

**Building a Consortium to Address Climate Change,
Inequality, and Other Complex Challenges Influencing
Human Health (CHOICE)**

Pakistan Annual Report

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Background

In September 2000, by approving the Millennium Declaration, 189 nations including Pakistan committed to specific, time-limited objectives known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These targets spanned a broad spectrum of development issues, including the eradication of poverty, hunger, disease and promoting rights, health, gender equality, security and environmental sustainability. Pakistan's performance in achieving the MDGs was subpar in comparison to other countries in the Asian region as well as globally (1). There were significant challenges in terms of ownership, localization, and resource allocation for the MDGs. Additionally, security and terrorism, political instability, lack of cross sectoral collaboration, and frequent natural disasters were key factors that further hampered Pakistan's progress.

In 2015, after endorsing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Pakistan set a global precedent by being the first country to officially incorporate the SDGs into its national development agenda, a commitment formalized through a National Assembly Resolution in February 2016 (2). Concurrently, Pakistan's Parliament took the lead in establishing a dedicated SDG Unit, becoming the first of its kind to focus exclusively on the 17 goals.

Pakistan's engagement with the SDGs began in earnest in 2013, following its selection by the United Nations as one of the nations to hold consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. These consultations highlighted key developmental priorities, including peace and security, governance, inclusive economic growth, the rule of law, social development, gender equality and women's empowerment, affordable sustainable energy, disaster management, and the crucial involvement of the developed world. These identified priorities were then integrated into Pakistan's comprehensive development strategy document for the long term. By 2014, the National Assembly had aligned its Strategic Plan for 2014-2018 with the upcoming post-2015 agenda. To further emphasize the SDGs in legislative activities, National and Provincial Parliamentary Taskforces were established in 2017, dedicated to advancing the SDG agenda within parliamentary work. The aim of enhancing collaboration and coordination across different levels of government and with non-governmental entities came with Pakistan establishing seven SDG Support Units at the national, provincial, and federally managed territorial levels. Directed by the federal Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform (MoPD&R) alongside the provincial and territorial Planning & Development Departments (P&DDs), these units have played a crucial role in assembling Pakistan's first *Voluntary National Review (VNR)* on the SDGs. This endeavor included numerous detailed and participatory consultations with stakeholders over a period of months, centered around seven previously selected themes. Additionally, Pakistan formulated a detailed National SDG Framework, which was ratified by the National Economic Council (NEC), the premier economic policymaking body in the country, in March 2018. This framework outlines specific baselines and objectives for SDG indicators and is intended to integrate into the broader SDGs' Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. It now serves as a directive for provinces and federally governed territories to establish their development agendas, aligning with their specific local needs.

The SDGs aim to build on past achievements by adopting a *universal approach* that applies to all countries regardless of their economic status. Amongst these goals, 13 specifically focus on health and related issues, addressing healthcare access and quality, as well as enhancing human capital and bolstering economic resilience against environmental threats (3). The SDGs for health and health-related issues (HSDGs) were created in recognition of the SDGs' interdependence. These include SDG

1- No Poverty, SDG 2- Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4- Quality Education, SDG 5- Gender Equality, SDG 6- Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7- Affordable, and Clean Energy, SDG 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 13- Climate Action and, SDG 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG 17- Partnership for the Goals.

Methodology:

Project Objective:

To improve health and wellbeing, and address inequality through ensuring the implementation of HSDGs using the power of Think Tanks and to provide cross-cutting solutions.

Report Objectives:

1. To conduct a *National Landscape or Trends analysis* to assess the progress of Pakistan on HSDGs and their respective indicators with a focus on mental health, climate change, and gender equality.
2. To assess Pakistan's policy response on mental health, climate change and gender equality.

Search, Screening and Data Extraction:

We conducted an extensive literature search to gather all policy documents of Pakistan on mental health, climate change, and gender equality. We searched across google scholar including grey literature, websites of national and provincial assemblies, health ministries, and the status for the commission of women as well as publications of the Planning and Development Commission, Special Initiatives. We also examined the websites of both local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) for additional data. We used generic key terms, including policy, law, legislation, act, regulation with specific terms of mental health, climate change and gender equality.

Following the collection of all publicly accessible policy documents, we extracted each record to gather information on the year of policy enactment, whether it was at the federal/national or provincial level, the target population, the context surrounding its development, the content specifying its aims, objectives, and salient features, the actors involved in the policy-making process along with their details or names, and the process through which the policy was developed, including pertinent details of the process.

