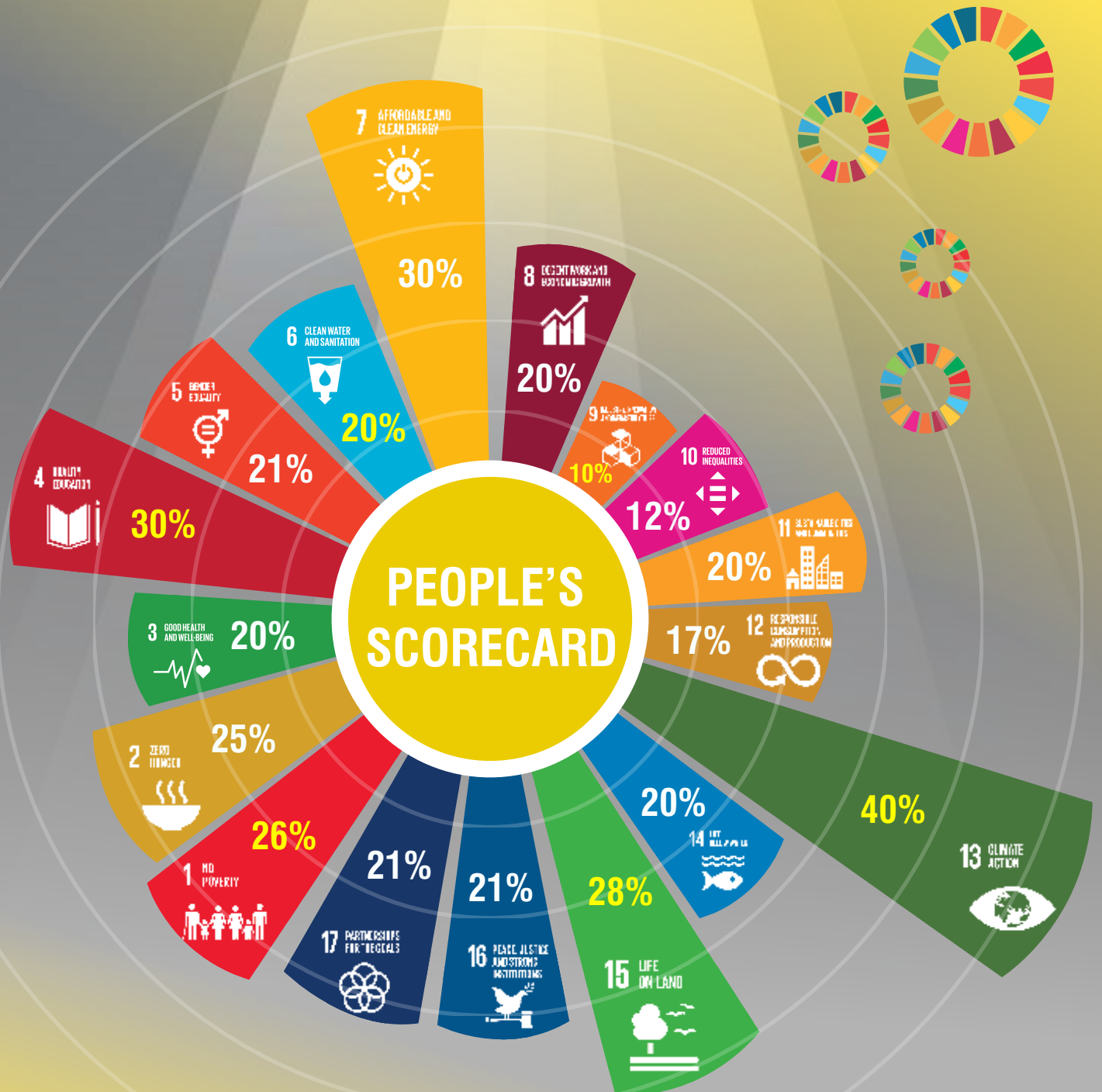


SPOTLIGHT REPORT

ACHIEVING SDGs IN PAKISTAN: A LONG HAUL



July, 2022



ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Work together on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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July, 2022

Conducted by:

Awaz Foundation Pakistan



Coordinated by:



Supported by:



**ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**



Sightsavers





Acronyms

A4SD	Action for Sustainable Development Goals
ADO	Area Development Organization
AJ&K	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
BISP	Benazir Income Support Program
CBOs	Community Based Organization
COP	Conference of Parties
CPEC	China Pakistan Economic Corridor
CSC	Citizens' Scorecard
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GB	Gilgit Baltistan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross National Product
HEC	Higher Education Commission
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
ICDI	Integrated Community Development Initiative
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys
MoCC	Ministry of Climate Change
NAP	National Action Plan
NCOC	National Command and Control Center
NGOs	Non- Governmental Organizations
NTS	National Testing System
OOSC	Out of School Children
PDA	Pakistan Development Alliance
PEN	Publishing Extension Network
PDHS	Pakistan Demographic Household Survey
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSC	People's Scorecard
PSDP	Public Sector Development Programme PSDP
PSLM	Pakistan Social & Living Standard Measurement Survey
PWDs	People with Disabilities
RTI	Right to Information
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDR	Sustainable Development Report
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNC	Single National Curriculum
TF	Takhleeq Foundation
UGOOD	United Global Organization Of Development
UN	United Nations
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSO	Voluntary Support Organization
WB	World Bank
WEF	World Economic Forum
WESS	Water Environment and Sanitation Society





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Preface

Pakistan is presenting its second Voluntary National Review -VNR report this year in July 2022 since the inception of SDGs in September 2015. The first VNR was presented in July 2019. Pakistan Development Alliance and its member organizations remained engaged in the both the VNR processes at national and subnational level. Pakistan Development Alliance has also contributed in the official VNR process led by Planning Commission of Pakistan, besides its own CSOs led VNR processes. Citizens Voices Report on VNR and SDGs Status was published in 2019 after countrywide consultations with related stakeholders in selected 42 districts of Pakistan. Whereas this year CSOs Spotlight Report on VNR and SDGs is being presented after vehement online and in person engagements and consultations with informed civil society from all across the country.

The official VNR 2022 shares the progress on SDGs based on the secondary data available through national surveys mainly PSLM, MICS and PDHS etc. However, this is interesting to know that only 69 global indicators out of total 247 are aligned with the aforementioned surveys. Therefore, authentic data is available against 1/3rd of the total indicators at national level. This is also pertinent to mention here that SDGs Data Portal is under preparation for the last four years however, in spite of frequent promises data portal has yet to be launched by Planning Commission of Pakistan.

In contrary to the official VNR report, the CSOs led spotlight report shares a gloomy picture of implementation and progress on SDGs in the country. The report shares the findings and recommendations based on People's Scorecard as well as consultations with informed civil society carried out at national and subnational levels through participatory and inclusive processes. The report is a great source of knowledge and information for researchers, CSOs, INGOs, UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors as well as academia who wish to have independent information and status of SDG's progress in Pakistan. The government agencies and related departments especially Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs and SDGs Unit in Planning Commission of Pakistan is struggling to develop constituency based scorecard to measure the progress on SDGs for the last five years, however, no scorecard has yet been introduced by them. The People's Scorecard as well as Citizens' Scorecard introduced by Pakistan Development Alliance through spotlight report may be helpful for them to develop and introduce constituency based scorecard.

I personally, and on behalf of AwazCDS-Pakistan and Pakistan Development Alliance, thank all the contributors and supports of CSOs led process for this spotlight report. I also take this opportunity to personally thank A4SD, VSO-Pakistan and SightSavers Pakistan, without their financial contributions this spotlight report would not have been possible.

I wish all the best to the readers and look forward to have feedback for improvement in our work in the future

With immense regards

Zia ur Rehman

Chief Executive AwazCDS-Pakistan

National Chair- Pakistan Development Alliance





About Spotlight Report

Spotlight Report is an alternative and civil society led report on Sustainable Development Goals, the idea was part of regular interventions of Pakistan Development Alliance around national, regional and global advocacy opportunities including High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Several countries including Pakistan followed their lead and developed parallel reports to official Voluntary National Review (VNR) through a participative process by collaborating with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The People Score Card (PSC) is a tool for independent assessment of Governments' progress and performance towards achievement of their socio- economic and political commitments through inclusion of people's voices. The PSC gathers information from the people and depicting real, on ground situation with regard to performance and progress of Pakistan on SDGs. PSC results are inculcated in the CSOs led spotlight report presented at the United Nation's High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in parallel to official VNRs by the Governments in July 2022.

The people's scorecard on SDGs considers a number of key categories and offers an overview of the level of delivery in each area. The current People's Scorecard – A Spotlight Report is developed using Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA) platform through a two pronged strategy i.e. an online survey (<https://www.pda.net.pk/peoples-scorecard-survey/>) and a series of 7 consultations held in 4 provincial capitals as well as at Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Muzaffarabad -Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and at Gilgit from Gilgit Baltistan(GB) region. A total number of 238 people reached out to online survey and assessed 17 SDGs goals on 16 indicators and rated government's performance and achievement on SDGs assigning positive and negative marks. (*The indicators for assessment are attached as Annex 2*). Similarly, 192 people from informed civil society participated (*see Annex 1 for list of participants*) in the series of consultations organized in all over Pakistan and deliberated on Government's performance through group work on several goals, detailed analysis is given in the following chapters. Process of collecting information used mix method of research i.e. quantitative and qualitative to assess whether Pakistan is heading towards right direction or have lost path due to current volatile political and economic situation. The next chapters depict overall quantitative and qualitative assessment and delivery of the 2030 Agenda and triangulated based on secondary information, including a consideration of policies and strategies for implementation, assessment of delivery and mechanisms for engagement; including with civil society, local governments, donors and wider stakeholders in realization of SDGs.

The purpose of the spotlight report 2022 was to mobilize and engage with civil society through people's scorecard and to reach out to informed citizens who are unable to contribute to national or official VNR report process and to gather information from them to assess SDGs progress to get alternative views as opposed to official VNR process which heavily relies on only secondary data.

Pakistan is presenting its 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at HLPF 2022, AwazCDS-Pakistan through the platform of Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA) led the countrywide process to develop the spotlight report with support from Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD), SightSavers-Pakistan and Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). Pakistan Development Alliance is a largest coalition of CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, INGOs and networks working together on SDGs with a special focus on better governance and accountability. PDA has 114 member organizations which includes organizations representing various constituency groups like women, youth, old people, PWDs, minorities and other socially excluded groups. PDA members played pivotal role in gathering information on Goal3, 4, 5 10, 13 and 16 which came under discussion in the consultations. Integrated Community Development Initiative (ICDI) facilitated in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, HomeNet Pakistan in Lahore, Punjab, Water Environment and Sanitation Society (WESS) in Quetta, Balochistan, Takhleeq Foundation (TF) in Karachi, Sindh, Area Development Organization (ADO) in Muzaffarabad, AJ&K, Publishing Extension Network (PEN) in Gilgit and UGOOD in Islamabad. In fact, most of the coalition member organizations are focusing on one or more goals and targets of the SDGs. For details please visit www.pda.net.pk. Pakistan Development Alliance has already developed and launched Citizens Scorecards on SDGs and online SDGs Citizens Dashboard. The SDGs Citizens' Dashboard and Citizens' Scorecard (CSC) can be reviewed by following the link <https://sdgscitizenscorecard.pda.net.pk/> This report will also share the comparative analysis of results of PSC with global SDGs Index available at : <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/Pakistan>





Acknowledgements

Awaz CDS on behalf of Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA) wishes to thank all individuals from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including representatives of People with Disabilities (PWDs), Transgender and minorities who participated in the consultative process of developing this Spotlight Report 2022. We wish to gratefully acknowledge the excellent cooperation extended by PDA partner organizations, ICDI, HomeNet Pakistan, Area Development Organization (ADO), Water, Environment and Sanitation Society (WESS), Takhleeq Foundation (TF), Publishing Extension Network (PEN) and United Global Organization of Development (UGOOD). We found these organizations very cordial, forthcoming and supportive during the consultative process. They provided us the opportunity to engage with informed civil society to gather information with regard to Government's performance and progress on SDGs and other related activities for developing this report. The extensive desk review of reports, researches, articles developed by different independent research institutions as well as individuals (data sources are duly acknowledged) was undertaken to present verifiable findings that present on ground situation on SDGs. Finally, we wish to thank our donors, Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD), SightSavers and Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) for their financial and technical support that enabled the entire process of developing PSC as well as Spotlight Report.





Chapter One: Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and Background

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) put forward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which replaced Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Both provide road map for global development, but initiative processes were different in nature. MDGs were adopted through Millennium Declaration of the UN in 2000 and the outcome was International Development Cooperation Framework. It is argued that the MDGs were not a formal intergovernmental mechanism but mere an initiative driven by the UN secretariat mostly based on previous policy agreements from UN. However, it is also argued that the MDGs were devoid of reflecting peoples will and goals were developed by experts having limited focused goals and targets. Whereas SDGs were extensively inclusive of intergovernmental negotiations to create people centered development agenda. Huge level of consultation was undertaken, as well as an online survey included over seven million voices from all over the world. Based on above two processes and following consultations and negotiations for three years, a resolution was formally adopted, "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. This resolution was adopted by 193 heads of state. The Agenda 2030 had 17 goals, 169 targets and 248 global indicators which encompass all major foreseeable challenges being faced by the world.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations (UN) Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve oceans and forests. The SDGs are an expanded version of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For the first time in history, the international community was able to define a global and comprehensive sustainable development agenda including both social objectives (built on the MDGs) and environmental goals (in continuation with the Rio Declaration of 1992 and subsequent Conference of Parties (COP) summits).

1.2 Voluntary National Reviews

The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a demonstration of political commitment and ownership.

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As stipulated in the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

In 2022, 45 countries presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in order to assess progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.3 Pakistan and National Voluntary Review

Pakistan's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) was presented at HLPF in 2019 and showcased its process and commitment towards achieving SDGs. Nevertheless, several challenges remain – the task of planning and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Pakistan's rapidly growing population must necessarily incorporate diverse local contexts, build



local capacities and strengthen institutions. However, developing countries like Pakistan were already lagging in meeting these goals. Pakistan presented its second VNR at HLPF in July 2022 to share progress and performance on SDGs.

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal presented the Voluntary National Review of Pakistan at the 15th meeting of ministerial segment of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC 2022) at the United Nations on Friday, 15th July, 2022. The Minister reiterated that Pakistan was a resilient nation with 64% of population under the age of 30 and they need quality education and skills to achieve sustainable development for better Pakistan. Pakistan despite facing formidable challenges, followed its development plans forging partnerships with national and international stakeholders and communities. Pakistan is making considerable headways in localization of SDGs and innovation in partnership with other different stakeholders, response and recovery from COVID and way forward in the light of lessons learnt to build forward better in the decade of action. He also called for the midterm review of the SDGs for better planning in future years. The VNR report says that the vision 2025 is aligned with SDGs and each pillar is associated with different sustainable development goals. Following are the highlights of official VNR report:

- Enabling policy environment, SDGs were adopted as a national development agenda through a unanimous National Assembly resolution in 2016 and Pakistan established specialized seven SDGs support units at the federal, provincial and special areas to mainstream and localize SDGs.
- Transformation from the last VNR, Development projects were SDGs integrated, data quality improved and harmonizing the data and survey instruments were being standardized.
- Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) had a latest National Socio Economic Registry that geo-tagged all out of school children.
- Pakistan SDGs Index is developed to monitor the progress at goal level and overall; it shows 10 percentage points improve from 2015-2020.
- Cellular mobile subscribers had reached 182 million; an increase of 8.6 percent in nine months of FY2021. Similarly, Broadband (BB) subscribers reached 100 million – 28 percentage points increase in one year.
- National Command and Control Center (NCOC) was formed that served as a central agency to manage COVID -19. A three-pronged strategy, i.e., policy of saving lives, livelihood and salvaging economy was adopted. For this purpose, smart lockdowns were proposed which was an effective policy. In addition to a stimulus package, he said, the State Bank of Pakistan also announced a package for business to keep the economy on toes.
- The impact of COVID -19 was unknown to all, therefore the first wave cost us negative growth rate in GDP. National Statistical Organization estimated that 27.31 million of the working population was affected while 20.6 million could not work in the first wave.
- Poverty was at 4.4%, while national poverty declined by 2.4 percentage points during 2016 and 2019.
- Index Value of SDG 2 increased from 27.47 to 62.92 during 2015-2020. The growth in the index was contributed to by progress in all three indicators, most of all by the reduction in the prevalence of stunting, malnourishment, and anemic pregnant women.
- Proportion of youth and adults with information and communication technology skills had increased by 3.17 percentage points during 2018-19 and 2019-20, i.e., in one-year Maternal Mortality Ratio declined from 276 to 186 in 12 years (2006-07 and 2018-19).
- The Gender Policy Framework in 2022 was launched to enhance the monitoring based interventions related to gender, health, education and employment.
- Post pandemic economic growth showed V-shaped recovery with GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita increased by 13.4%. This became possible due to State Bank of Pakistan which provided support to the industry equivalent to 5% of GDP in COVID.
- Increased focus on the provision of education and skills to youth, jobs creation, public infrastructure investment through Public-Private Partnership (PPP), special focus on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



- For higher and stable growth, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged and digitization of economy is a priority. Pakistan's access to electricity, reliance on clean fuel and renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption is increasing, it is expected increase renewable energy share by 30 percent by 2030.
- Through implementation of National Disaster Risk Reduction strategies are aligned with the Sendai Framework. Local governments had adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies with a progress of 30 percent.
- Clean Green Pakistan Index for ranking the cities against the performance of five pillars of Clean Green Pakistan i.e., drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, solid waste management, and plantation.
- Roshan Digital Bank Account for overseas Pakistanis was launched to increase remittances using legal channels as well as increase in foreign investment.
- Smart Village' pilot project by PPPs and the Universal Service Fund, villages in the country would be equipped with Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities. Training program for rural communities would be initiated on the use of digital services that would help communities attain improved access to basic services of education, healthcare, and commerce.
- Tele-School Education Programme Grade 1 to Grade 12 was started in COVID -19 due to closure of schools and it got good attention. A local NGO reported that 32 percent of the population are learning from Tele-schooling during COVID 19.
- Some 28 software technology parks were established to provide tech-enabled office space and other IT related services.
- A special helpline 1099 was created for legal advice on human rights at federal and provincial levels as well as a Child Protection Helpline 1121 for the protection of children. Similarly, he said, special laws were enacted for the protection of vulnerable such as Zainab Alert, Response & Recovery Act, 2020 ; Islamabad Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2020.
- Crude oil price had jumped above \$100 per barrel and it stayed there for the last 3 to 4 months. Similarly, edible oil price had also jumped many folds. Furthermore, this year Pakistan faced 500,000-ton wheat shortage and international wheat price has also gone up. All the three main components had a grave impact on the balance of payments and due to free float of exchange rate Pakistan facing double digit inflation.
- The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) conditions on top were so hard that it was difficult to provide relief to a common person, During the COVID -19, the developed countries were there to help the developing countries. This was also a super shock and globally no one come forward to ease out the developing countries.
- There was a need at the United Nations level to champion the issue of facing extreme economic shocks due to the doubling and tripling of the commodity prices in the international markets. The UN action was inevitable to check on the supply chain shocks, hurdle to achieve the SDGs.
- For the first time in Pakistan, based on the SDG principle of furthest behind first, Pakistan has selected 20 bottom districts for major intervention that creates employment opportunities, reduce poverty, provide basic facilities and provide sustainable solutions to the community.

The outbreak of COVID -19 in 2020- 2021 and now its variants in and 2022, have further adversely affected progress towards SDGs and posed daunting challenges for achieving these goals. Pakistan heavily rely on international financial institutions to fund development projects are now facing uncertainty over their socioeconomic challenges. The year 2020 brought unprecedented challenges for Pakistan in several ways. From the rapid spread of novel coronavirus to the imposition of nationwide lockdown to curtail the risks of the virus, the year 2021 had brought tremendous challenges in all the social, political and economic dimensions. It has posed more social challenges in the form of education, health, and most of all attaining Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan.

It is pertinent to say that Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved only through the allocated budget. Pakistan



needs some external means of finances as well. Without external support, achieving SDG is a daunting task for the state. Rendering to Jeffery Sachs the author of a book named (The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time), pointed out that countries can fight poverty only if development assistance in various forms is granted to them and business regulations globally are made fair for the developing countries.

COVID 19 has increased the challenges for the country in several ways. It has put 25 percent of the population below the poverty line. However, increasing SDG investment opportunities in the country along with coordination and partnership at the national and international level can pave the way for achieving SDG Agenda 2030. Relying solely on the allocated federal budget for SDGs cannot completely address the existing challenges which the country is facing so far in the real implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, therefore, strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing public, private partnership and attracting foreign investors can help Pakistan to finance SDGs in more strengthened ways.

