley of Ghundus, GB, women and girls once endured long, treacherous hikes to fetch water for their plantations and households. But with UNDP's support, the rehabilitation of three irrigation channels has transformed daily life - especially for girls like Samana, a tenth grader.

"We now go to school without worrying about fetching water from all the way up the hill," says Samana. "Water flows directly to the fields through the irrigation channels without getting wasted. Our vegetables are well-nourished, and we no longer fear our fields drying up."

By ensuring sustainable water access, UNDP is empowering communities, improving food security, and giving young girls like Samana the chance to focus on their education and future.



EMPOWERMENT in ACTION



Share your idea
that stuck with you to help women lawyers
in Balochistan overcome barriers.

Pakistan ranks 142 out of 146 on the Global Gender Gap Index, reflecting persistent disparities in economic participation, political representation, and access to opportunities for women and girls. With one of the lowest global labor force participation rates for women, there is vast potential to strengthen their role in social and economic development. UNDP adopts a comprehensive approach, empowering women, girls, and marginalized communities through economic, political, and legal opportunities.

Ahead of Pakistan's general elections, UNDP's voter education campaign reached 85 million people, including 31 million women. This effort contributed to the **registration of over 100,000 new voters**, primarily women, raising women's voter turnout to 43 percent in 2024, up from 39.7 percent in 2018. A historic milestone was also achieved as five candidates from minority communities contested the elections for the first time.



Expanding economic opportunities for women is central to UNDP's efforts. In flood-affected regions, close to 10,000 women regained their livelihoods, benefiting from better market access and essential services. UNDP also established 15 Green Business Centers, supporting women-led enterprises in sustainable sectors. To further strengthen entrepreneurship, UNDP provided 2,000 women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with training and access to credit. More than 4,300 women gained vocational skills in technical trades and entrepreneurship, creating pathways to financial independence. Through the KP Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BOIT), UNDP implemented the SMEs Access to Credit Strategy, enabling women entrepreneurs to expand their businesses.

Championing Justice for Women

For many women in Balochistan justice remains out of reach due to high legal fees and restrictive social norms. Under its Rule of Law Programme, UNDP trained Ghazala and 60 other women lawyers in Quetta, equipping them to better represent vulnerable women in the legal system. Since then, Ghazala has provided free legal aid for over 20 family cases, helping domestic violence survivors dissolve abusive marriages, secure child custody, and recover dowries.

"Before UNDP's training, I was providing legal aid but was unaware of many available resources within our courts that could have made my job easier. The training was crucial in sensitizing me to the nuances of representing

vulnerable clients," says Ghazala.



By strengthening legal capacity and promoting access to justice, UNDP is empowering women lawyers to become catalysts for change, ensuring more women can access their legal rights and reclaim their futures.



Using Technology to Fight HIV Bias

For **Tabish**, a person living with HIV, accessing healthcare was once an uphill battle due to stigma. Now, with Sehat Dost - a UNDP-developed app supported by The Global Fund - key populations in Pakistan can access HIV services without discrimination.

The app offers one-click access to HIV self-testing kits, direct connections to healthcare professionals, and a resource library. With a strong focus on privacy, it does not require personal details to sign up, ensuring safe and stigma-free access to critical health services. To date, Sehat Dost has been downloaded by 19,000 users, reaching 6.6

percent of Pakistan's HIV-positive population.

"The app makes it easier to consult doctors who understand my needs," says Tabish, one of its first users.

By utilizing digital solutions, UNDP is breaking barriers to healthcare, ensuring that HIV services are accessible and stigma-free for all.

Legal empowerment also made significant progress. The KP Police adopted a five-year Strategy and appointed women officers to senior positions for the first time in the Merged Districts. In Balochistan and KP, legal awareness sessions led to a

sharp increase in reported cases, rising from under 5,000 in 2022 to nearly 18,000 in 2024. These efforts enabled women and vulnerable groups to access legal remedies for family and civil disputes. To reinforce justice delivery, 97 women lawyers, 193 court staff, and 45 police officers received specialized training. In partnership with the KP Bar Council, community awareness sessions reached over 3,800 people, including 1,828 women and 89 transgender individuals. Additionally, 256 individuals received legal counselling through legal aid desks originally established by UNDP, ensuring continued access to support and representation.

At the policy level, UNDP's collaboration with KSBL produced a Needs Assessment Report, identifying key barriers to women's leadership in economic and financial policymaking. Insights from this report led to targeted capacity-building for more than 50 early- to mid-career women, equipping them with decision-making roles in sustainable development.





Health services for women, girls, and vulnerable communities expanded significantly. **HIV treatment and care services reached over 82,000 people, including 39,000 women and 4,000 individuals from marginalized communities.** Community-led prevention efforts engaged 637,000 individuals, raising awareness and improving early intervention. Additionally, 2,000 pregnant women were enrolled in maternal health programmes, ensuring access to critical healthcare.