Eligibility criteria included:

- Trends reported in official documents released by the government to be included from baseline (2006-2007) to end line (2018-2020).
- All relevant policies/Acts/laws as well as policy amendments to be included from 2010 onwards. All original policies to be included with policy amendments after 2010.

Analysis:

We conducted a thorough overview and narrative analysis of the VNR. We adopted *the Health Policy Triangle Framework* by Walt and Gilson that focuses on the policy content, actors, context and processes (4). The content encompasses the aims of policies, the practices for their operation, the laws, rules, and guidelines governing them. Actors are the key individuals, groups, and organizations that play a significant role. Context denotes the overarching systemic factors, including social,

economic, political, cultural, and environmental conditions that influence these processes. The process is the method by which policies are developed, introduced, implemented, and assessed. This framework, applicable both retrospectively and prospectively, has significantly impacted health policy research across numerous countries with varied systems, and it has been employed in the analysis of a wide array of health-related issues.

Results

Purpose and Composition of Think Tank

We identified 10 members for the Think Tank and further categorized them into five thematic areas based on their expertise including academia (n=3), development sector (n=3), economic, finance and law (n=2), health systems (n=1) and agriculture/food security (n=1). The composition of Think Tank is shown in Table 1.

Four meetings have been conducted with the Think Tank between 2022 and 2024. The initial meeting familiarized all members with project objectives and marked the beginning for both the national landscape analysis and policy review. During the second meeting, feedback was collected on the preliminary findings of both exercises, which helped the project team identify areas of improvement. These included identifying a Policy Analysis Framework, combining economic and budgetary assessments, and including third-party evaluation reports. It was also underlined that data analysis must be in line with real-world circumstances, particularly in the aftermath of catastrophes like the floods in Pakistan in 2022.

Based on this feedback, the project methodology was revised. In the third meeting, a comprehensive landscape analysis was presented along with a policy review using the Policy Triangle Framework. Members of the Think Tank commented on the credibility of data reported through the government’s sources and recommended to explore current methodology used by the Planning Commission on data collection for SDG indicators and propose suitable alternatives. It was also decided that two white papers will be produced by the end of 2024. The first white paper would focus on consolidating Pakistan’s progress on its SDG commitments, while the second would be a policy note to the Prime Minister of Pakistan highlighting the importance of focusing on HHSDGs, specifically mental health, climate change, and gender equality. The fourth meeting was conducted to discuss updates and the timeline for preparing these white papers.

Thematic Area	Expertise	Name	Position
Economic, Finance and Law	Gender, Climate Change, Law	Sara Hayat	Lawyer
Economic, Finance and Law	Low-carbon and resilient development, international climate finance, Economics, Finance, Law	Mr. Ali T. Sheikh	Senior Advisor (Climate Change), World Bank
Academia	City and Regional Planning	Dr. Nausheen Anwar	Director, Karachi Urban Lab; Professor at IBA Karachi
Academia	Community Development, Learning and Evaluation	Dr. Shama Dossa	Associate Professor at Habib University, Karachi; Feminist Learning and Evaluation Manager at Fenomenal Funds
Academia	Sustainable Economy	Ms. Maha Qasim	Founder & CEO – Zero Point Partners

Thematic Area	Expertise	Name	Position
			Advisor at PFAN
Development Practitioner	Food Security, Agriculture, Climate Change	Dr. Abid Suleri	Executive Director, SDPI
Development Practitioner	Community Engagement, Development	Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani	Provincial Representative UNDP Sub-Office Balochistan; Secretary, Planning and Development Department, Govt. Of Balochistan
Development Practitioner	Environmental Engineering, Education, Monitoring and Evaluation	Naseer Memon	General Manager CSR, Public Affairs & Communications of Engro Powergen Limited
Agriculture and Food Security	Agriculture and Food Security	Dr. Kauser A Malik	Founding Director General of NIBGE, Former Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
Health Systems Management	Development and Sustenance of Health Systems	Dr. Zafar Mirza	Director, Health Systems Development, WHO (Eastern Mediterranean Region)