1.4 Pakistan's Past Performance on Global Scorecard on SDGs

Annual publication 2021, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index¹ claims to track country's progress on the 17 SDGs. This report has combined data and analysis by the World Bank (WB), United Nations and other non-official research institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The report is not based on the analysis of official data, or official tools for collecting data on SDGs, instead it put concerted efforts to collect data and try to complements data collected by national statistical institutions and international organizations on standardized SDGs indicators. However, due to time lags in data generation, reporting and addition of new indicators, SDGs Index and dashboards are unable to present real picture of the progress and especially impact of COVID 19. Moreover, the new indicators' selection and the ranking of 2021 do not present comparison with the last year's progress. However, the report highlights the huge impact of COVID 19 on population by increased poverty rates and unemployment in the aftermath of pandemic outbreak.

The report signifies a country's position between the worst (0) and the best (100) target outcomes. According to SDGs Index report, Pakistan scored 57.7% across 17 goals and this percentage is 1.5% higher than its score in 2020. Pakistan, being part of South East Asia region having 21, its progress has increased by 3% in the region. According to this report Pakistan's global ranking is 129 out of 193 countries, improved from 134 in 2020. As compare to countries in the region, Bangladesh is situated on 109, India declined from 117 to 120 between 2020 to 2021.

In spite of overall improvement in the global scorecard, the trends in goals' achievement, country is only on track against Goal 13 (Climate Action). Rest of the goals are either moderately improving or stagnating and worsening in the case of Goal15 (Life on Land). The report does not refer to national data sets at some places therefore the ranking and scoring of the country are affected. For instance, the proportion of the population's access to electricity is reported to be declining to 71.1% in 2018 but PSLM reports, it has been increased by 3% between 2015-2020 and stands on 96%.² According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 27.31 million working population was affected by the pandemic therefore Goal1(No Poverty) Goal2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 20.6 million people could not work during the first wave of COVID 19 in 2020, whereas 6.7 million people reported their income was decreased, and as coping mechanism, half of population was reduced their expenditure on non-food items. The Bureau reported that 74% of informal workers were impacted adversely by the pandemic outbreak.

As well as Goal3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) portrayed dismal picture of healthcare system in Pakistan even before COVID 19, with insufficient facilities to meet the need of population. The average one hospital bed available for over 1689 people. Goal4 (Quality Education) is also in shambles and is stagnated, Goal 5 (Gender Equality) is stagnated between

¹ <https://www.sdgindex.org/reports/sustainable-development-report-2021/>

² <https://www.dawn.com/news/1663373>



2015-2020. Similarly, the gender gap of 9% persisted between males and females during this period.

As per Sustainable Development Report for the year 2022, the South Asian region, the top three performers are Bhutan (70.02), Maldives (69.27) and Sri Lanka (68.1) respectively in 2021, and since 2015. From the bottom, Afghanistan (53.56), Pakistan (57.62) and India (60.07), remain the lowest performers in 2021 as they have been since 2015. Nepal (66.56), Myanmar (64.95) and Bangladesh (63.45) are middle performers in the region in 2021 and since 2015. Delving into performance within the 17 Goals, most of the South Asian Countries face major challenges in achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). In particular, the performance of all the South Asian countries is off-track on SDG 15 (Life on Land) that relates to protecting biodiversity.

1.5 Pakistan's Global Scorecard 2022

The below picture depicts Pakistan's performance on all 17 goals, it has improved from 129/193 countries in 2021 to 125/163 at the global scorecard in 2022. Pakistan stands 59.3 at global scorecard. The Average performance is depicted on the basis of government provided data on each goal. Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 stand stagnated, whereas Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) is moderately improving. As far as **Goal 1** is concerned, current National Poverty Line is 46.0 according to World Bank (WB) report. The pace of poverty reduction is likely to have halted due to macroeconomic crisis and associated slowdown in growth. In this context, the outbreak of the recent COVID 19 pandemic and the containment measures adopted by the government, are expected to increase poverty in the country. Which is not stagnated it shows upward trend according financial and research institutions. **Goal 2**, which is reported stagnated but statistics shared by Borgen Project: Pakistan, about 20% of the population is undernourished. This is nearly double the percentage of people worldwide who are undernourished. **Goal 3** Pakistan is ranked 122nd out of 190 countries in the World Health Organization performance report. **Goal 4**, portrays dismal picture, the current literacy rate of Pakistan is 62.3 which mean that an estimated population of 60 million is illiterate in the country.

Pakistan is facing a serious challenge to ensure all children, particularly the most disadvantaged, attend, stay and learn in school. Currently, Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children (OOSC) with an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 not attending school,³ representing 44 per cent of the total population in this age group. In the 5-9 age group, 5 million children are not enrolled in schools and after primary-school age, the number of OOSC doubles, with 11.4 million adolescents between the ages of 10-14 not receiving formal education.

Disparities based on gender, socio-economic status, and geography are significant; in Sindh, 52 percent of the poorest children (58 percent girls) are out of school, and in Balochistan, 78 percent of girls are out of school. As far as Goal 5 is concerned, Pakistan presently ranks among second worst countries in gender parity, only above Afghanistan. According to the "Global Gender Gap Report 2021" published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Pakistan ranked 153rd out of 156 countries on the gender parity index. The country ranked 7th among eight countries in South Asia, only better than Afghanistan. Pakistan's gender gap has widened by 0.7 percentage points in just one year.⁴ Nonetheless, Out of Pakistan's total population, 79.2% of the rural poor have access to clean water. On the other hand, 98 percent of Pakistan's rich have access to clean water. Seventy-nine million people in Pakistan do not have access to a proper toilet.

Overall 10 out of 17 goals remain stagnant, 4 show moderate improvement, while 2 goals i.e. 12 and 13 have been reported achieved. While goal 10 is on track which is debatable due to increase in poverty and inequality.

³ <https://pide.org.pk/research/how-to-address-the-gender-gap-in-pakistan/>

⁴ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1699399>



▼ OVERALL PERFORMANCE

COUNTRY RANKING

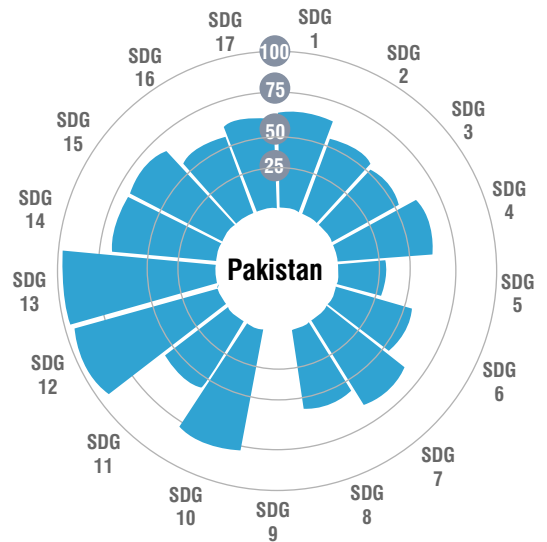
PAKISTAN

125/163

COUNTRY SCORE



REGIONAL AVERAGE: 65.9



▼ SDG DASHBOARD AND TRENDS



- Major Challenges ■ Significant Challenges ■ Challenges Remain ■ SDG achieved ■ Information unavailable
- ↓ Decreasing → Stagnating ↗ Moderately improving ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ● Information unavailable

Note: The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

⁵Sustainable Development Report 2022



Chapter Two: United Nation's Key Principles on SDGs

The integrated notion of sustainable development and the achievement of the ambitious and comprehensive SDG Agenda requires us to build capacity for effective partnerships across sectors. It requires a shared knowledge on effective organizational practices and strategic systemic policies for partnerships among governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nation's system and other actors. The UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform is the main portal for understanding the SDGs and their implementation processes. The basic principle that no one can be left behind.

The SDG agenda is based on the principle that no one can be left behind. That there are too many people in extreme and vulnerable situations of insecurity. It is based on the notion that the value of our civilizations is judged by how we reach out to those people and situations who are in distress at the margins of our national and global affairs. Sustainability is about achieving the present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to achieve their own needs.

Overall, sustainability is based on the principles that all have rights for a better life, a life of dignity based on the fundamental human rights and on the awareness that we are part of an eco-system and a planetary equilibrium that requires our own global responsibility. In other words, sustainability is an integrative concept closely related to the values and principles of global citizenship and global-social responsibility. It is about realizing the interconnectedness of ourselves with our organizational and corporate decisions and with the systems elements of our local and global societies.

Sustainability has its foundation the principle--based preoccupation for practices that promote well-being of People, the preservations of our natural resources in this Planet, the elimination of extreme poverty for a life of prosperity for all, through the promotion of peace based on human rights, justice and rule of law, and through the partnership we need to have across nations, sectors and communities.

The Goals and targets for each goal are designed to stimulate action between 2015 and 2030 in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. The Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development document highlights these 5P commitments as:

P1 People: We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

P2 Planet: We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations

P3 Prosperity: We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

P4 Peace: We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

P5 Partnership: We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.⁶

⁶UNGC



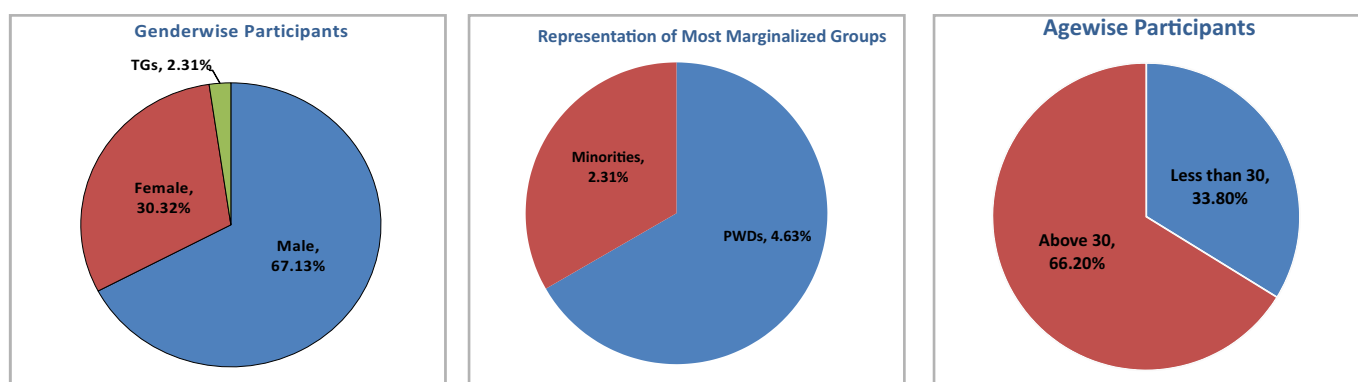
Chapter Three: People’s Perceptions of SDGs: Analysis of an Online Survey and Consultations

AwazCDS-Pakistan following its precedent of developing Spotlight and /or Citizens Voices Reports on SDGs since 2019, this year too, in collaboration with PDA has developed Spotlight Report through a two pronged methodology. An online survey based on People Scorecard and seven consultations with informed civil society in 4 provinces, and three in regions namely Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ & K) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). Following are the assessment results or findings distilled from the process of assessment of SDGs in Pakistan.

3.1 Demographic Details

Overall, **430** representatives of informed civil society organizations from Pakistan participated in the online survey and consultations and assessed SDGs goals on the basis of 16 indicators (**Annex 2**). 67.13% male 30.32% female and 2.3% transgender persons participated in both research activities. Looking at the age of participants, 66.20% people above 30 years and 33.80% people less than 30 years participated while the percentage of participation of People with Disabilities (PWDs) and minority groups remained 4.6% and 2.31% respectively.

The pie chart shows that overall gender based segregation and people above 30 years of age were the highest percentage of participants, ordinal

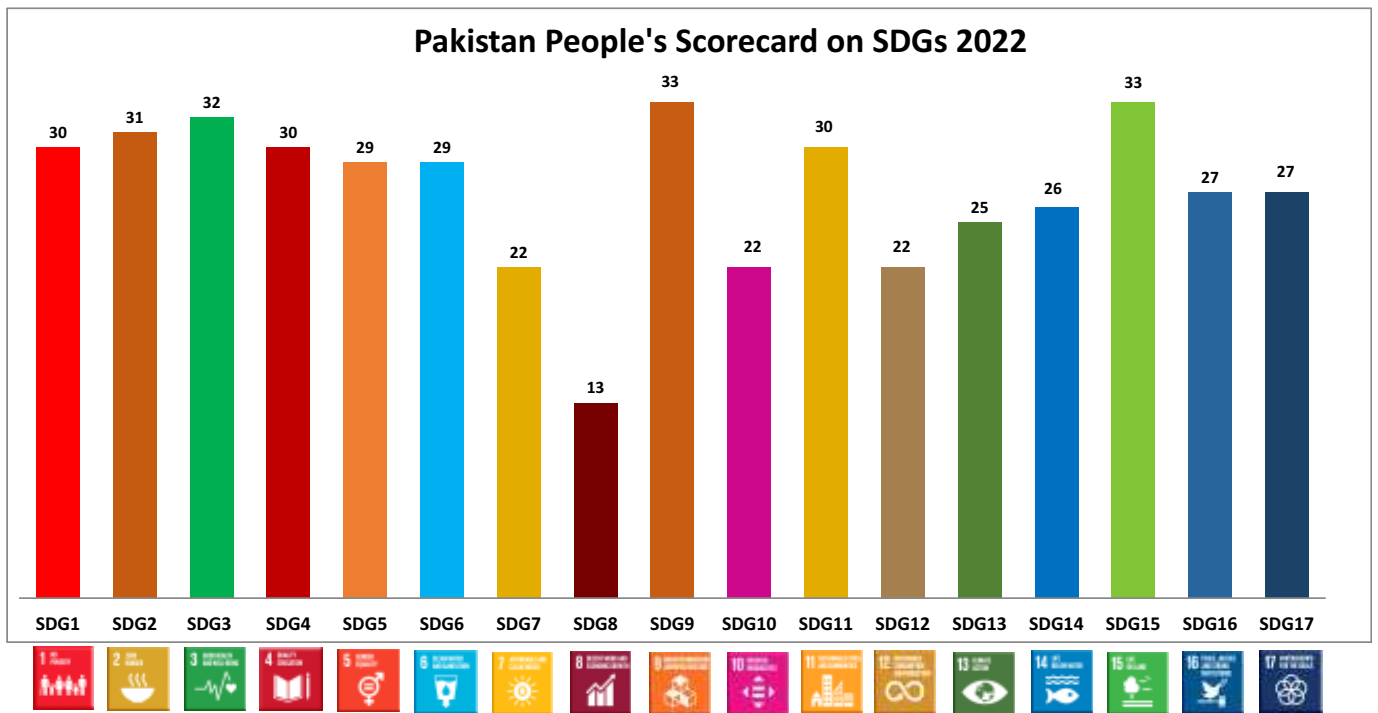


3.2 Overall Survey Ratings of SDGs

The survey participants assessed performance and progress of all 17 SDGs on 16 indicators at the scale from 0 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

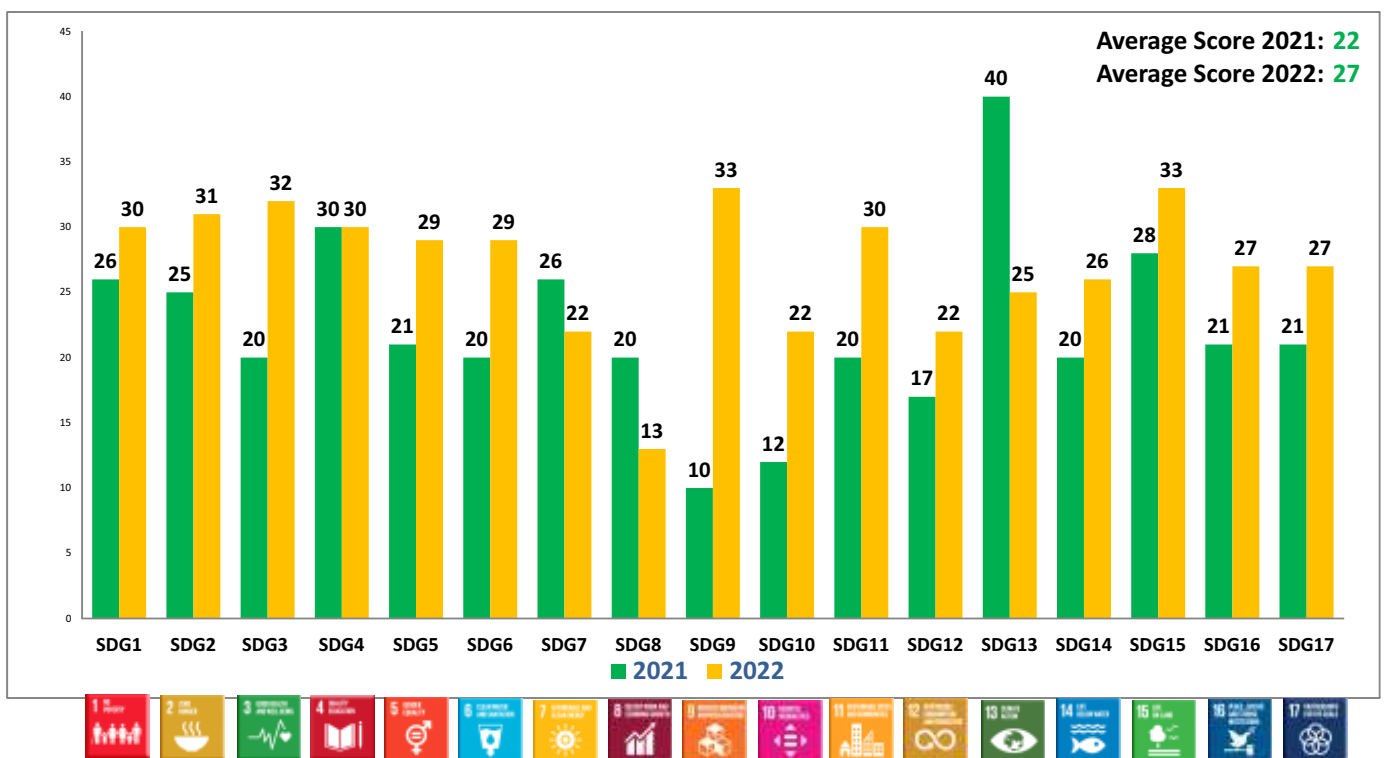
The graph below depicts that goal 9 and 15 received highest score i.e. 33, while goal 3 was rated second highest score 32 by the respondents. Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 11 rating ranged between 31 to 29. Whereas goal 13, 14, 16 and 17 was ranked between 25 to 27 and goal 7, 10, and 12 scored 22 points. Goal 8: Economic Growth and Decent Work was rated lowest by the respondents. The graph also shows that over the past few years, people's perceptions have changed considerably and survey reports more responses to all goals including Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life on Land and Partnership for the Goals. This shows that people are more aware and are concerned with all goals not only about social, economic and political rights and wellbeing.





3.3 Comparison between People's Scorecard for 2021 and 2022

The graph below gives comparison of people's perception about Government's performance and progress during the year 2021 and 2022.



The overall trend in the graph shows that people perceive Pakistan is improving on SDGs progress as compared to last year. Except for goal 8 and 13 saw sharp slant and respondents rated these specific goals way lower than the previous year. Interestingly goal 9 has seen 20 points rise in 2022 from rating 10 in 2021. This may be due to the impacts of 1.2 trillion Rupees economic bailout package delivered by the government amid COVID19 crisis in 2020-21 or otherwise due to the progress on China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiatives. The Global SDG Index shows Pakistan ranking of goal 13 as achieved, ironically people ranked it 15 points lower than the previous year. UNDP declared Pakistan has achieved SDG 13 because Pakistan's GHG emission rate is less than 1% whereas the people's perception goes with the on ground situation where climate changes are making worst impacts and their usual lives are not less than hell. They are facing land erosions, environment degradations, dry weathers, heavy rains and their living as well as crop

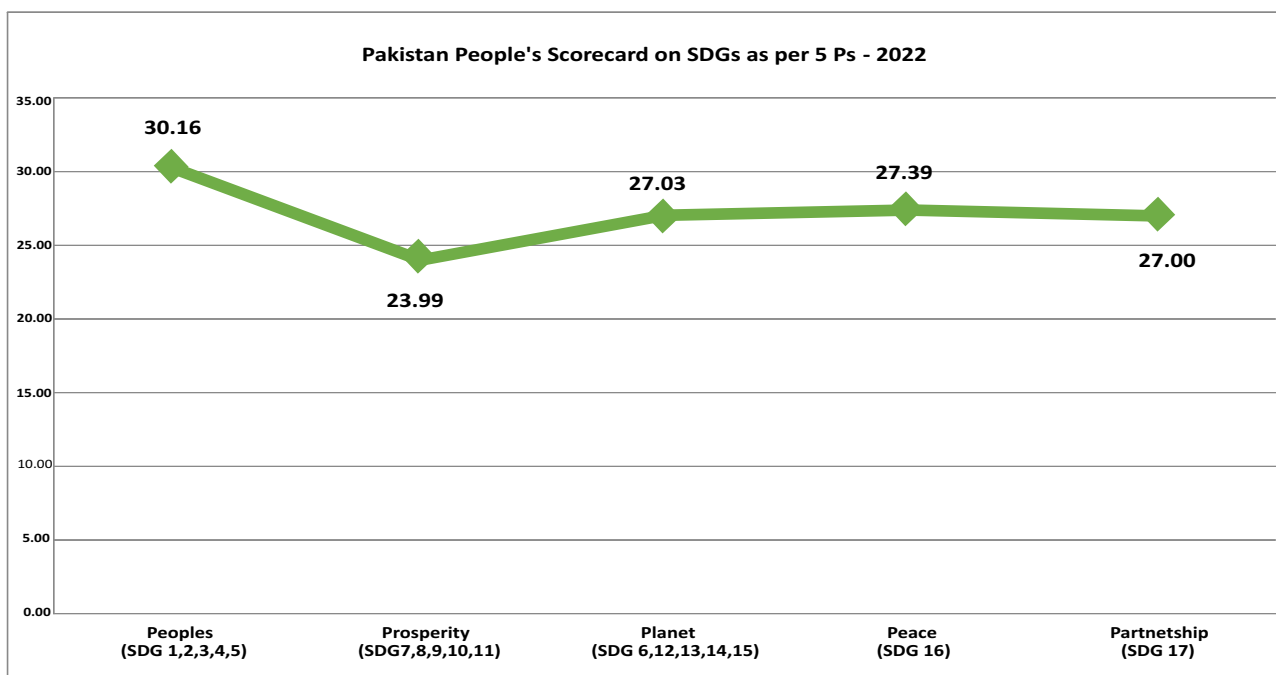
patterns are severely affected. Similarly, goal 4 remains stagnant as people's perceptions for both years are same. Goal 3, 5 and 11 are alleviated 9 points on the average according to 2022 survey as compared to 2021.