For the first time in seven years, UNDP and the Government of Pakistan conducted Round 6 of the Integrated Biological Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS), surveying 33,444 key population members across 31 districts to track HIV trends and intervention effectiveness. After a 13-year gap, UNDP also carried out the HIV Stigma Index Study 2.0, engaging 1,500 people - including 328 women - to assess stigma-related barriers to healthcare.

UNDP also provided support to strengthen emergency healthcare services. Oxygen plants were installed in **34 public hospitals, benefiting around 700,000 patients annually.** To support individuals with substance use disorders, UNDP helped establish Opioid Assisted Medical Treatment (OAMT) centers in Punjab and Sindh, targeting people who inject drugs, a group at high risk of HIV infection.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

EARNING AN ECO-FRIENDLY LIVING

"In our village, women like me managed household chores while only the men earned," says Sabira Ilyas, a resident of Gole village in Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan. **"We wanted a source of income, but there was no way to do that."**

That changed when UNDP launched the Green Business Centre, offering women like Sabira the opportunity to earn a sustainable livelihood by stitching biodegradable cloth bags - an eco-friendly alternative to plastic bags.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD



At the Green Business Centre, Sabira and her colleagues not only craft these bags but also take the initiative to sell them in local markets. **“We educate the shopkeepers as well as our community on the benefits of using these bags instead of plastic ones,”** Sabira says. **“There’s been a significant uptake of our bags in Gole,”** she adds with a joyful smile.

The women’s efforts extend beyond just selling. **“We go door to door and tell people about the harmful effects of using plastic bags, offering them biodegradable cloth bags instead.”**

Thanks to the Green Business Centre, Sabira and her colleagues have not only increased their household income but also contributed to reducing environmental pollution.

WALKING THE TALK



Building a Culture of Opportunity

We reinforced our commitment to leaving no one behind by incorporating disability guidelines into recruitment, launching the Women Allies Initiative to expand opportunities for female job applicants, and providing training on accessibility and fair workplace practices.



Delivering with Accountability

We achieved a fully green transparency dashboard, integrated risks into project registers, resolved all 2023 audit observations, and improved operational efficiency.



Greening the Blue

We transitioned to e-forms, enforced a no-plastic policy across UNDP Pakistan offices, introduced fuel-efficient and eco-friendly vehicles, and improved air quality measures within our fleet.



A Safe Space for All

We prioritized Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and harassment training, integrated survivor-centered protocols, established grievance mechanisms at project sites, embedded PSEA safeguards into project risk logs, aligned policies with national harassment laws, and formed a dedicated PSEA/SHAA core team.



“One looks back to look forward. And I think that must be and is the vibrant story of Pakistan. We have been discussing the narrative of economics, of governance, of social issues, in this country. And today, we are involved as UNDP in the nature, climate, energy equation that propels this country forward”.

Kanni Wignaraja

**United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and
UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific**

AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

UNDP remains committed to addressing Pakistan's development challenges in 2025. Working closely with our government and development partners, and communities, we will build on progress and scale up impact, ensuring alignment with national development priorities and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027). Our efforts will drive transformative change across key priority areas, strengthening resilience and accelerating sustainable development.

Financing the Future of Development

- Mobilize public and private finance to accelerate green economic growth and advance the SDGs.
- Align private sector investments with development goals through the SDG Impact Standards and Gender Seal frameworks.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with multilateral banks to attract critical funding and technical expertise through.
- Build on insights from the 2024 NHDR to drive digital transformation, promoting innovative collaboration across government, development partners, and businesses.





Development for All

- Ensure equitable development, prioritizing the most vulnerable communities by focusing on the 20 least-developed districts.
- Improve access to essential services, including renovating schools and hospitals in Balochistan, rehabilitating schools in Sindh, and solarizing public oxygen plants.
- Expand HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives to protect high-risk communities.
- Promote job creation, while preserving natural heritage through sustainable eco-tourism projects in KP.

Climate Action

- Expand renewable energy access and strengthen community resilience against environmental challenges.
- Promote decentralized energy solutions and low-carbon transportation for a sustainable future.
- Improve climate-resilient infrastructure, water management, and early warning systems, benefiting 500,000 people in Sindh, KP, and Balochistan.
- Support Pakistan's climate and biodiversity goals by mobilizing public and private resources, including blended finance.



Responsive Governance

- Strengthen coordination, capacity building, and institutional reforms to reinforce governance and uphold human rights, including collaboration on national priorities through the Inter-Governmental Coordination Index (IGCI).
- Advance women's leadership through advocacy, policy support, and capacity strengthening programmes.
- Combat misinformation and strengthen accountability through digital tools like eMonitor+ and iVerify.
- Improve access to justice and training opportunities for women in law enforcement.





Join Us
in shaping



a better future
For All





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