Table 1. Composition of the Think Tank with their respective expertise

Pakistan's Progress towards Health and Health-Related SDGs

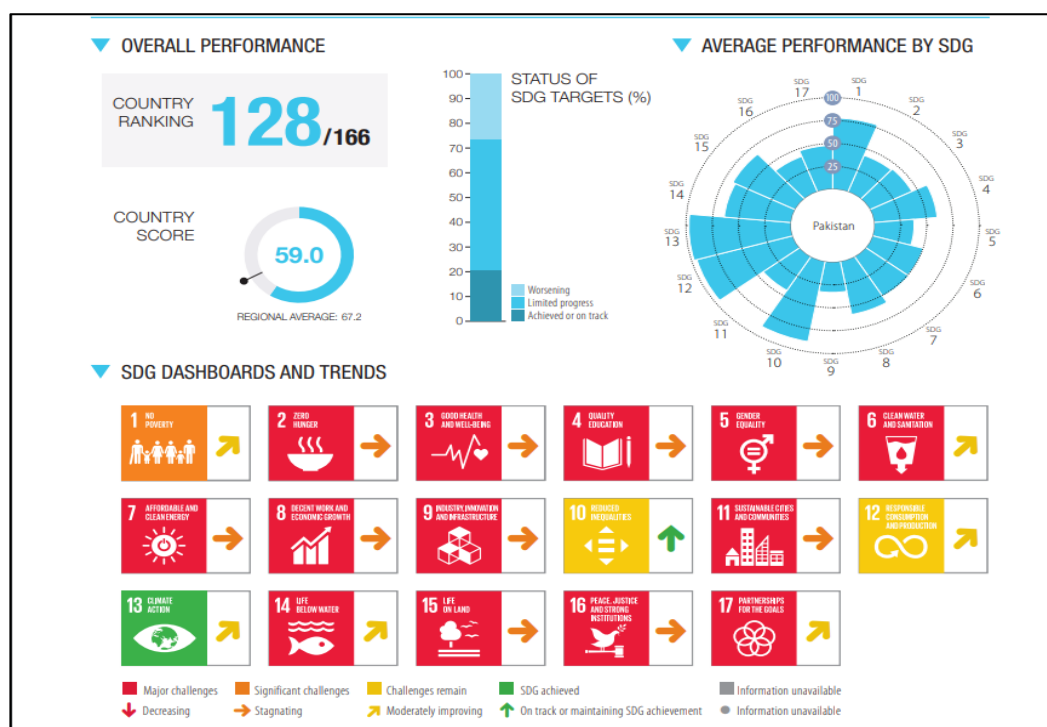


Figure 1. SDG Trends in Pakistan for 2023 (5)

According to Figure (1), Pakistan’s global country ranking stands at 128 and its SDG index score is 59.0. A significant amount of progress, over 75%, has been made in achieving the targets associated with SDGs 1, 10, 12, and 13. SDGs 6, 7, 8, 14, and 15 have also had progress of at least 50% or more. However, SDGs 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 16, and 17 have experienced less than 50% advancement. There has been moderate improvement, following Pakistan’s achievement of its targets for climate action. Despite continuous obstacles associated with SDG 10, Pakistan has demonstrated consistency in maintaining its objectives. SDG 12 is still facing challenges, with only modest progress being made. Significant challenges surround SDG 1, whose targets are slowly being met. Except for SDGs 6, 12, and 17, which have shown gradual advancement, other SDGs have posed major hurdles for Pakistan. (5)