However, it came to the forth during the 7 provincial and regional consultations that Pakistan is regressing on social goals for instance reducing inequalities, gender equality and peace, justice and strong institutions. Violence against women and transgender persons have increased despite government's efforts of reducing them. World Economic Forum (WEF) recently ranked Pakistan as second worst country for women in the world after Afghanistan. The issue of enforced disappearances, intolerance against religious minorities especially abduction of Hindu minor girls and forced conversion and resultant marriages to adult Muslim men are on the rise. The Ahmadi communities are facing worst persecution and sectarian violence has risen, offenders go scot free and law and justice institutions seem helpless in providing protection to most vulnerable segments of the society. Moreover, the inequalities in terms of economic development and income disparities have widened presumably due to pandemic outbreak and volatile economic and political situation in Pakistan. Civil Society faces pressure and civic voices are often quieted. There is upsurge in violence against journalists and offenders enjoy impunity. As well as health, education and poverty portrays grim picture were the major findings of the consultations.

As far as goal 13 is concerned, the participants of consultations perceived climate change as serious threat to Pakistan, although it may not be contributing climate or environment degradation globally. According to them, despite climate change policy and environment agency is functional; still there are challenges of implementation of the policy and functioning of the agency. The major climate or environment issues Pakistan faced with are no policy for solid waste management and unavailability of climate protection financing coupled with inefficient forecasting or early warning system, poor water management, unplanned urbanization and mushrooming of housing societies and internal migration to cities etc. Furthermore, it was stressed during the consultations that population explosion eats away all resources and undermine all social and economic progress made to achieve SDGs.

3.4 People’s Perceptions about United Nation’s Key Principles on SDGs – 5 Ps

The below graph presents the rating of respondents with regard to 5Ps – 5 pillars of SDGs.



Respondents gave score 30.16 to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 which are social or people related goals, prosperity related goals scored almost 24 marks, while goals related to planet, peace and partnerships score remained low around 27 at the average. It is important to note that respondents assigned highest score to goals related to people, owing to the fact that despite formidable economic and political challenges, government has taken admirable actions to uplift people's social

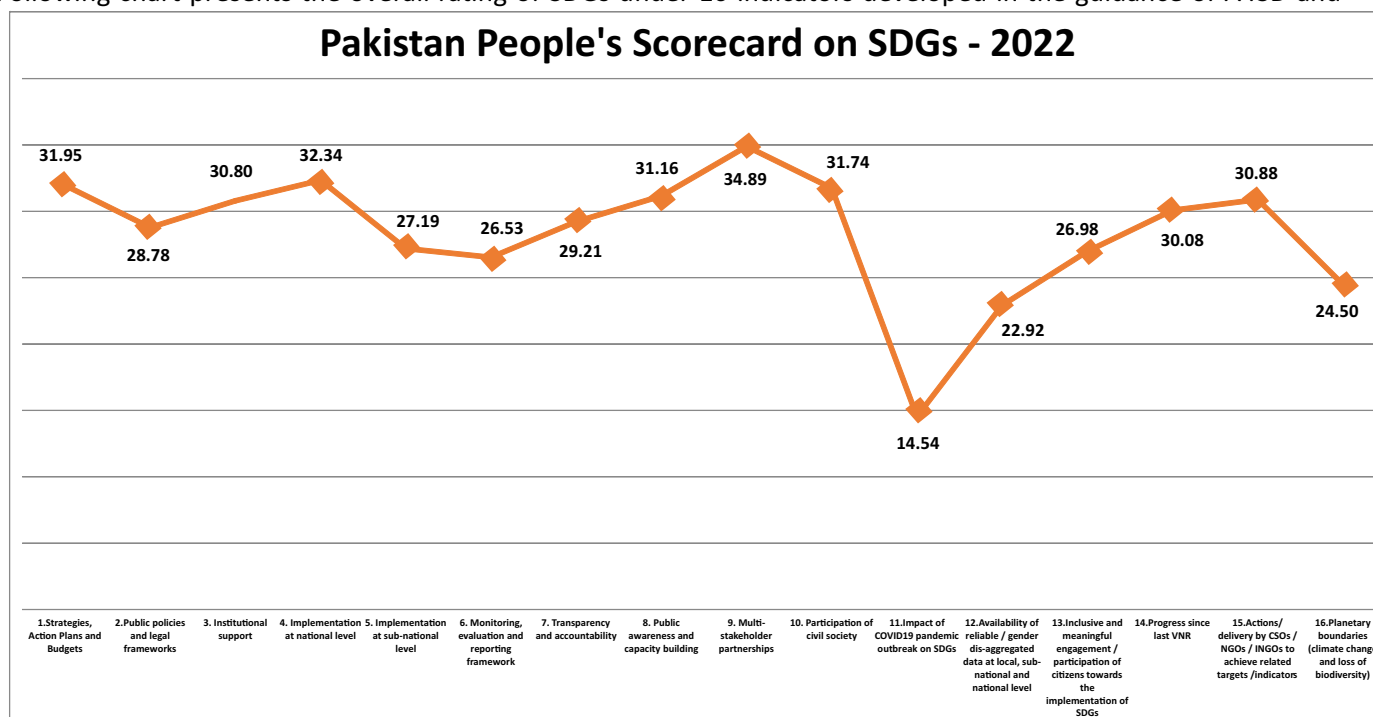


lives through people centered legislations, strategies and action plans, increased budget allocations in the social sector development. However, goals related to prosperity scored lowest and these findings were endorsed by the participants of the consultations. They informed that unemployment and poverty has risen and people are faced with worst inflation and living standard are considerably lowered for large number of population and most of the incomes are spent on food. 34% of Pakistanis are living on 3.2 dollars a day. With regard to plant, peace and partnerships related SDGs, it portrays dismal picture according to the respondents of survey and consultations. Partnership goals were rated even lower among the last three categories of goals.

Due to political and economic turmoil in the country since the last few years, peace and partnerships could no flourish, partnerships are forged in stable political, economic and peaceful environment which were absent in the recent years. There are issues of lack of political will, poor governance, lack checks and balances, weak law enforcement institutions and supremacy and political engineering at the hands of some state institutions is thought to be instrumental to above situation. Human rights situation in Pakistan is grave especially freedom of expression, enforced disappearances, state's treatment with minority groups, women, transgender persons and other underprivileged ethnic groups goes without saying that it has failed its citizen's on peace, protection and prosperity front. Almost 20 million people in Pakistan have lost their livelihood opportunities. More than 50% of the total 220 million people in Pakistan are facing multiple crises in their lives and livelihoods. Inflation rate has gone up to 20%, all time highest in the history of Pakistan.

3.5 Results of Scorecard Indicators

Following chart presents the overall rating of SDGs under 16 indicators developed in the guidance of A4SD and



collaboratively improved with civil society representatives. The highest score was given to indicator 9 which sought people's perceptions on Multi Stakeholders' Partnerships (MSP). The participants of both surveys and consultation agreed that synergizing partnerships for social development by the government remained seemly and it tried its level best in the given testing times to build linkages and forge partnerships with both national and international levels. However, they emphasized on creating good governance structures that bring civil society, governments, international bodies, media and academic and research institutions for development and well-being of common people.

Indicators' scores regarding strategies and action plans, institutional support, public awareness and capacity building, participation of civil society and actions and achievements of civil society for related SDGs ranged between 32 to 30. The lowest score was assigned to indicator 11 with respect to impact of COVID 19 on SDGs



and this was obvious. Availability of reliable and gender disaggregated data at local, provincial and national level is also ranked very low by the participants. This is pertinent to mention here that data segregating the PLWDs, minorities and transgender community is also not available at various national and subnational data collection instruments. Furthermore, this has been reported that data against only 69 global SDGs indicators is available through PDHS, MICS and PSLM surveys. Inclusive and meaningful engagement/ participation of citizens towards the implementation of SDGs also gets lowest scores i.e. 26.98. The participants representing PLWDs, transgender community, minorities, working animal rights champions and other socially excluded groups also shared the similar apprehensions regarding their engagement and participations in the official conversations and processes. The implementation at national and subnational levels scored considerably lower marks than action plans and strategies. The participants in the consultations highlighted that local governments in their respective provinces and districts are totally nonfunctional and poorly funded. No Province is holding and distributing provincial funds / budgets to districts by holding provincial finance commission award except Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where significant funds were devolved through active local governments during previous years. Furthermore, monitoring and evaluation frameworks ranked even lower. This was triangulated and confirmed with the findings of consultations. Participants from informed civil society claimed that pro people legislation, action plans are in place but the real challenge remains implementation of these laws, and action plans in letter and spirit.

However, with regard to budgets, most of the respondents thought that firstly allocations are insufficient for goals 1,2,3,4 and 5. Secondly, they categorically informed that Public Sector Development Program(PSDP) allocated far less than the defense budget allocations. Some sobering facts about 2022-23 budget allocations are: Development expenditure set at 800 billion rupees for 2022-23, whereas Defense expenditure set at 1.52 trillion rupees for 2022-23 as opposed to 1.48 trillion rupees in 2021-22. Budget allocated at 90.55 billion rupees for education in 2022-23 compared to 90.86 billion in 2021-22, at 1.7% of GDP was 1.9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) last years. Ironically, Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2022-23 against Rs. 42.450 billion for 2021-22 which was later revised downward to Rs. 26.338 billion. Additionally, Pakistan cut health budget to 19.03 billion rupees for 2022/23 vs 154.49 billion rupees in 2021-22.⁷ The overview of budget allocations for public sector development shows the priorities of government and its direction to achieve social development goals.

3.6 Goal Wise Perceptions of People

Following part of the report presents the findings of 17 goals assessed by informed civil society representatives by participating in the online survey. Moreover, this part's findings are triangulated with qualitative data gathered through consultations for goal 3, 4, 5, 10, 13 and 16.

Goal 1: No Poverty

Poverty reduction is one of the most important sustainable development goals set by the UN in 2015. According to this goal, Pakistan must reduce its poverty level to half by 2030 from 24.3 percent to 12 percent. Pakistan is making concerted efforts to achieve this target although the COVID -19 pandemic has made it difficult to achieve this goal due to severe macroeconomic imbalances in the economy. Current national poverty line is 46% due to pandemic outbreak and crumbling economy. The situation is cross verified with the data gathered during the assessment of SDGs. Graph below outlines the people's perceptions and scoring of goal 1.

⁷<https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/pakistan-unveils-202223-budget-aims-5-growth-2022-06-10/>



Pakistan People's Scorecard 2022 on SDGs 1



Respondents scored the two first indicators for assessing goal 1 highest at 35.18 for strategies, action plans and budgets and 35.29 public policies and legal frameworks respectively, however, they rated implementation of these strategies action plans and funds a lot lower than these arrangements. Furthermore, the implementation of these actions significantly low at subnational level, which stands at 28.24 % as compared to 36.25% at national levels, which shows weak performance of government with regard to localization of SDGs. Institutional support mechanisms were rated lower on the assessment indicator at 28.71%. This came to the forth during the deliberations of consultations that pro people laws, policies, action plans were in place, several progressive laws promulgated, budgets allocated (although in sufficient) but their implementation and institutional support mechanism were weak. They informed that previous government initiated several poverty reduction programs in the wake of pandemic and to reduce impact of rising inflation. For instance, a relief package worth Rs. 120 billion under the purview of EHSAS Program (now Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) which aimed at providing relief to 20 million families and expanding its scope to 130 million people.

Poverty increased many-folds in the aftermath of COVID 19. Almost 20 million people in Pakistan have lost their livelihood opportunities. More than 50% of the total 220 million people in Pakistan are facing multiple crises in their lives and livelihoods. Inflation rate has gone up to 20%, all time highest in the history of Pakistan. Therefore, participants of the survey ranked it lowest during survey and consultations at 18.59. Noticeably, respondents scored transparency and accountability, multi stakeholders' partnerships, monitoring and evaluation, public awareness and capacity building and progress since last VNR on the higher rating between the ranges of 34 to 31 respectively. Another lowest score was inclusivity and engagement of citizens for achieving SDGs i.e. 22.47.

The consultations participants and survey respondents confirmed that inclusiveness of all in the development process remained elusive. Several legislations, policies and action plans are made, for instance women friendly legislations at federal and provincial levels, for example Transgender Protection Act 2018, (rules of business developed in 2020), ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2011, Furthermore, numerous institutions at federal, provincial and district levels as well as a job quota of 02% for People with Disabilities (PWDs) has been allocated in all public and private sector establishments. They also reported that 3% quota for minority students in higher education (HEC Policy), however formidable challenges remain the implementation and monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives. It also came to the forth during the consultations that data tempering in census – especially regarding minorities, PWDs and transgender communities is common practice during the government led mega surveys like census and PLSM etc.



Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Coming to the second SDG, Pakistan's main target is reducing stunting in children under the age of five. The country wants its stunting levels to come to 10% instead of 44.8%, the baseline. However, the government is more focused on poverty alleviation—SDG one. It is satisfactory to note that the country was set to reduce the level of stunting in children under the age of five to 10% by 2030, and in 2019 the stunting level had reduced to 31.5%. There were other minor achievements as well like the country gave tax exemptions on food fortifying equipment.



The graph above depicts people's scoring of SDG2. Strategies, action plans and legal policies and frameworks were scored at similar points i.e. 32.67, interestingly the implementation at national level score for this specific goal remained highest perhaps due to government's relief program in the times of COVID 19. Second highest ranking was given to institutional support for SDG2. In contrast they reported that the SDGs progress severely hampered by the pandemic outbreak. The progress is severely hindered by ongoing pandemic which has created more hunger and this may reverse stunting progress. Pakistan under SDG 2 is more focused on stunting than malnourishment overall, which is troubling in the present pandemic as it is likely to create global food supply issue, as most of the resources are diverted to fighting the pandemic.

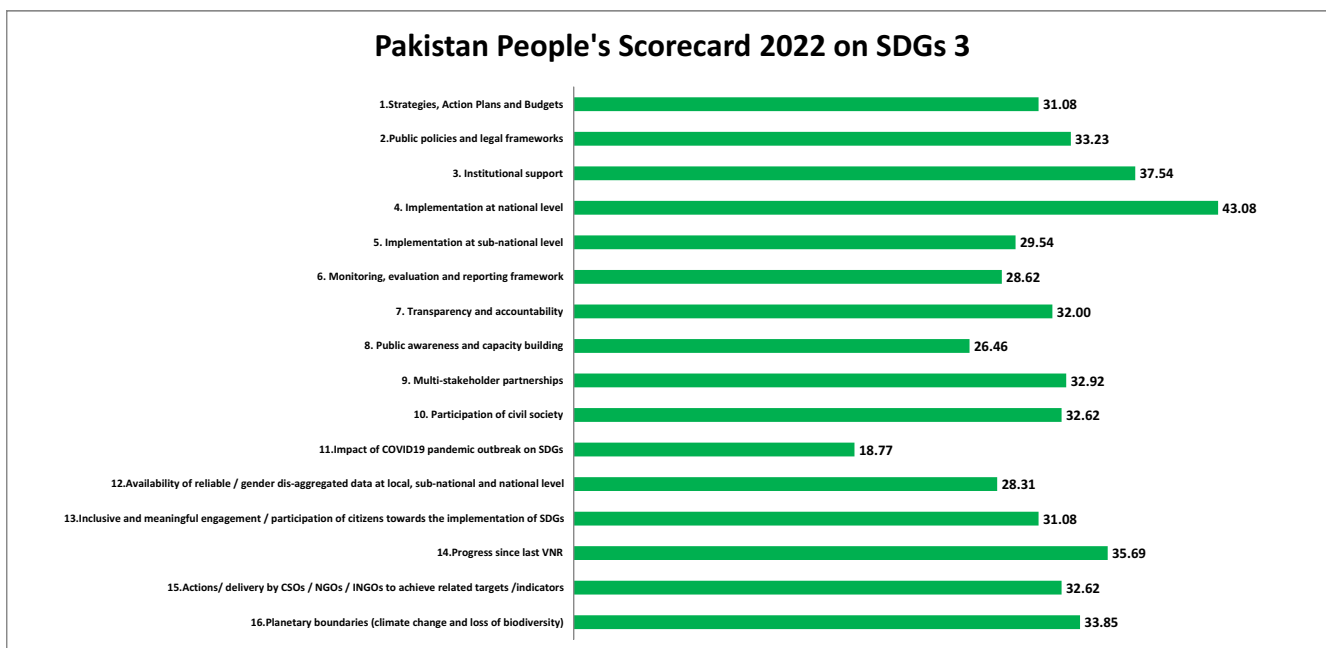
Rest of the score by indicators remained in the range between 25 to 31 at the average. In terms of legislation passed with regards to SDG 2, there have been three Acts post-2015 that related to this SDG. Two amongst these were passed by the Sindh Government—The Sindh Livestock Breeding Act 2016, and The Sindh Animal Breeding Act 2017. GB also passed a law in this category, The Food Act. Furthermore, the country produced only two relevant policies pertaining to this SDG in the post-2015 era, namely The Multi-Sectorial National Nutrition Policy and the 2017 Food Security Policy. The comparison of SDG2 with other policies that target other SDGs this number is fairly low. The other connecting problem towards the progress of zero hunger is that country has crumbling economy in which finding funding for many of its initiatives is hard. Pakistan has low economic growth and foreign investors stay off the industries of the country because of its economic conditions. The government, on the other hand, is more focused on SDG 1, no poverty, SDG2 is largely ignored or considered a part of poverty alleviation schemes. Although the previous government considered food security as an important pillar of national security however nothing significant has been seen to address the challenges related to food insecurity and malnourishment in the country. Food security is not considered as fundamental human right as well as the subject is not devolved to the provinces in spite of the fact that the agriculture and livestock as well as fisheries, horticulture, floriculture and other food producing, procurement and pricing departments are devolved to the sub-national level. Therefore, achieving SDG2 seems bleak unless we are able to set forth effective, inclusive and efficient policies to achieve it.



Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Good Health, a basic human right, is not only central to poverty reduction but is crucial for socio-economic development of a country. Pakistan has a fairly good public health infrastructure and a robust private health sector, but due to the high levels of poverty and illiteracy, frequent natural disasters and in the event of recent pandemic face the challenges of accessing good quality and equitable health services.

According to studies almost 4-6 % of population is being pushed into poverty due to huge health expenditures in Pakistan. Expenditure on health by households in rural areas is almost 53% more than the expenditure on health in urban areas out of their total household expenditures reported by SDPI in its report on health and well-being. Social positioning and underlying inequality has direct impact on the health of a society and both are directly correlated. The recent budget allocations (2022) reduced 8 times for the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) from Rs154 billion to only Rs19 billion for the fiscal year 2022-23.



The Graph above depicts the picture of goal 3. According to survey participants the implementation of SDG3 was fairly good for national level as compared to subnational level. Implementation at national level scored 43.08, highest and significantly low level 29.54. Strategies, action plans and budgets scored 31.08, policies and legal frameworks were awarded 33.23 score. Institutional support was ranked at 37.54 while monitoring and evaluation was ranked way lower at 28.62. Rest of the indicators scored between the range of 26 to 35 at the score. However, respondents thought that health system choked due to outbreak of pandemic and rated it at the lowest score i.e. 18.77.

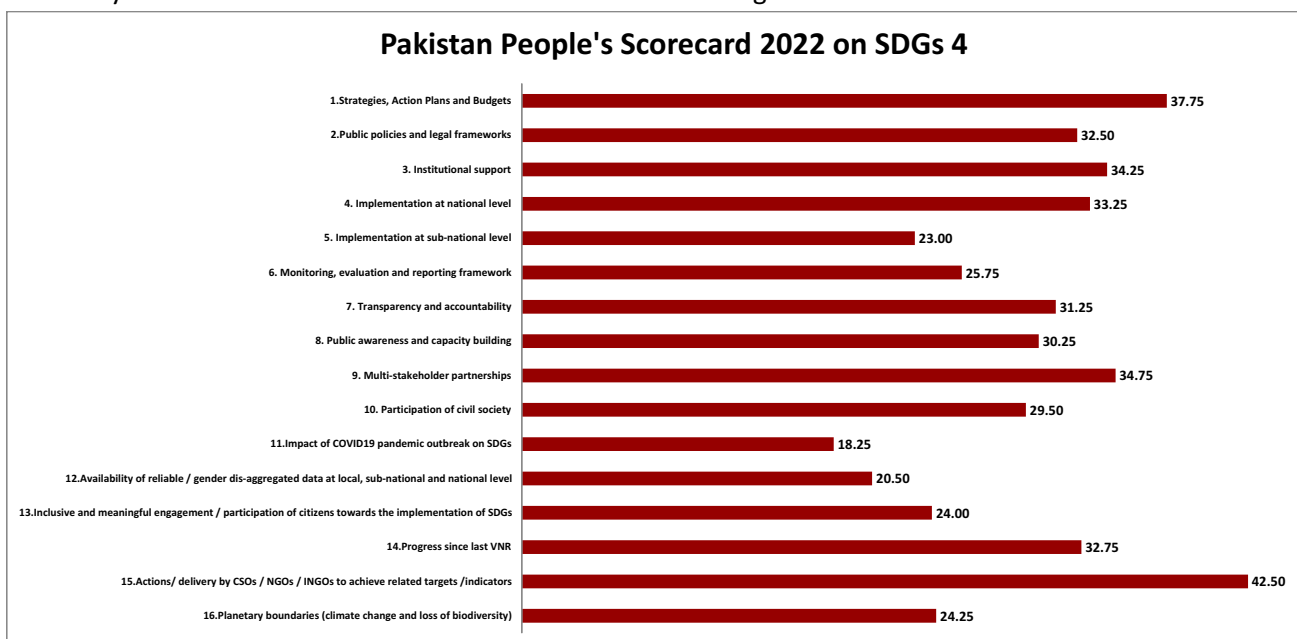
The above scores were confirmed during deliberation of consultations as well. Generally, they agreed that Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has reduced. Similarly, percentage of birth attended by skilled health personnel is increased, budget allocations for PWDs has also increased. But reiterated that there are numerous weaknesses in the health system with respect to reproductive health bill awaiting cabinet's approval, mental health policy is obsolete and was revised in 2003, weak monitoring and feedback mechanism, poor inter department coordination and ineffective budget monitoring etc. The COVID -19 pandemic has tested country's health infrastructure and respondents identified need for more investment in health sector especially for diagnostic facilities, disease surveillance, disease prevention and spread. As well as training of health personnel and their protection from pandemic, up-grading health care infrastructure, emergency rooms, intensive care units, isolation wards and public awareness is needed. Mental Health policy was developed in 2003; it is obsolete and needs revision.



Goal 4: Quality Education

SDG 4, focuses on equitable quality education for all was adopted as a Tier 1 priority goal by Pakistan. However, only nine years remaining to 2030, the federal and provincial governments have not yet been able to prioritize their education budgeting as per SDG 4. Pakistan's public expenditure on education as percentage to GDP is estimated at 1.7 percent in fiscal year 2021-22 against 1.9 percent for last fiscal year, which is the lowest in the region. Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for 2022-23 against Rs. 42.450 billion for 2021-22 which was later revised downward to Rs. 26.338 billion. Whereas India increased overall 11.8 % budget allocations for Education in 2022.

Overall goal 4 presents abysmal picture, 22.8 million children ages 5-16 and 11.4 million adolescents ages 10-14 are out of school. In Pakistan there is substantial gender disparity in education. Of the total 52% poor Out of School Children (OOSC) in Sindh 58% are girls. This void further expands in Balochistan; more than one million children are out of school of which 78% are girls. Non inclusive mainstream schools and other educational institutions. There are no arrangements for differently abled students as well as schools are exclusive of Transgenders.



The graph reveals that respondents of the survey gave highest score 42.50 to actions and delivery by Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Organization (INGOs) for achieving targets related to SDG4. The second highest score was for strategies, action plans and budgets remained at 37.75; the legislation and public policies were scored 32.50 and institutional support gained 34.25 score. Implementation at national level scored much better than subnational levels at 33.25 and subnational level 23. 00 which is second lowest score after COVID 19 impact and monitoring, evaluation and reporting third lowest at 25.75. Rest of the indicators' scores ranged between 24 to 32 at the average.

Impact of COVID 19 on SDG4 was rated 18.25. According to UNICEF, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan closed its schools on 13 March 2020; affecting over 46 million learners aged 5 to 16. Schools reopened in September but a second wave of the virus caused schools to close again on 24 November until 15 January 2021.⁸

Above scores were verified by the consultations participants. They agreed that there have been improvements in strategies action plans, policies and legal frameworks. After the 18th constitutional amendment, education is provincial concern. Punjab has not yet promulgated free and compulsory Education for ages 5-16. KP government has increased education budget considerably.

⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/media/4011/file/UNESCO%20and%20UNICEF%20Education%20Case%20Study.pdf>

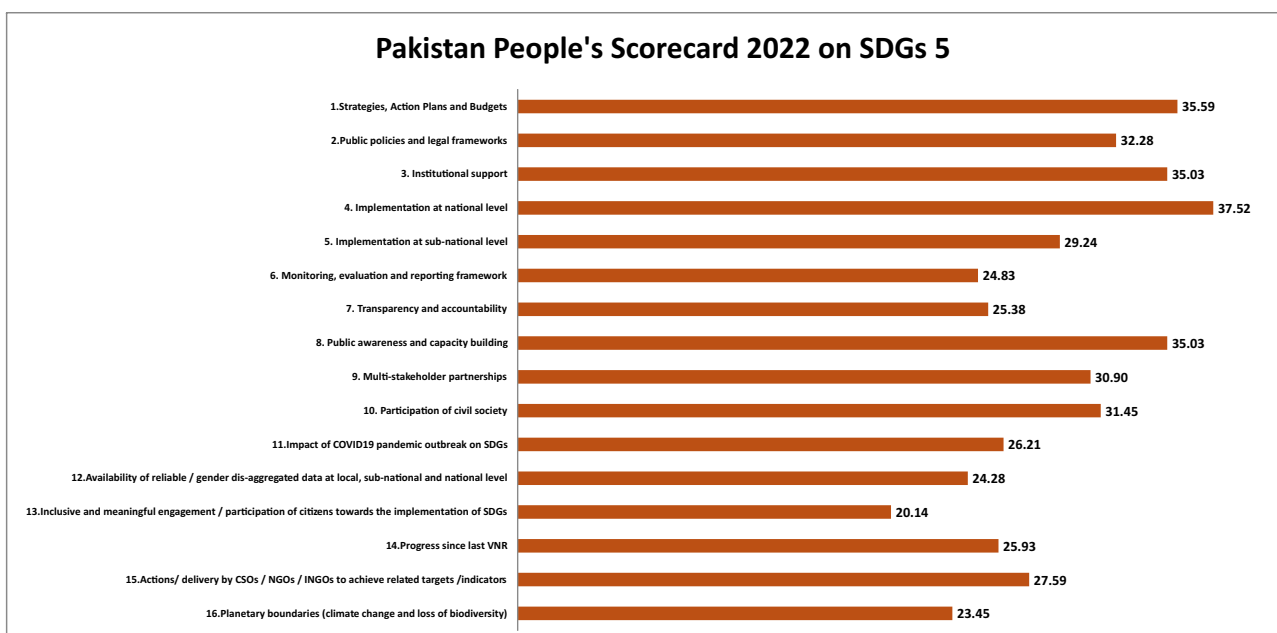


There are several initiatives taken by all provincial governments to minimize ghost schools and teacher's absenteeism. Moreover, NTS system for recruitment of teachers introduced. Monitoring and evaluation system have been improved. However, the scale of these initiatives as well as monitoring and transparency mechanisms needs further strengthening. Despite some increase in the education budgets, the administrative budgets are consumed while development budgets lapse. There are still ghost schools and 5000 teachers are absent from schools in Balochistan and around 100000 positions of teachers vacant in Punjab province only. The former government introduced Single National Curriculum (SNC) is termed by the participants "a strait jacket for all", it lacks flexibility and regressive in terms of content and issues in its implementation as well as it lacks innovation, they informed. Some of the participants also appreciated the SNC and complained for non-compliance by the provinces in letter and spirit.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

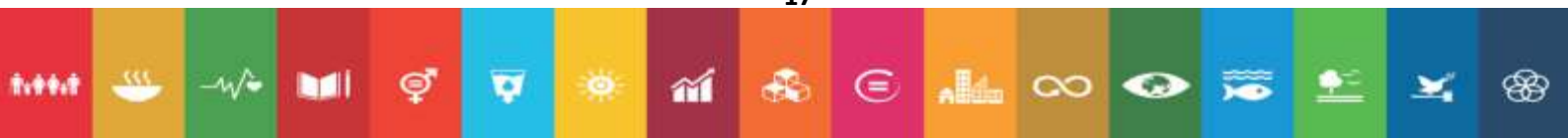
Following chart gives details of score about goal 5; the highest score with regard to gender equality was 37.52; related to implementation at national level and around 10 points lower score 29.24 at subnational level. Subsequently, strategies, action plans and budgets, institutional support, public policies and frameworks and public awareness and capacity building rating ranged among 32 to 35. It is obvious that rest of the scores moved from 22 to 29 for rest of the indicators and on the lower side overall as compared to above mentioned scores.

The lowest score was given to inclusive and meaningful engagements and participation of citizens in the implementation of this SDG i.e.20.14. This portrays a bleak picture of progress towards gender equality goal. Prioritization of SDG 5 and passing of several national and provincial legislations show that gender is considered important aspect for social, economic and political development. Several legislations and acts mainly are on papers therefore in practice, situation is entirely different. Women's status in Pakistan varies from class to regions. Pakistan is overtly a patriarchal society, and patriarchal norms and values have grave impact on women's status



in the society. Struggle for getting equal rights in the socio economic spheres is as old as Pakistan itself. There are numerous barriers for women to access to quality education, fulfilling empowerment goals and entering in economic activities, access to health and reproductive and justice are only a few barriers. Gender based violence is rampant in Pakistani society and reports say that it has increased during COVID 19. Moreover, domestic abuse and violence, honour killings, sexual violence to institutional discrimination are almost accepted norms.

There is no dearth of data collected by private research institutions that shows women, transgenders and PWDs and minorities face systematic and structural discrimination. Besides, discrimination against Trans-persons and women



PWDs is intersectional and are even more exposed to all forms of violence and subjugation. Pakistan stands second last country after Afghanistan as the most dangerous country for women, rated by World Economic Forum this year. Gender gap has widened 0.7 percent in just one year. Child marriages look impossible to be curbed despite progressive and women centered legislations both in center and provinces. Overall there is a huge opposition from particular segments of the society against legislations regarding women. For instance, federal and provincial bills against domestic violence are stuck in Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) green signal, which is less likely to be given. All data about social and economic and political indicators shows that women are situated at the lower social strata. Some sobering facts: there are contradicting reports of literacy rates for male and female population, however, most quoted rates are: men 82% and women 70% (some reports say (its 62% for men and 48% for women), this parity deepens even further in the rural areas. Transgenders literacy rate hangs on 0.24%. According to Census 2017, the sex ratio of the Pakistan is 105.07 that mean there are 105 men for 100 women in Pakistan. Men in Pakistan continue to play a decision-making role in women's access to healthcare including their utilization of healthcare services even in the event of an emergency. Cultural barriers also include restrictions on women's mobility unaccompanied by men. Demanding for sexual and reproductive health and freedom from domestic or spousal violence is almost considered infidelity.

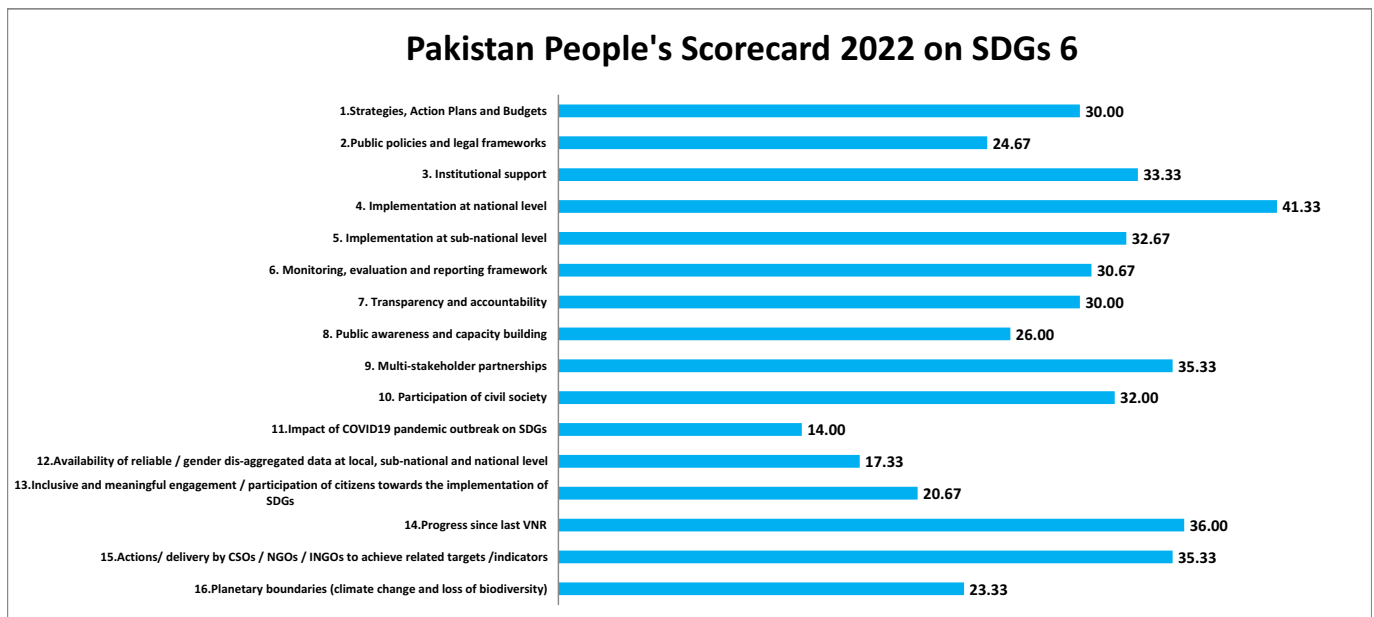
Participants of consultation validated the data gathered in the survey. They acknowledged that there is no scarcity of institutional arrangements or legislations for empowerment of women. For instance, federal and provincial commissions for the status of women and establishment of district committees etc., national women protection law against sexual harassment at the work place, and ombudspersons appointed, Inheritance Power Act passed (women's property rights Act), as well as women empowerment and development institution under social welfare department are in place. They acknowledged that reserved seats for women in the national and provincial assemblies and employment quota for women, transgenders and PWDs are measures taken by governments in the past. But they informed that the implementation of these initiatives is the major bottleneck in bringing gender equality.

Other reasons owing to cultural and religious barriers, patriarchal society, and lack of awareness of existing laws, women's acceptance of subservience to men, harmful practices of child marriages Sawara and honour killings are contributing factors to lower social position of women in society. Inheritance rights are not given to women, due to low literacy and lesser exposure to public sphere; women are mostly tricked by their brothers to forego their rights. Discrimination is intersectional for women with disabilities. Their mobility is impossible; they are considered burden by families. Women in Pakistan are poorest of the poor, having unequal opportunities to economic activities, right to property and exposure to equal public and private goods and services.

Pakistan needs overhauling of structural patriarchy to end gender inequality and political will to alleviate status of women by putting behind fear of cultural and religious barriers; but it remains one step forward, two steps behind.



Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation



Ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires investment in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities. To date sustainable water management remains one of the world's most formidable challenges. Pakistan facing serious water crisis and its status has changed from water “stressed” to water scarce country. The global ranking of Pakistan's progress termed this goal moderately improving. However, respondents of survey assessed goal 6 and assigned it following scores. Implementation at national action plans and strategies was the highest score of 41.33 and corresponding implementation at subnational implementation received 22.67 score. The strategies, action plans and budgets were given 30 points on the scorecard, while legal frameworks and public policies received much lower points of 24.67 as compared to former indicator. Institutional support received around 33 points whereas monitoring, evaluation and reporting 30.67 points, similarly accountability and transparency received 30 points. The availability of reliable data and impact of COVID 19 remained the lowest scored indicators, 17.33 and 14.00 respectively. Rest of the scores for the SDGs navigated at 20 to 26; hence multi-stakeholder partnerships received quite higher rating at 35.33.

To implement water-related goals in Pakistan needs to keep a close eye not only on SDG-6 but also on the other issues of land degradation, desertification, and droughts. With land degradation, Land loses its natural ability to absorb, filter and store water. Climate change is altering pattern of weather around the world, causing droughts in some areas and floods in others. According to WaterAid report, out of Pakistan's total population, 79.2 percent of the rural poor have access to clean water. On the other hand, 98 percent of Pakistan's rich have access to clean water, and 79 million people don't have access to proper toilets, which means two out of five people living in the rural area have no access to toilets. Lack of adequate facilities can create additional problems for citizens, such as bacterial infection or diarrhea. In fact, 16,800 children under the age of 5 die from diarrhea each year.

Pakistan's women and young girls often stay at home rather than participating in normal activities, due to a lack of menstruation supplies and proper facilities. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), 75 percent of women stay at home during menstruation. Due to a lack of resources and cleaning facilities, many girls have no choice but to use unsanitary methods for managing menstruation, such as homemade sanitary pads. Further, these methods are prone to cause vaginal infections as a result of reuse. Waterborne diseases are prevalent as a result of untreated drinking water. According to the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), 62 percent of the urban population and 84 percent of the rural population of Pakistan do not treat their drinking water to

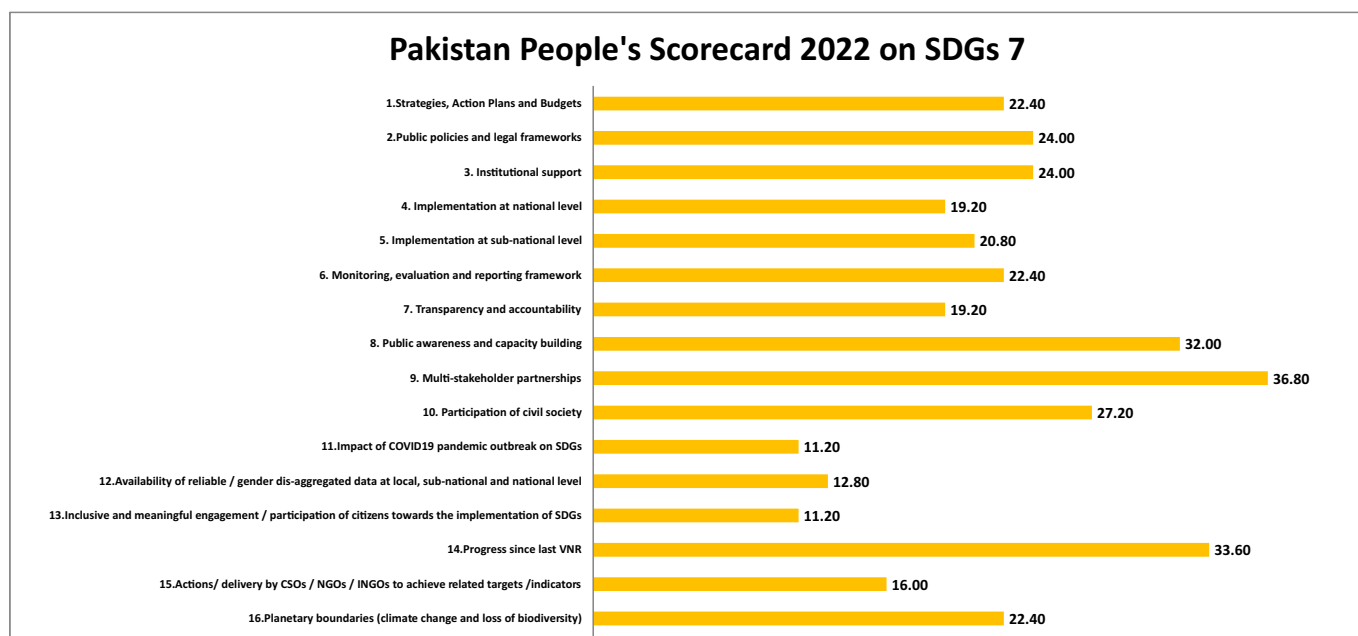


prevent waterborne diseases. UNESCO estimates that 40 percent of all diseases in Pakistan are due to unsafe drinking water.

Only two cities in Pakistan — Islamabad and Karachi — have biological waste facilities. These facilities clean only about 8 percent of wastewater due to limited functioning, even with the already limited number of facilities to filter wastewater. Industrial waste also pollutes water in Pakistan. Out of 6,000 of the country's registered businesses, 1,228 have "highly polluted" water sources.⁹

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Despite significant progress in recent years, Pakistan is falling short of meeting the energy targets set in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Following graph depicts the perception of respondents regarding progress on SDG7. Overall scores remained as low as 11.20 and except for three indicators which were given highest scores i.e. 36.80, 33.60 and 32.00 for multi-stakeholder partnerships, progress from last VNR and public awareness and capacity building respectively. Furthermore, strategies, action plans and budgets received 22.40, public policies, legal frameworks, institutional support received ordinal scores of 22.40, and 24.00. implementation at national levels was given 1 point lower than the subnational levels implementation i.e. 19.20 and 20.80. Rest of the scores navigated below 22.00 and lowest at 11.20.



Despite significant progress in recent years in electrification of unserved population, Pakistan is falling short of meeting the energy targets set in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for 2030. Pakistan falls among the largest energy access deficit countries. However, Pakistan is facing daunting challenges such as its dependency on imported fossil fuel, chronic governance issues in state-owned electricity distribution companies and rising capacity payments constitute major factors responsible for the increase in prices of electricity overtime. Keeping in perspective the high cost of energy prices, the government has been providing subsidized electricity to consumers using up-to 200 units.¹⁰

The rising power tariffs is also an important factor preventing the government from alleviating subsidy expenses meaningfully. Whereas, reliance on fuel oil for power generation and subsidies for power provision has contributed to the liquidity crisis in the country's power sector known as circular debt major factor behind power outages and lower liability of energy access.

⁹ <https://borgenproject.org/sanitation-in-pakistan/>

¹⁰ <https://www.ips.org.pk/sdg-7-in-pakistan-status-progress-and-the-way-forward/>



Pakistan is preparing to announce a new solar power policy in August that will supposedly help it tide over perennial power shortages. Pakistan has a serious power paradox. Its installed electricity generation capacity is over 41,500MW and the demand is 30,000MW, according to the National Economic Survey 2021-22. And yet transmission and distribution capacity is just 22,000MW, while residences and industries are actually barely getting 17,000MW. This is clearly a national crisis — as is amply demonstrated by the power outages that many experience for up to six hours a day in urban areas and that go up to twice that, or even higher, in rural or suburban regions. For a country aspiring to recover from one of its worst runs of economic performance in decades, the last thing it can afford is an energy shortage that cripples badly needed productivity and growth. It is hoped that the stagnation of SDG 7 will move towards progress the alternative sources of renewable energy is being explored by government and private sectors. With development of new solar power policy and related strategies, action plans and frameworks will in turn lessens the burden on hydel power generation, fossil fuel imports, high prices and power outages. Against the cross-cutting links of SDG 7 with other global goals and its central role in spurring inclusive advancement, the goal holds equal significance for Pakistan

Goal 8: Decent work and Economic Growth

Decent Work and Economic Growth is aimed at achieving full and productive employment while ensuring decent work for all, irrespective of gender and social class. Though the plans, like encouraging entrepreneurship and skills, job creation, eradication of forced and child labors, security at workplace etc., are illuminating, Covid-19 has put a significant dent on the progress in this regard. Data gathered in the survey illustrates abysmal situation of employment and decent work in the below graph.

This goal scored lowest of all goals and indicators for gauging progress and performance. However, quantitative data could not be triangulated with qualitative information gathered during the consultations.



It is important to note that participants of consultations did not deliberate on this particular goal. According to survey respondents scores, strategies action plans and budgets received 48.00, and in contrast they rated public policies and legal frameworks lowest at 0.00. In reality, Pakistan has over two dozen laws, policies, and numerous action plans and frameworks at national and subnational levels. Also the Constitution of Pakistan safeguards citizen's right to employment under Article 18 “every citizen with the right to enter upon any lawful profession or occupation, and to conduct any lawful trade or business, the Industrial and Commercial Employment”. These laws and policies include laws for women, Transgender communities, people with disabilities, old age benefits and social security, wages Acts and children employment Act, so on and so forth. Arguably the implementation of the laws and policies have lacunas and need massive actions and improvements by the government to ensure its citizen for leading a meaningful, productive and prosperous lives.



The graph represents another lowest score 0.00 assigning COVID 19. Undoubtedly the pandemic outbreak had severe economic impact among others globally. The pandemic left deep footprints on labor markets and other well-being indicators. This led to an unprecedented level of economic insecurity, resulting in widespread job loss, business closures, slowdown in business activity, and reduced working hours. This impact had clear gender dimension, sectors where women were more likely to be employed, such as education and health, were more severely affected, yet the post-pandemic recovery was faster for males than the female. COVID 19 also led to a disproportionate increase in women's unpaid care work, as well as increasing their reported rates of stress, anxiety and exposure to violence. It is likely Pakistan will see further decline in the women (women's labor force participation is already among the world's lowest), PWDs and transgenders' participation in economy.

However, public awareness and capacity building and multi stakeholder partnerships were rated second highest at 32.00 each.

Goal 9: Industry Innovation and Infrastructure

Following are findings of online survey with respect to goal 9 i.e. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

The Graph is self-explanatory, which shows that respondents think that government has clear priorities, legal instruments, frameworks and action plans for this goal. The highest score was awarded to multi- stakeholder partnerships 45.33 followed by transparency and accountability at 42.62, and strategies, action plans and budget around 40.00 points. Rest of the indicators showed moderate scores allocated to remaining assessment indicators with obvious low score to Covid 19 impact at around 18.



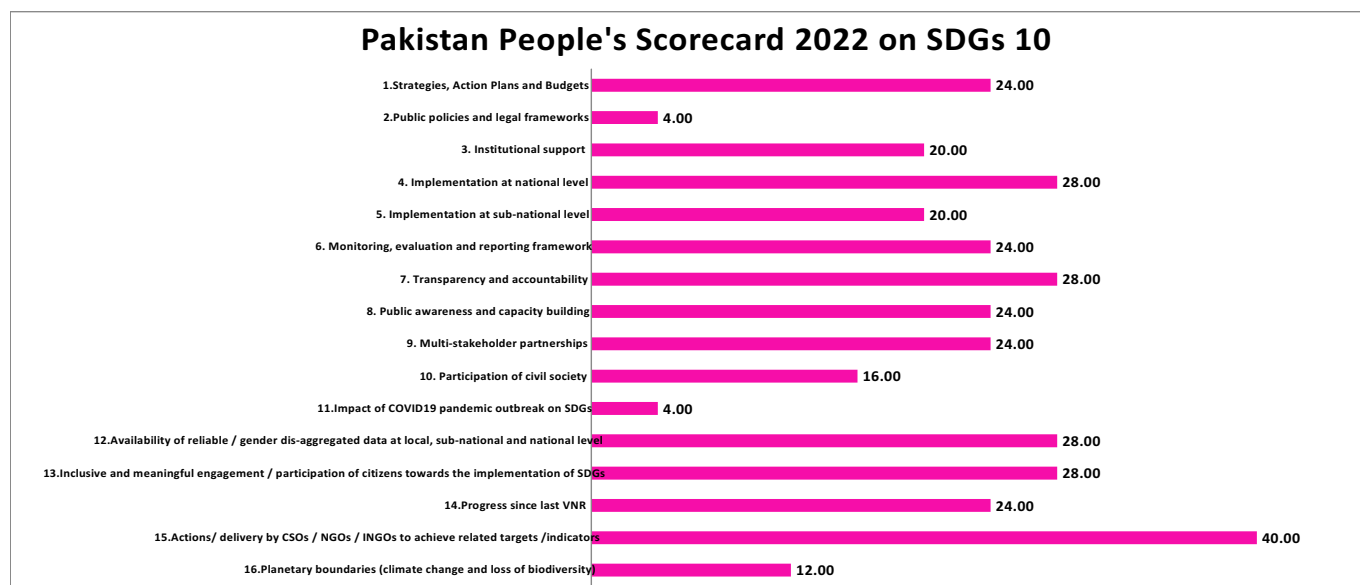
Pakistan has set its targets to increase value-added manufacturing from 13.56 per cent of GDP to 16 per cent of GDP,¹¹ increase manufacturing employment from 15 to 18 per cent, increase small-scale industries in value from 8.4 to 12 per cent, and increase research and development expenditure from 0.2 to 2 per cent of GDPz. Recently laws have been enacted to achieve progress in SDG 9 namely developing quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being is the first step towards achieving SDG Goal 9 in Pakistan. For achieving above targets Pakistan needs to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and raise the industry's share of employment and gross domestic product. As well as increase access to financial services and markets for small scale industrial and other enterprises including affordable credit facilities. Which seems a herculean task with crumbling economic situation in Pakistan. Generally, it was deliberated in the comments of online survey by the respondents that

¹¹ chf.pk/pakistansprogress-on-sdg-goal-9-industry-innovation-and-infrastructure/



China Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) has contributed a lot in better infrastructure and overall industrial growth.

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities



Goal 10 is focused on reducing global income inequalities with targets of increasing GDP growth by 1 % reduces poverty by 3.6%, whereas 1 % decrease in inequality reduces poverty by 8.5%. Ironically, the richest 10% of the world population pay 10% of their income in indirect taxes, and the poorest 10% pay 16%. Goal 10 is basically lift people out of poverty, several steps have been taken towards eliminating income inequalities globally but the poverty persists.

Above graph portrays people's perceptions about this goal in a lay persons' view of inequalities overall in Pakistani society. However, this graph is analyzed on the face value of data collected through online survey and 7 consultations. If we look at the highest score of actions and delivery by CBOs, NGOs, INGOs to achieve related targets; which sits on 40.00, is arguable that how have these stakeholders contributed in eliminating income inequalities. They might have played minimal role in doing so. However, the overall responsibility to create environment and achieve its targets of reducing income inequalities lies with the government through forging global partnerships as well as with bi-lateral, multilateral actors and business sector. As far as income equality is concerned in Pakistan, clearly there are two segments, the elite and the common people. According to Akbar Zaidi, a renowned economist “this has also led to an apartheid-like situation with de facto separate housing, modes of commuting, and education and health facilities. Therefore, inequality is ingrained in the structure of the economy.”

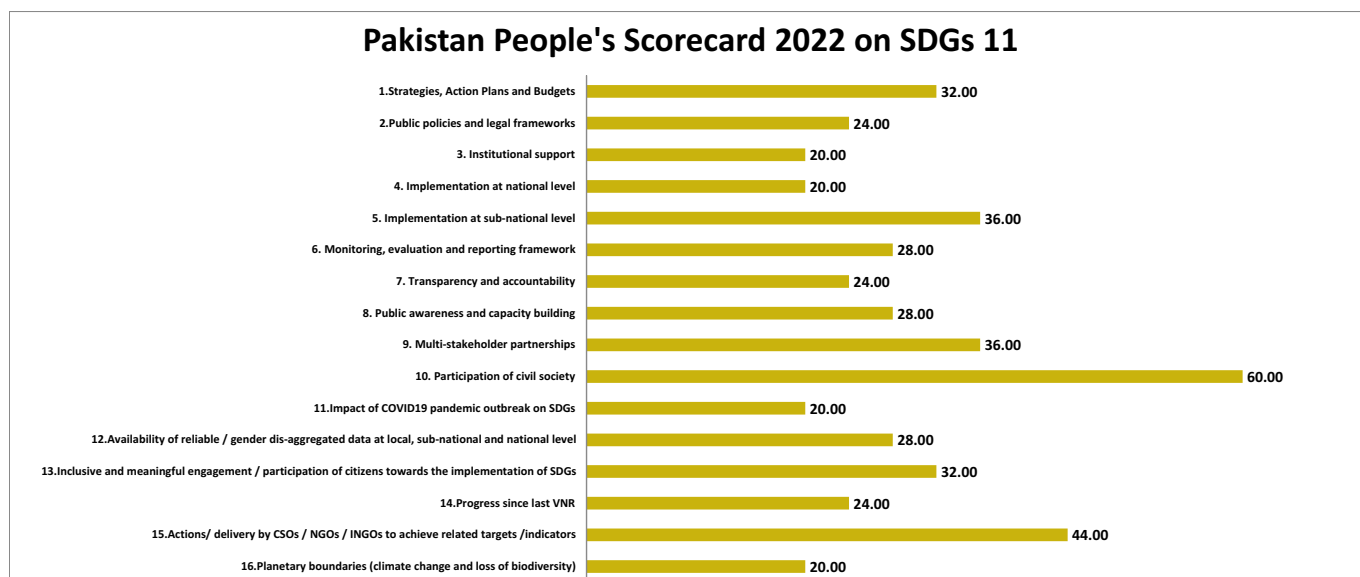
However, the lowest score with regard to public policies, and legal frameworks and COVID 19 was at 4.00 for each. Rest of the scores wadded between 12.00 to 28.00 on the graph. As far as this goal is concerned, income inequalities are a global issue and in the neo liberal system of economy world over with few exceptions, it is a far cry that it is achieved world over within 2030-time period. It is also worth noticing that the UN has included reduction of inequality as one of the goals, it continues to recommend a line of attack “improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance, and foreign direct investment” – that is rooted in the failed neo-liberal market paradigm, says Akbar Zaidi.

Furthermore, the consultations informed that overall income poverty or inequalities persist in Pakistan, income inequality is intersectional for women, PWDs and transgender persons. They urged government to bring upper class into tax net both direct and indirect and lower that burden on direct taxes on working class.



Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The graph below presents the scores of survey participants with regard to sustainable cities and communities.



Goal 11 is creating job and business opportunities, securing affordable housing, and developing resilient communities, are all part of making cities sustainable. Participation of civil society gained highest score i.e. 60.00, the second highest score also was awarded to actions, delivery by CBOs/ NGOs, INGOs to achieve this goal stood on 44.00. While strategies, action plans and budget gained 32.00 score. Public policies and legal frameworks were given 24.00 points, institutional support 20.00, implementation at national level remained lower than at subnational levels at 20.00 and 36.00 respectively. Covid Impact gained score of 20.00 whereas citizen's engagement and participation was rated as high as 32.00 points.

In South Asia, Pakistan has the highest rate of urbanization. According to the 2017 Population Census, urban regions are home to 36.4 percent of the population. This figure was 32.5 percent in 1998. According to the Planning Commission's 2011 Task Force Report on Urban Development, since 1951, the average yearly pace of urbanization has exceeded 4¹²%. Cities in Pakistan create 55 % of the country's GDP. Furthermore, ten big cities account for 95 % of Pakistan's federal tax revenue. Karachi alone accounts for 12-15 % of Pakistan's GDP and 55 % of the country's federal tax receipts.

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Recent research, however, reveals that the link between urbanization and growth is not always automatic. Many emerging countries have experienced urbanization without development, jobs, or productivity. Only sound public policies can reap the benefits of urbanization. Urban slums, environmental degradation, poverty, and inequality have all arisen from unplanned and mismanaged urbanization. Global rating of Pakistan on this specific goal shows stagnation. While Pakistan has reported its plans at HLPF 2022 of Clean Green Pakistan Index for ranking the cities against the performance of five pillars of Clean Green Pakistan i.e., drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, solid waste management, and plantation.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

The survey respondents assigned following scores for goal 12, i.e. responsible consumption and production. Only three indicators were given points as high as 32.00 namely, strategies, action plans and budgets, progress since last VNR and actions and delivery by CBOs, NGOs and INGOs. Second best score was given to three other categories, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, multi stakeholder partnerships and participation of civil society. Lowest score was awarded to COVID impact, 0.00 and second lowest remained planetary boundaries.

¹² <https://iips.com.pk/pakistansperformance-on-sdg-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities/>



Pakistan People's Scorecard 2022 on SDGs 12



However, implementation at national and subnational levels were given scores of 20.00 and 24, subnational level implementation was rated higher than the national levels. While accountability and transparency received 20 scores corresponding other 20 scores were for institutional support, public awareness and capacity building and availability of reliable gender desegregated at local, subnational and national levels.

Pakistan National Action Plan (NAP) on Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG12), which is Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), has been developed after extensive input and deliberations of all stakeholders in 2017. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is about promoting resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. NAP laid down the roadmap for promoting sustainable consumption and production in Pakistan to achieve sustainable economic growth as envisaged in the Vision 2025.

Goal 13: Climate Action

According to SDR 2022 Pakistan is on track or have achieved goal 13 i.e. Climate Action. Government of Pakistan considers this as a great achievement, but this does not change the country's vulnerability to climate change nor does it relieve the government from its responsibility to reduce carbon emissions

Pakistan People's Scorecard 2022 on SDGs 13



It is important to recognize country's commitment to climate action, in terms of what it sets out in formal governance policies, and not the effect of these policies in terms of measurable outcomes. While the main streaming of climate-compatible development in government policy documents is an important milestone, it is only a means to an end, not the end in itself.

Overall graph above corresponds with the government's official progress presented in the HLPF at the UN, 2022. None of the assessment indicators received less than 14.86 points, allocated to impact of COVID 19. But the highest score remained moderate at 34. 29 for strategies, action plans and budget availability. 28.57 score was given to public policies and legal frameworks, 26. 29 points awarded to institutional support, national level implementation score remained 30.86 and subnational level implementation remained 5 points lower at 25.14, monitoring evaluation stood at 24.00 score, whereas transparency and accountability was rated by survey respondents at 28.57 points, while public awareness and capacity building was ranked 29. 71 score. Rest of the scores ranged between 17.4 to 26.00.

The participants of consultation discussed this goal in detail and highlighted several challenges that Pakistan faces being a disaster prone country as well as it bears global climate impacts whereas it is contributing Carbon emission insignificantly. They were of the opinion that the planet earth's climate had been damaged a great deal due to industrial development in the first world countries and other industrialized nations for instance China. The environmental and climatic degradation impact is inevitable for all the countries irrespective of their contributions to creation of situation.

The participants highlighted that Pakistan is facing serious environmental and climatic hazards. There are several factors contributing to the abrupt perils; for instance, deforestation, rise in temperatures and resultant glacial meltdown, changes in rainfall patterns and consequent droughts, or heavy floods and heat waves which impact lives and livelihoods of people drastically. Women, PWDs and other vulnerable groups bear the brunt of natural disasters. Despite environment policy and action plans and institutional support in place; implementation, monitoring and lack of climate financing are the weakest areas of efforts made by the government. They also discussed underlying capacity issues of government and communities' preparedness for coping with natural disasters. Lack of policy implementation, lack of resources, communities level of awareness of gravity of climate issues exacerbate vulnerability of people in the occurrence of natural disasters.

They also highlighted that unplanned urbanization and mushrooming of housing societies, and oil and gas exploration are not only hampering wise use of land but also instrumental in water table depletion. The unplanned urbanization and internal migration to cities are over burdening goods and services as well as polluting cities as there is hardly any mechanism or policy for solid waste management. They also underlined that Pakistan has inefficient forecasting and early warning system and poor water management and rain harvesting system. Government requires EIAs for mega projects, but bribes kickbacks and corruption is prevalent for approval of these projects. They urged governments both national and provincial to use climate lens in each legislative action especially with regard to development projects.



Goal 14: Life Below Water

Following graph describes survey respondents scores for goal 14. They scored public policies and legal frameworks considerably lower than other indicators at 18.67. strategies and action plans given 29.33 points, institutional support 24.00. Implementation at national level remained considerably lower than at sub national levels i.e. 21.37 and 37.33 perhaps owing to 18th amendment of the constitution and division of mandate between center and provinces. Score shows weaker monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms at 26.67 as well as transparency and accountability at similar points. Public awareness and capacity building and availability of reliable data clubbed together at scores of 16.00 second lowest after COVID 19 impact which is rated at 8.00. planetary boundaries scored highest ranking at 48.00 points whereas the second highest score was awarded to inclusive and meaningful engagement of citizens towards the implementation of SDG 14. This is worth mentioning that consultation participants did not deliberate on this goal.



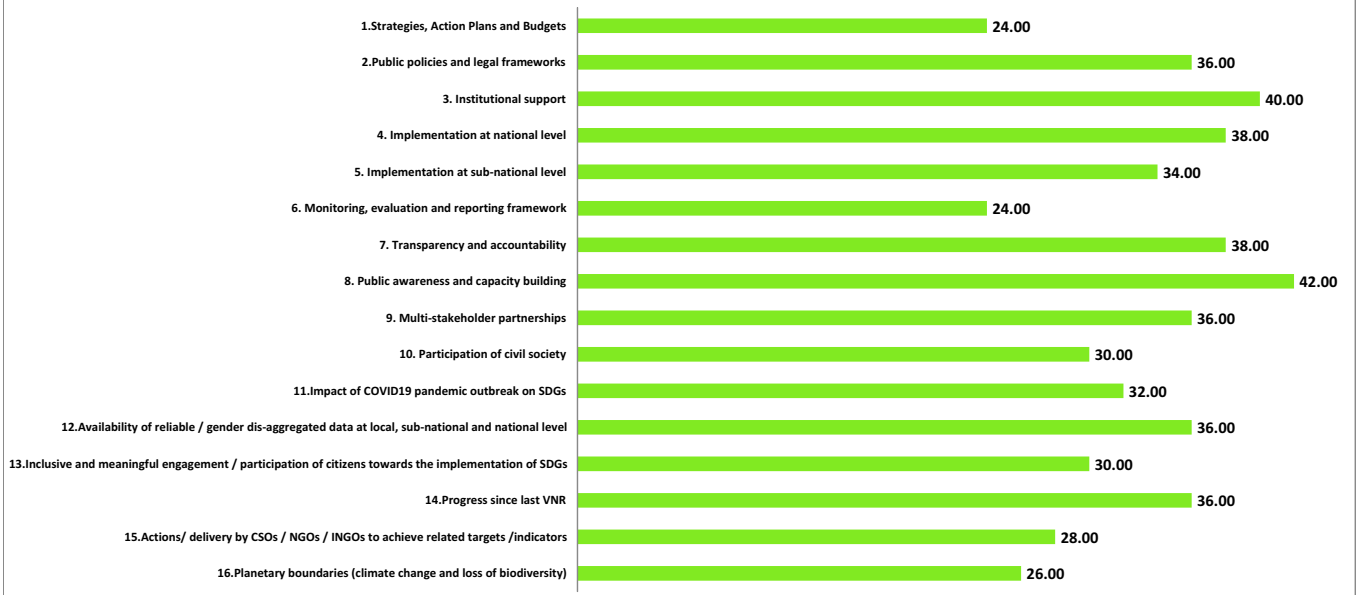
Although government is mindful of the importance of the blue economy, but progress on the targets set for life below is difficult to find. National maritime policy is shelved in the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) for the last three years which is reflection of government's priorities regarding maritime affairs, benefitting from blue economy or overall achieving climate related target. There is confusion over the mandate of federal and provincial governments about scope of direction although they are mindful of the increasing marine pollution. After ten years of 18th amendment this confusion persists, and maritime affairs are worst affected sector which needs urgent steps

Goal 15: Life on Land

Goal 15 is meant to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss and it emphasizes the protection of tree cover and sustainable management of forests



Pakistan People's Scorecard 2022 on SDGs 15



Above graph shows ratings of survey respondents with respect to SDG 15. Respondents awarded highest points 42.00 to public awareness and capacity building, 40.00 points to institutional support, 38.00 score to implementation at national and 34.00 points to implementation at subnational levels. Monitoring and evaluation stood at lower 24.00 points while transparency and accountability received 38.00 points. Multi stakeholder partnerships ranked around 36.00 and participation of civil society at 30.00 points. In the view of respondents Covid has lesser impact on life on land stood on 30 points whereas inclusive and meaningful citizen engagement was given 30.00 while availability of gender desegregated data at local, subnational and national levels received 36.00 points. Similarly, progress on previous VNR was rated at 36.00 score. And finally actions from civil society and planetary actions were ranked 28.00 and 26.00 respectively.

Pakistan is challenged with severe deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss and communities are faced with serious impacts on livelihoods who rely on natural resources. This fact is major contributing factor in the internal migration. Growing population and rapid development is causing prime agricultural land to be encroached and also causing loss of tree cover. There is dearth of verifiable data production about natural resources, environmental protection and diversity conservation in Pakistan. Just to quote deforestation in Islamabad only, major canopy cover decreased after 2000s because of building new transportation infrastructure coupled with Margalla Hills forest fires which occur during the hot climate conditions when there is no rain and temperature hits 45°C. massive migration occurred during the past few years from rural to urban areas due to low cultivated land outputs, landlessness and poor economy. Pakistan is one of the highest internal migration country, this is silent crisis awaiting if policy measures are not undertaken by the government.

Goal 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions

Goal 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Pakistan People's Scorecard 2022 on SDGs 16



Above graph presents scores of goal 16. Strategies, action plans and budgets for this goal were given 22.86 score, while public polices, and legal frameworks rated as high as 30.86, institutional support at 35.43. Implementation at national level remained 6 points higher than at subnational levels i.e. 28.00 compared to 22.86 scores respectively. Monitoring and evaluation as well as transparency and accountability were ranked considerably low at 25.14 each. Survey respondents rated people's awareness and capacity building at 29.71 and multi stakeholder partnerships at lower score of 21.71. Participation of civil society in realization of goal 16 received highest score i.e. 39.43 corresponding high scores were given to progress since the last VNR and action delivery by CBOs, NGOs and INGOs at 34.00. COVID 19 impacted progress of this goal severely and was rated at 15.43 points. Rest of the indicators' scores, availability of desegregated data was ranked 28.57 and inclusive and meaningful engagement of citizen's received lower rating at 22. 86. Lastly planetary actions was rated at 24. 57 score.

All 7 consultations participants discussed goal 16 in detail. The participants unequivocally appreciated the progressive and people centered legislation done by the governments at national and provincial levels. They highlighted several initiatives taken by the governments to ensure protection and security of citizens through the institutional support mechanisms. Establishment of provincial commissions on status of women, Transgender Act 2018 and establishment of inclusive structures at district level for transgender, PWDs and minority groups, Right to Information (RTI) laws - village and provincial forums etc. They informed about community structures for addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) and parliamentary committees are functional to protect citizen's human rights as well as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for improved and fast delivery of justice other than mainstream justice system etc. However, the challenges shared by them surpassed the initiatives taken by the governments, implementation of laws and policies and dispensation of justice.

They termed government's commitments and initiatives only lofty pledges as law and order and justice situation for common people are becoming elusive. There are two types of treatment of government with its citizens, those who have power and money can easily get away with any crime, hence poor people are treated with high handedness and punished. Moreover, the poor people's access to justice and law and order institutions is a far cry, came out during the consultation discussion. Violence against women, children, transgender and minority communities is pervasive. They don't find any solace and respite from these crimes against them. Government despite their several initiatives has failed safeguarding citizen's rights, protecting and providing an inclusive and fair society. Murders of trans persons have occurred across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) with shocking regularity. Brutal murders of KP's transgender community is

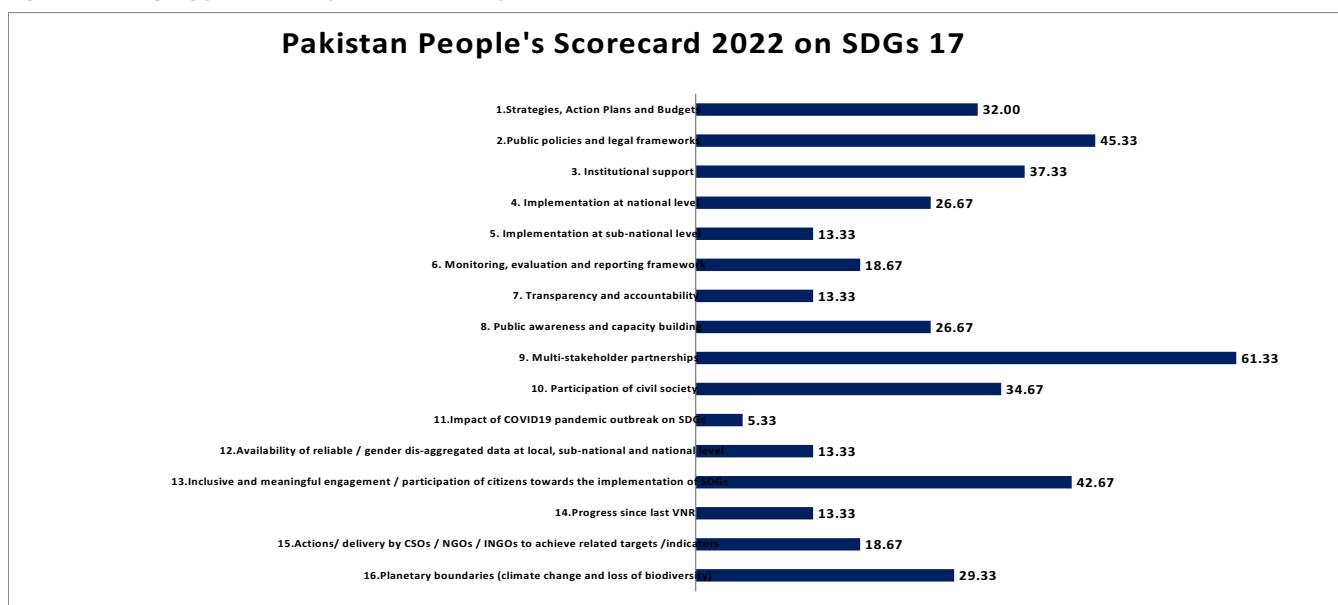


regarded as genocide, as many as 70 transgender persons were killed in KP in the last few years, they informed. Hindu marriage act was welcomed by all, but minor Hindu girls are abducted, converted and married off to adult Muslim men. Ahmadis face worst persecution, murdered and are stopped to performing their religious activities. Enforced disappearances in especially of the day, their families are waiting for them for years, few returned others' dead bodies are received or those who have gone missing found dead in fake encounters. Journalists face worst violence in Pakistan. No According to UNDP Pakistan is at 154th ranking with (HDI) out of 189 countries. It is included in the most populated countries of the world with 6th position. Its youth is falling in the age bracket of 15 to 28 years but with no substantial growth. Pakistan's concerns regarding gender discrimination is at its peak. It is ranked 150 out of 153 for considering women in security, financial inclusion matters, and justice. In 2022, World Economic Forum ranked Pakistan as second worst country for women after Afghanistan.

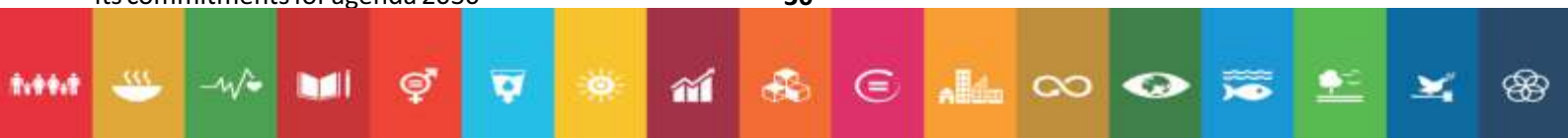
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Pakistan is showing significant improvement on SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) on its journey towards digital transformation. Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants increased by 20% in the three years from 2017-2020, according to official VNR report at the UN HLPF in 2022.

Following are scores given by the survey respondents to goal 17. Forging partnerships with multi stakeholders received highest score of 61.33, public policies and legal frameworks gained 45.33 points and inclusive and meaningful citizens' engagement towards achieving goal 17 was rated at 42. Rest of the goals were rated far lower than these three. Strategies, action plans and budget were rated at 32.00, institutional support at 37.33 while implementation at national level was ranked at 26.67 whereas provincial level implementation was rated considerably low at 13.33. as per respondents' views, monitoring and evaluation and reporting received 18.67 and corresponding indicator of transparency and accountability stood significantly low at 13.33. According to survey respondent's participation of civil society was moderately scored at 34.67. COVID 19 impacted progress of forging partnerships for adversely, scored 5.33. and corresponding indicator of transparency and accountability stood significantly low at 13.33. achievement of SDGs According to survey respondent's participation of civil society was moderately scored at 34.67. COVID 19 impacted progress of forging partnerships for adversely, scored 5.33.



Government of Pakistan is trying its best to build on existing alliances and forging new partnerships, leveraging technology and mobilizing innovative sources of finance. Hence, partnerships with a broad array of stakeholders including the private sector and the civil society, supported by international community remains the major agenda of government. However due to changed global economy in the wake of COVID 19, it is faced with grave challenges to fulfill its commitments for agenda 2030



Chapter Four: Thematic Issues

Following thematic areas were guiding principles for the assessment of Governments performance of SDGs. 17 goals were gauged by the people through the lens of eight crosscutting themes, namely inequalities, gender, people's participation, inclusion, CSOs and stakeholders' engagements, human rights peace and democracy, partnerships and impact of COVID 19. There were other set of indicators for assessment process of SDGs in Pakistan details given above and list of indicators is attached as Annex 2.

4.1 Inequalities

According to Oxfam International report – Inequality Kills, “Wealth of the world's 10 richest men has doubled since the pandemic began. The incomes of 99% of humanity are worse off because of COVID-19.”¹³ Income or economic inequalities bring wide array of disproportionate disparities in the society, unequal distribution of valued goods and opportunities for people, for instance health, education, employment, water and sanitation, racial and ethnic incarceration, housing availability and segregation and so on. The income equalities are widening not only in a specific country but inter countries including Pakistan, which is the major source of unrest and elusiveness of peace and security.

Income inequalities are not a natural phenomenon, it is perpetrated by the policies which are made to facilitate the rich and powerful. These neo liberal policies are hazardous for everyone in the world not only poorest of the world. Oxfam report highlights that income equality kills one person in every four second. It says that it is in our control that we can redesign economies on the principles of equality, by reducing concentration of wealth, radically overhauling taxation system, people centered policies and measures, and peoples' movements to shift power and wealth imbalances. Increasing inequality also tends to diminish aggregate demand in the economy, increasing the chances of a recession and further exacerbates poverty and misery for the people.

Income in Pakistan is largely pro-rich and wealth inequality is twice the level of income inequality. The wealthiest 10 percent of households own 60 percent of household wealth, while the least wealthy 60 percent own just one-tenth of it and the inequalities this fact creates is far reaching and intersectional for most disadvantaged groups, women, children, PWDs, transgenders, elderly people and minorities.

According to the results of citizens' scorecard¹⁴ conducted by AwazCDS-Pakistan in March 2020 just ahead of COVID-19 pandemic less than 10% (9.61%) of the bottom 40% of the population were of the view that they are not able to achieve and sustain income growth at the rate of national average. More than 67% citizens were of the view that they do not have job of their choice, and 60.57% respondents were not happy with their current economic conditions.

In the same citizens' scorecard averagely 69.93% of the respondents said that there is high level discrimination in socio-economic and political decision making on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion and economic or other status. Moreover, 60.79% of the people in country do not know about the labour laws and how to ensure compliance whereas a same number of respondents were of the view that female worker do not get equal wages as that of males. As much as 44.80% respondents were of the view that their daily /monthly wages were violated many times by the employers. Overall 61.51% respondents said that there is a high rate of inequality in the country.

4.2 Gender

The gender discriminatory practices in Pakistani society also shape the distribution of poverty in the country. Traditional gender roles in Pakistan define the woman's place as in the home and not in the workplace, and define the man as the

¹³ <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621341/bp-inequality-kills-170122-en.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://sdgscitizenscorecard.pda.net.pk/>



breadwinner. Consequently, the society invests far less in women than men. Women in Pakistan suffer from poverty of opportunities throughout their lives. Women, transgenders and PWDs and minorities face systematic and structural discrimination. Besides, discrimination against trans-persons and women PWDs is intersectional and are even more exposed to all forms of violence and subjugation. Pakistan stands second last country after Afghanistan as the most dangerous country for women, rated by World Economic Forum this year. Gender gap has widened 0.7 percent in just one year. Child marriages look impossible to be curbed despite progressive and women centered legislations both in center and provinces. Overall there is a huge opposition from particular segments of the society against legislations regarding women. For instance, federal and provincial bills against domestic violence are stuck in Council of Islamic Ideally (CII) green signal, which is less likely to be given. All data about social and economic and political indicators shows that women are situated at the lower social strata. Some sobering facts: there are contradicting reports of literacy rates for male and female population, however, most quoted rates are: men 82% and women 70% (some reports say (its 62% for men and 48% for women), this parity deepens even further in the rural areas. Transgenders literacy rate hangs on 0.24%. According Census 2017, the sex ratio of the Pakistan is 105.07 that mean there are 105 men for 100 women in Pakistan. Men in Pakistan continue to play a decision-making role in women's access to healthcare including their utilization of healthcare services even in the event of an emergency. Cultural barriers also include restrictions on women's mobility unaccompanied by men. Demanding for sexual and reproductive health and freedom from domestic or spousal violence is almost considered infidelity.

According to results of Citizens Scorecard 74.43% people think women face any form of violence in public sphere whereas 63.43 % people think women face any form of violence in private spheres. 72.57% respondents think women do not have mobility rights as per their choice. 59.71% respondents were of the view that women in Pakistan do not have full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political economic and public life.

4.3 People's Participation

“Participation means that people are closely involved in economic, social, cultural and political process that affect their lives”. Peoples' participation contributes to influence, sharing and redistribution of power and control, resources, benefits knowledge and skills to be able to participate in decision making that affect them. This means that people are exercising their rights and making informed choices and have capacities to solve problems to improve their socio, economic and political situation.

In Pakistan the biggest challenge is to educate citizens of their rights, responsibilities and options for leading a productive, protected and prosperous life. Most of the population is living in rural areas, and significant proportion of them are living in extreme poverty with no or miniscule education trying to meet both ends meet. Having one sided information flow from the government to citizens with no or fewer channels for feedback and lack of negotiation of power and control. Flow of information - from officials to citizens - with no channel provided for feedback and no power for negotiation. Under these conditions, particularly when planning and development is undertaken by the government, people have little opportunity to influence for their benefit. Civil society organizations in Pakistan have been trying to reach out to people especially communities living on the periphery to claim their rights and hold duty bearers accountable. However, space for SCOs is shrinking and their interventions are being limited or hampered by the government through cumbersome procedural and regulatory interference. Local government system or decentralization of power system could play pivotal role increasing people's participation and engagement in development process but unfortunately decentralization of power has never been practiced in Pakistan with some exceptions in the recent history. Peoples' agency brings equality and equal opportunities for all, higher rates of education, health, improved rate of survival and greater sustainability and can contribute to society where no one is left behind.



4.4 Inclusion

“When everyone is included, everyone wins”. A diverse mix of voices leads to better discussions, decisions, and outcomes for everyone. It is call of time to inclusive development, in order to advance the rights and address the needs of persons with disabilities and are accepted as equal partners in development and play a productive role in the socio, economic and political spheres. It is the duty of the government to ensure that all marginalized and excluded groups are included in the developmental process. People with disabilities constitute 15% of the world's population and 80% of them live in developing countries and according to World Bank estimates, one in five people living in absolute poverty are disabled. People with disabilities face multiple barriers which hamper their access to health services, rehabilitation, education, employment, housing and transportation. This exclusion persists largely and is a major development issue. Poverty cannot be eliminated unless disability issues are not mainstreamed.

Despite increased visibility on the importance of inclusive data, there are still challenges. Limited political will, inadequate financing and investments in strengthening systems continue to be barriers to the production and use of better-quality inclusive data. But we are seeing some encouraging progress. For example, through our advocacy alongside partners in Pakistan, we have seen more recognition by decision-makers of the importance of inclusive data in monitoring and reporting their commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

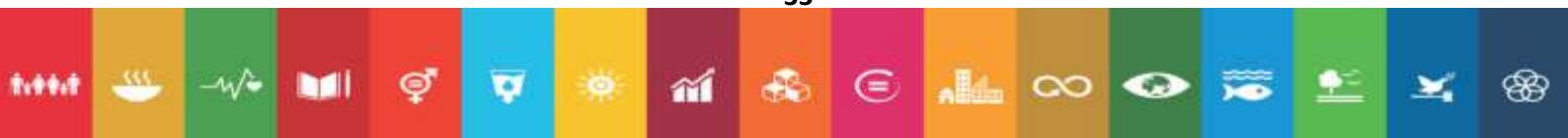
In Pakistan, SightSavers worked with the SDG unit of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives to strengthen disability disaggregated data in the SDG monitoring systems and collaborated with the Community Based Inclusive Development Network, with people with disabilities members and their representative organisations. Following the success of a pilot to strengthen disability data for SDG 4 : Quality Education, the ministry is now replicating this approach for monitoring the other SDGs at both national and provincial levels, in collaboration with SightSavers and other organizations. By strengthening Pakistan's SDG monitoring frameworks to include disability disaggregated data, key decision-makers can improve planning and budgeting to deliver more equitable outcomes for people with disabilities.

This year's High-Level Political Forum is about 'building back better'. We cannot do that without inclusive data. Our work alongside partners has shown us that successfully advocating for inclusive data requires a combination of things: persistence, participation, partnerships and investment. We must collectively keep up the momentum and hold decision-makers to account to implement their SDG commitments, so we can build back better.

4.5 CSOs and Stakeholders Engagement

The meaningful participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in public policy making has been widely considered as an important indicator of the maturity of modern democracies, but also as a valuable tool of improving the quality of design and implementation of policies, as well as a pre-condition for building and maintaining the trust of citizens in the work of public institutions. Over the past decade, successive governments in Pakistan have tried to change the existing legislation governing civil society organizations (CSOs). It has been made essential for CSOs to register with the state authorities and could be suspended or dissolved if the government feels their activities were inadequate and antigovernment or 'suspicious'. The CSOs termed all such legislations as violation of citizen's fundamental rights to association, expression, and assembly. There is strong opposition by CSOs against these legal bindings which shows absolute power and its misuse of the government of registration, suspension, will undermine people's freedom to agency and right to holding government accountable.

In Pakistan, CSOs have predominantly gained significant attention as an instrument for public involvement and participation. The core responsibility of the CSOs to take public's preferences and needs into account. These affect the



decisions of the administration and determine the effectiveness of the government system. CSOs give voice to the demands of citizens, support and promote equal and equitable opportunities for all as well as enhance service delivery. They are also medium for conducting accountability and control procedures and help in connecting the citizens to their chosen public representatives.¹⁵ There is a misconception of successive governments that civil society is a western concept, which cannot be imported to and applied in Pakistan. CSOs face government's continuous opposition to their demands of decentralized service delivery, transparency and accountability, human rights protection and empowerment and social mobilization.

According to latest survey conducted by AwazCDS-Pakistan Development Alliance on civic engagement in March 2022,¹⁶ more than 50% of the respondents agree that they feel free to speak in public and with media, whereas less 45% respondents agree that they enjoy freedom of assembly and association. More than 50% respondents did not agree that government restrict freedom of speech and assembly due to COVID-19 outbreak. More than 72% respondents felt free to join civil society groups in the country however the same percentage also highlighted that laws and policies governing the CSOs in the country are tightened. Around 50% respondents felt that legal status of marginalized communities and socially excluded group, religious minorities is fragile in the country. In addition to this more than 62% respondents agreed that human rights are not secured in the country. 60% of the respondents agreed that threats to human rights defenders, journalists and trade unions have increased. More than 50% respondents agreed that media is not independent from authorities to publish information freely. Around 60% respondents agreed that violence among people have increased since COVID-19 outbreak whereas 57% respondents highlighted the increased violence against women. Furthermore, 66% respondents felt that violence and abuse against children has been increased since COVID-19 outbreak has started. The respondents shared their disappointments towards rule of law and justice in the country and 52% respondents felt that discriminatory laws are in place in the country and existing laws are not effective in protecting human rights and prevent discriminations. The respondents also shared their dismay upon rising trends of corruption and illicit flow of funds to and from the country. 47% respondents agreed on illicit flow of funds in the country whereas 62% respondents were of the view that corruption has increased among the public sector in Pakistan. On the other hand, more than 50% respondents did not agree that allocated budgets and finances in public sector are being used in appropriate manner. The respondents were also concerned about the governance, accountability and meaningful participation of people in public sector. More than 55% respondents did not agree that government provides sufficient information to people regarding its policies. More than 52% respondents did not agree that minorities, PLWDs and women are meaningfully appointed in the public institutions whereas more than 55% respondents highlighted the huge gender gap exists even in the Parliament of Pakistan. More than 46% respondents were not happy with the representation of Pakistan in the global governance institutions whereas more than 72% of the respondents were of the view that global governance institutions are dominated by the developed world.

4.6 Human Rights, Democracy and Peace

Human rights peace and democracy are drivers for peaceful, pluralistic and prosperous society. In Pakistan, unfortunately, the situation of human rights, peace and democracy portrays a gloomy picture. Government's commitments and initiatives look only lofty pledges as law and order and justice situation for common people are becoming elusive. There are two types of treatment of government with its citizens, those who have power and money can easily get away with any crime, hence poor people are treated with high handedness and punished. Moreover, the poor people's access to justice and law and order institutions is a far cry, came out during the consultation discussion. Violence against women, children, transgender and minority communities is pervasive. They don't find any solace and respite from these crimes against them. Government despite their several initiatives has failed safeguarding citizen's rights, protecting and providing an inclusive and fair society.

¹⁵ <file:///C:/Users/CARE%20CARE/Downloads/02-the-role-of-civil-society-organizations.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.pda.net.pk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pakistan-Civic-Space-Human-Rights-and-Democracy-Report-2022.pdf>



Murders of trans persons have occurred across KP with shocking regularity. Brutal murders of KP's transgender community is regarded as genocide, as many as 70 transgender persons were killed in KP in the last few years, they informed. Hindu marriage act was welcomed by all, but minor Hindu girls are abducted, converted and married off to adult Muslim men. Ahmadis face worst persecution, murdered and are stopped to performing their religious activities. Enforced disappearances especially in Balochistan are order of the day, their families are waiting for them for years, few returned others' dead bodies are received or those who have gone missing found dead in fake encounters. Journalists face worst violence in Pakistan. No number of laws and policies seem sufficient in creating peaceful, fair and just society. National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) was established in 2012 but its performance remains questionable opined the participants.

According to UNDP Pakistan is at 154th ranking with (HDI) out of 189 countries. It is included in the most populated countries of the world with 6th position. Its youth is falling in the age bracket of 15 to 28 years but with no substantial growth. Pakistan's concerns regarding gender discrimination is at its peak. It is ranked 150 out of 153 for considering women in security, financial inclusion matters, and justice. In 2022, World Economic Forum ranked Pakistan as second worst country for women in after Afghanistan. Democracy is universally recognized the best system of governance based on the principals of common values of equality, free will to determine their own political, social and economic systems and full participation in all aspect of their lives. Democracy ensure rule of law, promotes dignity and fundamental rights, social justice and foster economic and social development of communities. In Pakistan, democracy, is ever backsliding, Government seem to be deliberately weakening independent checks on its powers, shutting up criticism, dismantling democratic oversight which negatively impact on people's rights. The intermittent martial laws, and excessive interference of establishment has hampered democratic process in Pakistan and made it a hybrid system which denies people's rights to dignified, prosperous and peaceful and just life.

4.7 Partnerships

Over the last two decades there has been an abundance of partnerships between business and government, multilateral bodies, and or social actors such as CSOs, NGOs and local community organizations engaged in promoting development. These partnerships played and are playing an important role in engaging multiple stakeholders for the realization of global developmental goals. critics argue that they are not only generally ineffective but also serve to legitimate a neo-liberal, global economic order which inhibits development.¹⁷

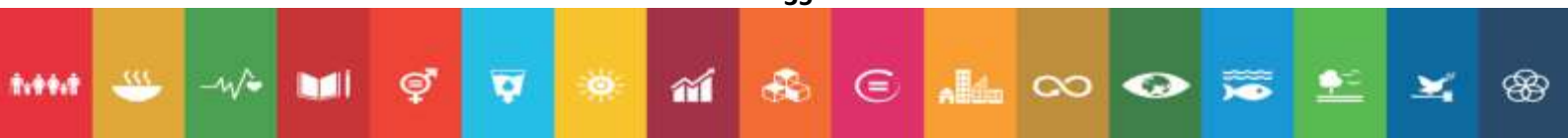
Government of Pakistan is trying its best to build on existing alliances and forging new partnerships, leveraging technology and mobilizing innovative sources of finance. Hence, partnerships with a broad array of stakeholders including the private sector and the civil society, supported by international community remains the major agenda of government. However due to changed global economy in the wake of COVID 19, it is faced with grave challenges to fulfill its commitments for agenda 2030.

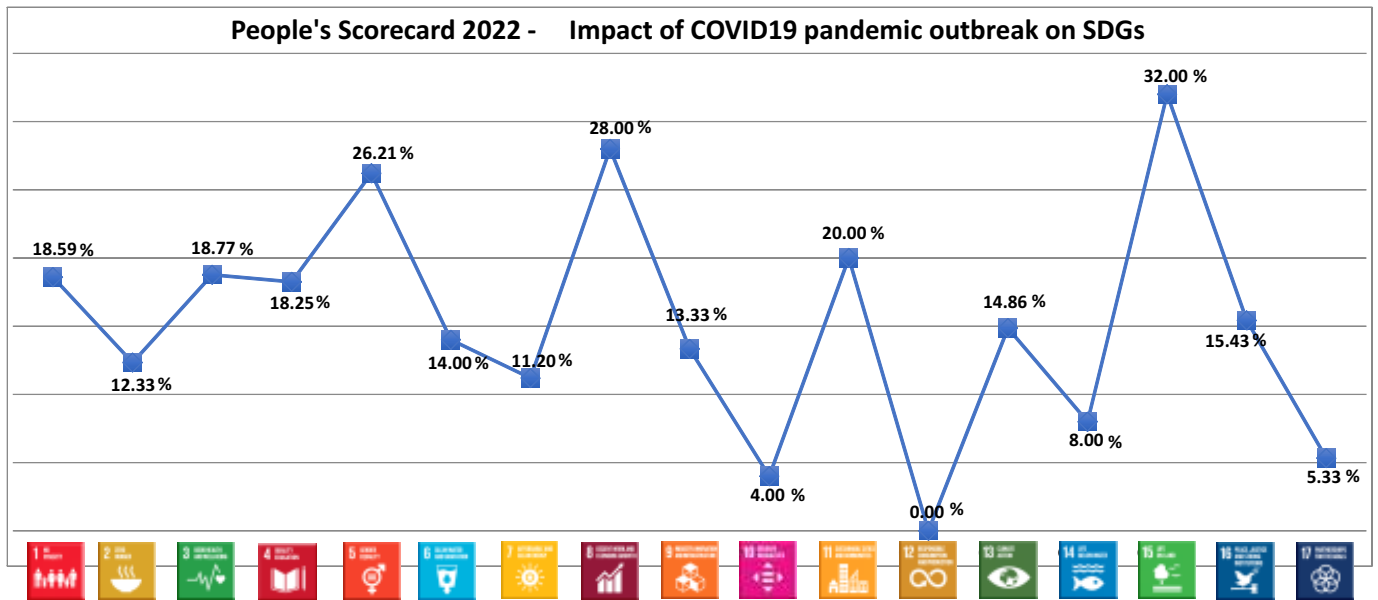
4.8 COVID - 19

The graph belows shows people's responses with regard to COVID 19 impact for all 17 goals. The highest score was given to Goal 15, Life on Land which was 32.00 points. According to survey respondents human life on land was worst impacted by the pandemic. Second highest score was 26.21, gender equality, 18.77 health, 18.25 education respectively. Rest of the scoring ranged between 0 to 15.

Undoubtedly the pandemic outbreak had severe economic impact among others globally. The pandemic left deep footprints on labor markets and other well-being indicators. This led to an unprecedented level of economic

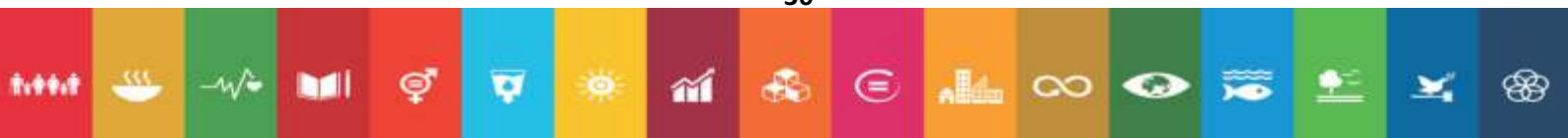
¹⁷ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225802515_Partnerships_for_Development_Four_Models_of_Business_Involvement





insecurity, resulting in widespread job loss, business closures, slowdown in business activity, and reduced working hours. This impact had clear gender dimension, sectors where women were more likely to be employed, such as education and health, were more severely affected, yet the post-pandemic recovery was faster for males than the female. COVID 19 also led to a disproportionate increase in women's unpaid care work, as well as increasing their reported rates of stress, anxiety and exposure to violence. It is likely Pakistan will see further decline in the women (women's labor force participation is already among the world's lowest), PWDs and transgenders' participation in economy. The pace of poverty reduction is likely to have halted due to macroeconomic crisis and associated slowdown in growth. In this context, the outbreak of the recent COVID 19 pandemic and the containment measures adopted by the government, are expected to increase poverty in the country.

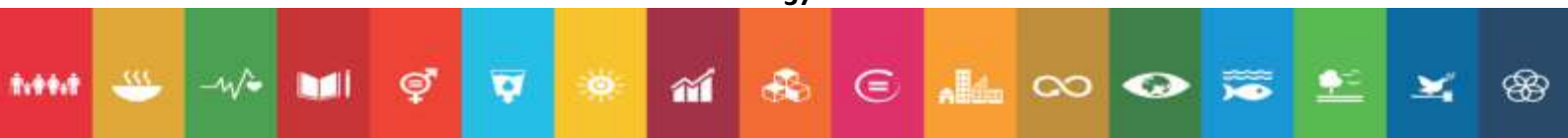
According to Bureau of Statistics, 27.31 million working population was affected by the pandemic therefore Goal1(No Poverty) Goal2 (Zero Hunger) and goal8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth, 20.6 million people could not work during the first wave of COVID 19 in 2020, whereas 6.7 million people reported their income was decreased, and as coping mechanism, half of population was reduced their expenditure on non-food items. The Bureau reported that 74% of informal workers were impacted adversely by the pandemic outbreak. In Pakistan so far 1.5 million cases and 30,469 deaths are reported because of COVID - 19 . Following above depicts peoples' perceptions of how gravely COVID impacted SDGs achievement.



Chapter Five: Recommendations

Following are key recommendations derived from the findings of People's Score card as well as consultation with informed CSOs.

- Government should put concerted efforts to fulfill its national and international commitments for improving social and economic lives of the people through intensive legislation, financing, monitoring and transparent and accountable mechanisms.
- Ensure implementation of laws, public policies, legal frameworks, action plans in letter and spirit to provide equal opportunities for all the people to lead a dignified, protected and productive lives.
- Invest extensively in human resource development significant in PSDP, by putting people first, additionally lesser focus should be given to subsidized mega projects and take concrete measures by making developmental processes equitable and inclusive.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and meet its commitment that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. Need to improve mobility of females to reach educational institutions by substantial increase in budgets and special initiatives to curb gender disparities in education.
- Substantially increase health financing and recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce, invest in public health infrastructure for equitable and affordable access to health service for all the people of Pakistan.
- The absence of a comprehensive Animal Disease Surveillance mechanism poses further threats to human health and food security in a country that heavily reliant on livestock. An inclusive One Health approach is required to address increasing health related threats and food insecurities.
- Effective implementation of legal frameworks that ensure women are participating in the social economic and political spheres based on equality principles. As well as put concerted efforts in taking legal and policy measures and their implementation in ending all forms of discrimination against all women. Special measures for protection mainstreaming of transgender persons and PWDs and monitories in developmental processes need to be ensured.
- In order to effective implementation of SDGs, government should demonstrate greater political will and commitment to forge diverse partnerships at national and international levels and provide resources and expertise for inclusive social and economic development.
- The participation of CSOs, who identify, implementation, monitoring and transparency and accountability challenges of SDGs, should be ensured.
- Availability of verifiable data are the major impediment in realization of SDGs targets, the government should build capacities of institutions using information technology for the oversight and monitoring of the SDGs implementation.
- Government should ensure effective policy implementation through civic rights awareness and institutions involved in climate protection. Government should use climate lens in each legislative action and overall development projects. Ensure planned urbanization, develop eco-friendly housing societies keeping in mind plantation of trees a priority, in case of deforestation.
- Introduce solar energy at larger levels to domestic level. Public transport should use solar energy to reduce air pollution.
- Develop and implement proper waste management system for all the urban centers, towns and villages.
- Strengthen NDAMA, PDMA, and DDMA to improve disaster risk reduction and preparedness mechanisms.
- The government should augment institutional capacities at national, subnational and local levels to strengthen national integration and coordination which is necessary for creating partnership among government institutions implementing SDGs.



- Implementation of 18th Amendment and National Finance Commission (NFC) awards in its true spirit and confusion of mandate should be eliminated between center and provinces. Hence government should encourage provinces to forge partnerships for SDG goals achievement.
- Rapid population growth continues to emasculate any progress is made in achieving SDGs. It is recommended that population growth be included explicitly in the national SDGs framework. Also, allocate substantial financial resources to control population explosion. (Family planning campaigns, availability of free contraceptives etc.)
- Absence of local government is another important impediment in the weak implementation of SDGs. Local Governments (LGs) are essential for localization of SDGs and devolution of powers for effective functions of LG should be done on urgent basis as per 18th Amendment of the constitution of Pakistan.

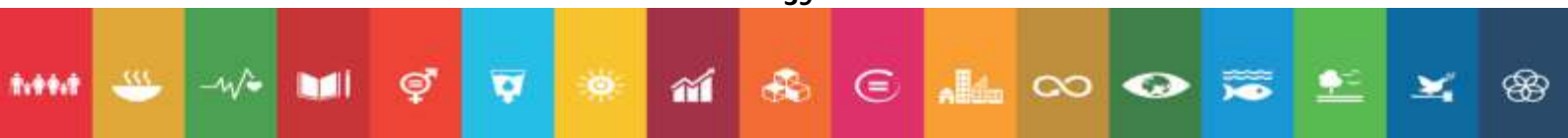


Chapter Six: Conclusion

In conclusion, it is reiterated that the governments progress towards achievement of SDGs is unsatisfactory as overall perceived by people participating in the survey and consultations unsatisfactory. However, they ranked some of the goals moderately progressing hence SDGs related to social development, for instance 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16 regressing. Unless government pays attention to improving social and economic lives, protecting their human rights and ensuring just and peaceful, inclusive and fair society, these SDGs seem impossible to be achieved by 2030.

Coupled with economic and political dilemmas, the pandemic outbreak had severe economic impact among others globally. The pandemic left deep footprints on labor markets and other well-being indicators. This led to an unprecedented level of economic insecurity, resulting in widespread job loss, business closures, slowdown in business activity, and reduced working hours. The Bureau reported that 74% of informal workers were impacted adversely by the pandemic outbreak. In Pakistan so far 1.5 million cases and 30,469 deaths because of COVID are reported. Recovering from unprecedented challenge of dealing with pandemic and its far reaching impacts on peoples social and economic lives is an uphill task for government in the recent precarious political and economic situation in Pakistan.

Strong and renewed political will, commitment and availability of resources are required to make the SDG goals a reality for people of Pakistan. However due to changed global economy, Pakistan in the wake of COVID 19, crumbling economy and uncertain political situation, the government is faced with grave challenges to fulfill its commitments for agenda 2030.



Annexes

Annex 1: Statement of CSOs on VNR at HLPF 2022

CSO Statement on Pakistan VNR at HLPF2022 (Finalized June 30th 2022)

Thank you, Chair,

We congratulate the Govt. of Pakistan for its reported progress on the 2030 Agenda. However, several concerns remain on critical SDG priorities in the absence of policy coherence and efficient implementation & review mechanisms.

The civil society would like to ask:

- 1. How is the government addressing regressions and stagnation on critical goals including inequalities, hunger, justice, education, SRHR, gender equality and climate change?**
- 2. How does the government ensure that the most marginalized like the poorest, women & girls, Transgenders, religious & sexual minorities, farmers, laborers, and persons with disabilities are not left behind in public sector development programs?**
- 3. How is the government ensuring protection of journalists, human rights and environmental activists facing persecution, cyber bullying, harassment and forced disappearances?**

We ranked 129th on the SDGs Index. Despite COVID 19 recovery measures, the country still faces vaccine apartheid and fragility of health systems exacerbated by IFI induced conditionalities. The absence of a comprehensive Animal Disease Surveillance mechanism poses further threats to human health and food security in a country heavily reliant on agriculture and livestock.

The 22+ million children are Out Of School including most of them are girls, demands holistic planning, equitable financing, and stronger political will to enhance the educational outcomes prioritizing the millions left behind. The allocation of at least 4-6% of GDP or 20-25% of public expenditure must be ensured to protect peoples' fundamental right to education, as per Article 25A.

Gender Equality requires multi-sectoral gender-sensitive planning based on comprehensive vulnerability assessment through data disaggregation for achieving gender-responsive social protection, health and education outcomes, protection from violence and disasters, and protection of right to inheritance, employability and political participation. Land grabbing, displacement through mega infrastructure projects, and corporate control have detrimental effects on farmers' livelihood and biodiversity. Agroecology and genuine agrarian reforms are critical to address land degradation, deforestation and desertification. We demand a neo-liberal-free future to avoid the planetary crises and restore our rights to land and livelihood.

Protection of civic spaces and democratic accountability require CSOs' meaningful inclusion across agenda-setting and planning processes to avoid tokenistic representation.

Inclusive multilateralism requires support for the countries left behind strangulated by Sovereign debt, Illicit financial flows and unfulfilled ODA and CBDRRC commitments.

We need a world that is considerate of our collective concerns upholding the ideals we all believe in.

I thank you.



Annex 2: Indicators for Developing PSC

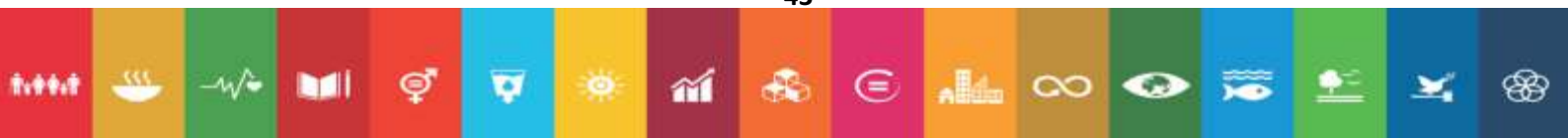
Rating SDGs through 16 Indicators for PSC

Indicators	-5 Very significant Reduction	-4 Significant reduction	-3 Moderate Reduction	-2 Limited Reduction	-1 Very limited Reduction	0 No progress	+1 Policies/Plans being discussed	+2 Planning Phase	+3 Plans or actions Initiated	+4 Implementation in progress	+5 Successful Implementation
Strategies, Budgets and Action Plans	Strategies action plans have been dropped or fundamentally changed	The action plans of the strategies not only have not been implemented, but could be abandoned or fundamentally changed	Action plans and strategies have not been implemented or funded	Strategies, action plans and budget are available, but have only been partially implemented or funded	Strategies, plans and budgets are available, but do not seem to guide policy or budget formulation		Strategies, action plans and budget under discussion	Strategies action plans and budget in the planning phase	Strategies, action plans and budget approved	Strategies, action plans and budget agreed and begin to guide public policy development	Successful strategies, action plans and budgets guide and provide stable funding to public policies, which are fully aligned with the SDGs
Public policies and legal	The implementation of	Not only have regulatory/	The legal/political	The policy/legal framework	Policy and legal framework		Policy and legal framework	Policy and legal framework	Policy and legal framework	Policy and legal framework	Strong and successful political/e

frameworks	the policy/legal framework has been abandoned or fundamentally changed	legal frameworks not been implemented, but could be abandoned or fundamentally changed	framework has not yet been implemented	is available, but has not yet started to be implemented and/or is not aligned with the principles of the SDGs	not yet in place		it is starting to be discussed/reviewed	in planning phase	approved and beginning to be implemented	being implemented and having first positive results	goal framework guiding government programs effectively and in line with SDG principles
Institutional support	Government agencies do not provide any type of support for the implementation of this SDG	Government support has dropped dramatically	Government support on the ground has begun to dwindle	Government support is fragmented between territories and agencies	Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is starting to slip back		Agencies with a clear mandate	Agencies planning their engagement	Agencies support the implementation of some targets	Agencies support the implementation of all the targets	Government agencies support the implementation of the SDGs effectively and have mechanisms for cross-sectoral integration of public policies



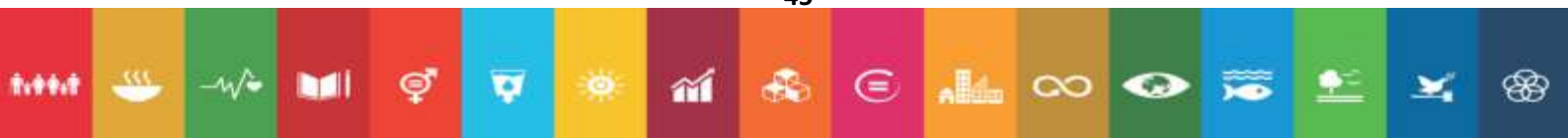
Implementation at national level	Statistical indicators show that this SDG has completely receded	Statistical indicators show that the implementation of this SDG has eroded considerably	Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is under threat	Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is starting to slip back	Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is minimal	Statistical indicators show that progress on this SDG is moderate	Statistical indicators show that progress shows a positive trend on this SDG	Statistical indicators show that this SDG is on track to be achieved	Statistical indicators show that this SDG is being achieved
Implementation at sub-national level	No SDG localization plan in any city/region being implemented	SDG localization plans are abandoned or fundamentally changed	Localization plans for the SDGs have not been implemented	SDG localization plans weren't even discussed	Localization under discussion in cities/regions	Localization of the SDGs in the planning phase in certain cities/regions	Localization plans started to be implemented in cities/regions	Implementation of localization plans in full swing in cities/regions	Localization plans successfully implemented in most cities/regions with specific plans
Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	The monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting



framework	and reporting framework is not in place at all	reporting have been abandoned or fundamentally changed	have been reduced	reporting were discussed, but not built	exist but have been implemented only to a limited extent	evaluation and reporting are discussed	mechanism agreed	begins to be implemented	reporting on all of the on-going SDGs sporadically	and reporting is available and civil society can participate
Transparency and accountability	Transparency and accountability mechanisms have been abandoned	Transparency and accountability mechanisms are mostly abandoned and/or incomplete	Transparency and accountability mechanisms have been reduced	Transparency and accountability mechanisms have not been implemented	Transparency and accountability mechanisms were discussed, but not implemented	Transparency and accountability mechanisms under discussion	Initial planning of the transparency and accountability mechanism	Some transparency and accountability mechanisms available	Transparency and accountability mechanism being implemented	Solid and regular transparency and accountability mechanism
Public awareness and capacity building	Awareness raising and capacity building not included in plans	Awareness raising and capacity building have not fundamentally changed	Awareness raising and capacity building have been reduced	Awareness raising and capacity building have not been implemented	Awareness raising and capacity building have been implemented in a selective or limited way	Awareness raising and capacity building needs assessed and discussed	Planning awareness raising and capacity building needs	Awareness raising and capacity building available	Ongoing awareness raising and capacity building activities	Strong awareness and capacity building available
Multi-stakeholder	Multi-stakeholder	Partnerships were	Partnerships have not	Partnerships are very	Partnerships with	Multi-stakeholder	Partnerships mainly in	Partnerships in the	Partnerships in working	Partnerships



partnerships	er partnerships have been abandoned	used in a very partial and non-participatory way	been used consistently for this SDG	slow in their deployment	Member States were discussed but not implemented	er partnerships under discussion	the planning phase	initial phase of implementation	order and producing concrete and positive effects	implemented successfully and in a participatory manner
Participation of civil society	Participation is non-existent	Participation was very limited and ineffective	Participation was limited and had limited results (consultative participation at best)	Participation was uneven between actors and territories	Spaces and mechanisms for participation were discussed, but still not implemented	Spaces and mechanisms for participation were discussed	There are concrete plans for inclusive and substantive participation spaces/mechanisms	Spaces/mechanisms for participation are set up in an open, substantial and inclusive manner	An inclusive dialogue is underway and has yielded positive results policy-wise	Spaces/mechanisms for inclusive political dialogue are strong, stable, influential, with concrete and positive political results
Impact of COVID 19 pandemic outbreak on SDGs:	COVID 19 had significantly affected the human lives, economy and development course of actions,	COVID 19 had affected the human lives, created economic stress and completely locked down the	COVID 19 had somehow created human and economic stress and locked down the society	COVID 19 had somehow created human and economic stress and there was a partial lock down in the society	COVID 19 pandemic outbreak had negligible impact on human lives and its course of development but zero	In spite of challenges due to COVID 19 pandemic outbreak limited policy and strategy level actions	Preliminary efforts to achieve some of the targets were made in spite of COVID 19 Pandemic outbreak	There was little impact of COVID 19 on governance functions and developmental course of actions towards the	There was no significant impact of COVID 19 on human lives and some policy and practice level changes	There was no impact of COVID 19 at all on usual human lives. Significant policy and practice level



	halted usual life of masses	society at large	partially	therefore implementation on SDGs was severely affected	/no effort was made towards the achievement of SDGs	are taken to achieve targets /SDGs		achievement of SDGs	occurred to achieve SDGs	changes occurred to achieve SDGs
Availability of reliable / gender disaggregated data at local, sub-national and national level	Reliable and gender disaggregated data is not available against any of the target / indicator at national/subnational /local level	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is not available against all the official priority targets /indicators at national / subnational /local level	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is not available against some of the official priority targets /indicators at national / subnational /local level	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is not available against all some of the official priority targets and indicators at national level	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is not available against all official priority targets and indicators at national level	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is available against some of the official priority targets and indicators at national level only	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is available against all targets and indicators at national level only	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is available against all targets and indicators at national / subnational and local level	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is available against all targets and indicators at national / subnational and local level	Reliable / gender disaggregated data is available against all targets and indicators at national / subnational and local level
Inclusive and meaningful engagement / participation of citizens towards the implementation of SDGs	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and	People from all walks of life including PLWDs, women, elderly, transgender and



children are not meaningfully engaged in any of the developmental program/project to achieve SDGs	children are not engaged in any of the developmental program/project to achieve SDGs	in most of the developmental program/project to achieve SDGs	children are not engaged in some of the developmental program/project to achieve SDGs	in most of the developmental programs/projects to achieve SDGs	children are somehow neglected in some of the developmental programs/projects to achieve SDGs	engaged in some of the developmental programs/projects to achieve SDGs	engaged in all type of developmental programs/projects to achieve SDGs	all type of developmental programs/projects to achieve SDGs	children are meaningfully engaged in all type of developmental programs/projects to achieve SDGs
Progress since last VNR:	No progress against any of the target/indicator has been noticed since last VNR 2019	No progress against any of the official priority target/indicator has been noticed since last VNR 2019	No progress against most of the official priority target/indicator has been noticed since last VNR 2019	No progress against some of the official priority target/indicator has been noticed since last VNR 2019	Some progress against some of the official priority targets/indicators of SDGs has been witnessed since last VNR in 2019	Some progress against all targets/indicators of SDGs has been witnessed since the last VNR in 2019	Some progress against all targets/indicators of SDGs has been witnessed since the last VNR in 2019	Progress against all targets/indicators of SDGs has been witnessed since the last VNR in 2019	Significant progress against all targets/indicators of SDGs has been witnessed since the last VNR in 2019
Actions/delivery by CSOs / NGOs / INGOs to achieve related	No action/delivery of CSOs/NGOs to achieve related targets /	Some of the INGOs/NGOs/CSOs have aligned their priorities	Most of the INGOs/NGOs/CSOs have aligned their	INGOs/NGOs/CSOs have somehow aligned their priorities	Some contribution has been made by civil society /	Significant contribution has been made by civil society /	Significant contribution has been made by civil society /	Significant contribution has been made by civil society /	Significant contribution has been made by civil society /



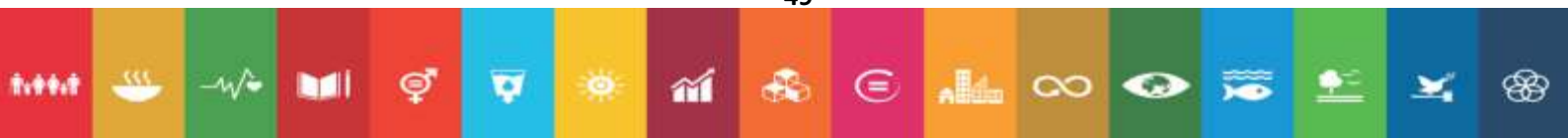
targets /indicators	indicators has been witnessed anywhere in Pakistan	indicators has been witnessed in many areas of Pakistan	with those of national SDGs priorities but no delivery /contribution has yet been made	priorities with those of national SDGs priorities but no delivery /contribution on has yet been made	with those of national SDGs priorities but no delivery /contribution has yet been made	NGOs / INGOs / CBOs against some official priority targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	CBOs against some targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	CBOs against all official priority targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	CBOs against some targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	INGOs / CBOs against all targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan
Actions/ delivery by CSOs / NGOs / INGOs to achieve related targets /indicators	No action / delivery of CSOs/NGOs to achieve related targets / indicators has been witnessed anywhere in Pakistan	No action / delivery of CSOs/NGOs to achieve related targets / indicators has been witnessed in many areas of Pakistan	Some of the INGOs/NGOs / CBOs have aligned their priorities with those of national SDGs priorities but no delivery /contribution has yet been made	Most of the INGOs/NGOs/ CBOs have aligned their priorities with those of national SDGs priorities but no delivery /contribution on has yet been made	INGOs/NGOs have somehow aligned their priorities with those of national SDGs priorities but no delivery /contribution has yet been made	Some contribution has been made by civil society / NGOs / INGOs / CBOs against some official priority targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	Significant contribution has been made by civil society / NGOs / INGOs / CBOs against some targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	Significant contribution has been made by civil society / NGOs / INGOs / CBOs against all official priority targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	Significant contribution has been made by civil society / NGOs / INGOs / CBOs against some targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan	Significant contribution has been made by civil society / NGOs / INGOs / CBOs against all targets/ indicators to achieve SDGs in Pakistan

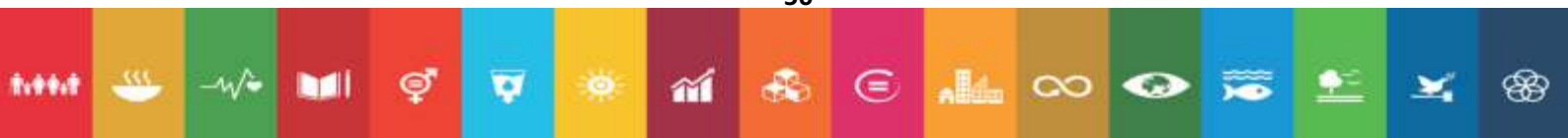
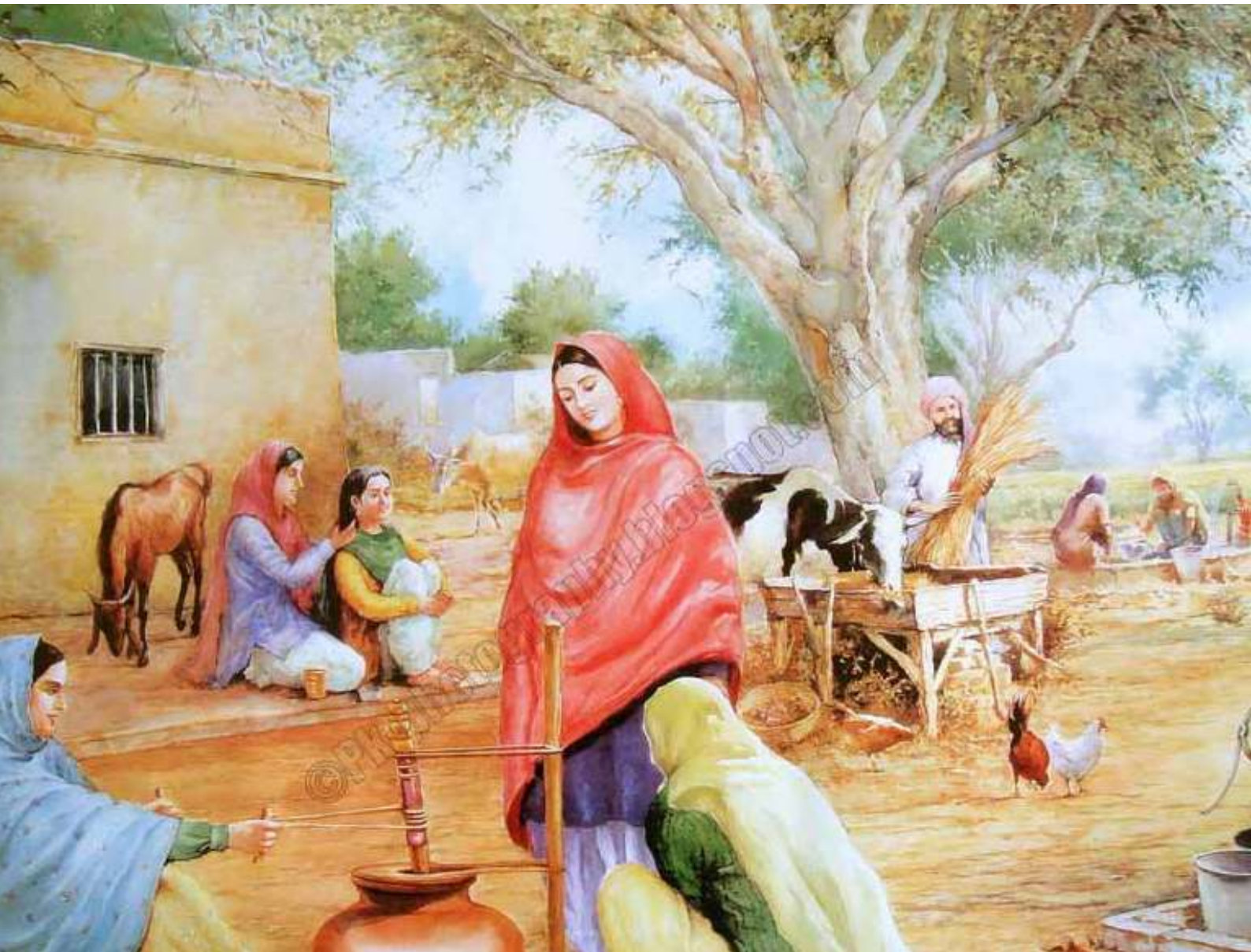


Anex 3: Photographs and Press Clippings of PSC Consultations



تکات میں پائیدار ترقی کے اہداف کے حصول کے لیے مشاورتی ورکشاپ کا انعقاد
معروف سماجی تنظیم PEN اور آء ڈی فاؤنڈیشن کے زیر اہتمام سماجی اداروں کے لئے سیشن کا انعقاد کیا گیا





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ڈائریکٹر: ڈاکٹر محمد رفیق

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Experts call for accelerated efforts to meet SDGs

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), representatives of civil society at a consultation session have called for accelerated efforts to meet these goals within the stipulated timeframe as it would ensure sustainable progress. They highlighted and discussed the bottlenecks, lacunas and challenges in the budgets, policies and strategies towards achieving the SDGs.

Purpose of the consultation, organized jointly by Awaz CDS and UGOOD in Islamabad, was to review the progress on government's official Voluntary National Review (VNR) through Peoples Scorecard and collect input from the civil society organizations on the subject.

The event was part of the series of consultations which will be organized countrywide to gather information from informed civil society about the government's performance on achieving the SDGs. Around 35 members from civil society organiza-



Chief Executive Awaz CDS Pakistan Zia ur Rehman gave a detailed orientation about the event's objectives and deliberations. He informed the participants about Awaz CDS and Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA), on behalf of civil society, are in the process of developing a spotlight report on SDGs parallel to government's official VNR report which it intends to present to the UN.

In his opening remarks, CEO UGOOD Syed Ishtiaq Gilani appreciated the participants for attending the consultation and hoped their valuable findings would help in shaping the accurate data base on SDGs.

Participating in the consultations, Country Director Sight Savers Munazza Gillani praised Awaz

CDS PDA and UGOOD for arranging such an inclusive event representing all, PLWDs, trans genders, youth and men and women.

The shared Sight Savers' initiatives and collaborations with both CSOs and government to make the entire SDGs process inclusive. She emphasized on inclusion as well as availability of PWDs disaggregated data for all goals.

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Similarly, the spotlight report which will be developed through gathering information from people and depicting real, on ground situation with regard to performance and progress of Pakistan on SDGs at the same forum, he said.

A consultation on voluntary National Review through people's scorecard was organized by Awaz CDS and WESS at Quetta

QUETTA: A consultation on voluntary National Review VNR through people's scorecard was organized jointly by Awaz CDS and WESS at Quetta. The consultation was part of the series of consultations which will be organized countrywide to gather information from informed civil society about the performance of government in achieving sustainable development through SDGs. Around 35 members from civil society organizations participated in the consultation deliberations, mostly from organizations led by women, youth, transgender, people living with disabilities and minority groups. The consultation was supported by Sight Savers Pakistan, VSO and A4SD. In his opening remarks, CEO UGOOD Syed Ishtiaq Gilani appreciated the participants for attending the consultation and hoped their valuable findings would help in shaping the accurate data base on SDGs. Participating in the consultations, Country Director Sight Savers Munazza Gillani praised Awaz

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Sardar Ishtiaq

Islamabad



Experts call for accelerated efforts to meet SDGs

DNA

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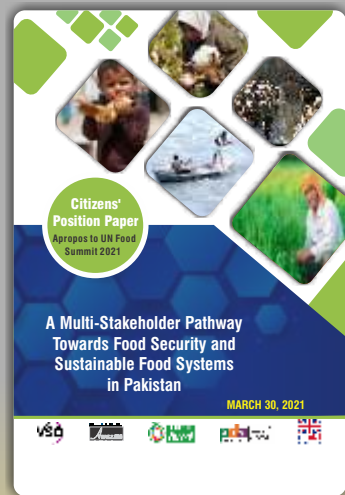
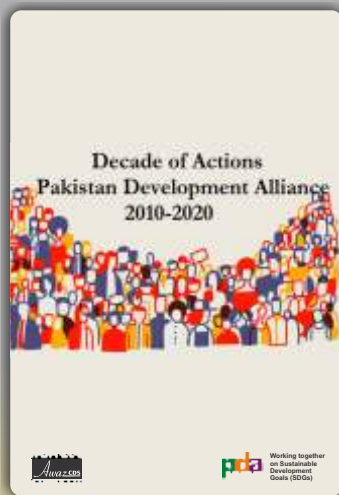
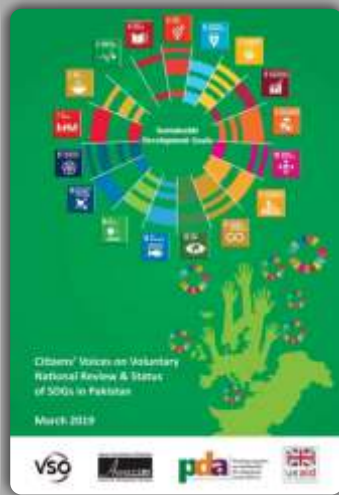
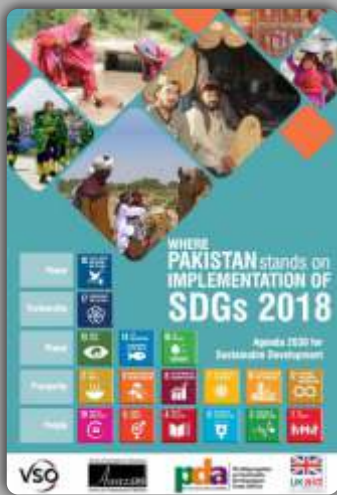


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Working together on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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