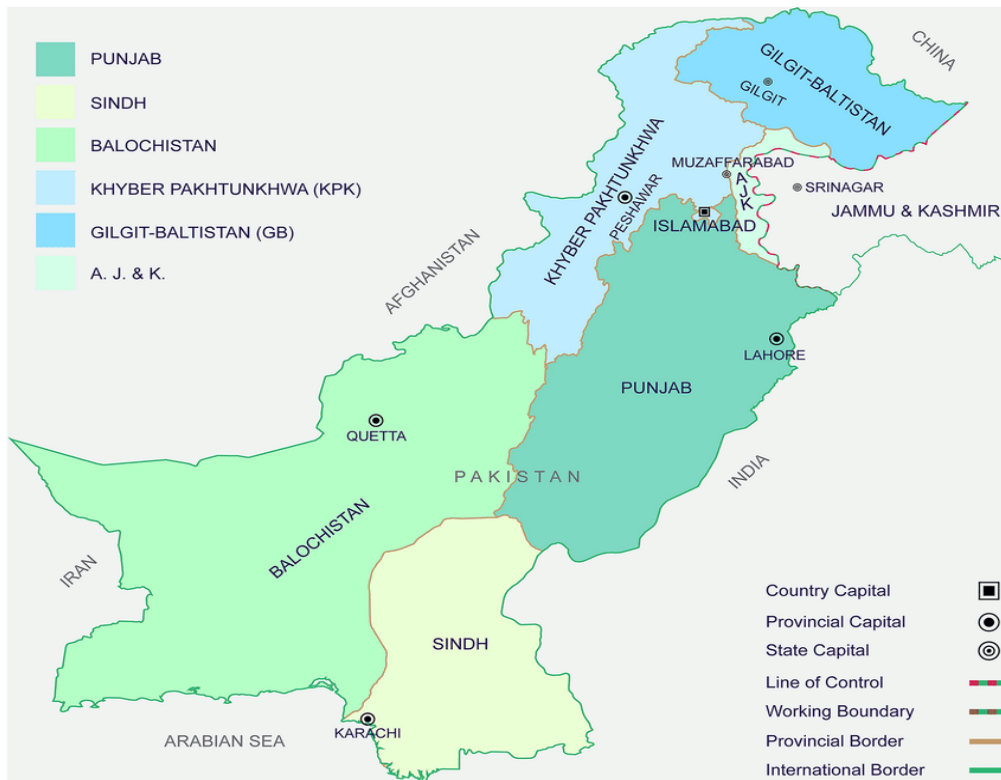


Figure 2. Map of Pakistan with all the provinces (6)

According to national statistics, there was a 2.4% decline in poverty rates between 2016 and 2019. Despite the challenges that were caused by COVID-19, 4.4% of individuals remain in extreme poverty (7). The government has taken significant measures to improve food security, as seen by the rise in the national SDG 2 Index Value from 27.47 to 62.92 between 2015 and 2020. This progress was attributed due to a decline in all three indicators- stunting, malnutrition and anemia among pregnant women. Between 2015-16 and 2018-19, the prevalence of undernourishment decreased by 4%. (7)

The prevalence of stunting decreased nationally from 44.8% in 2012-13 to 37.6% in 2017-18, according to SDGs indicator 2.2.1. Despite this progress, the situation remained alarming in several provinces and areas. For the 2017-18 school year, 47% of the children in Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan and 36.4% in Punjab were stunted (8). Visits to the family planning facilities grew from 82% to 86% while access to basic health units (BHUs) climbed from 57% to 67%. Furthermore, demographic distributions for 2019-20 were analyzed throughout national and municipal institutions, such as the judiciary, public service and legislatures. (7)

Pakistan aims to conform its education system with global market demands, striving for high-quality standards that are in line with SDG Goal 4. The completion rates for primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary education were 67%, 47%, and 23%, respectively. This indicates that attendance was higher at the primary level compared to lower and upper secondary levels (7).

There has been only a modest rise in the percentage of individuals nationwide who use safely managed drinking water services, from 93% in 2014-15 to 94% in 2019-20 (9). Of all the provinces and regions, Punjab had the highest percentage of its population (99%) using improved drinking water; Sindh was second with 94%, followed by Balochistan with 84% and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 83%. Balochistan's performance has improved dramatically, rising 17% in the last five years (2014-15 to 2019-20). (10). The proportion of the population who had access to electricity rose from 93% in 2014-15 to 96% in 2019-20. (9). Additionally, a 6% rise has also been observed in the nation's reliance on clean fuels and technology, with clean fuel usage expanding from 41.3% in 2014-15 to 47% in 2018-19. (7).

A recession in the economy prompted the GDP per capita growth rate to decline from 2.04% in the fiscal year 2014-15 to -3.36% in the 2019-20 fiscal year. Between 2014 and 2018, the percentage of non-agricultural sector employment that is considered informal at the national level was constant at 72% (10). The percentage and total number of children between the ages of 5 and 17 who are employed as child labor are examined by gender and age in SDG indicator 8.7.1. Children between the ages of 10 and 14 who work decreased by 2% nationwide, from 8.64% in 2015-19 to 6.47%. The biggest proportion in Punjab during 2018-19 was 6.88%, while the lowest percentage was 0.4% in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. (10).

16.1% of the workforce in Pakistan is employed in the manufacturing sector, which generates 12.8% of the country's GDP (7). Despite the repercussions of COVID-19 in 2019-20, as shown by indicator 9.3.1, the share of small-scale industries' overall industrial value-added rose to 10.50% from 8.40% in 2014-15. (10). The percentage of urban residents living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing is the focus of SDG indicator 11.1.1. Based on data from the UN-Habitat World Cities Report 2020, Pakistan reduced this number by 7.5% between 2014 and 2018 (11) Between 2015 and 2018, the number of homicides dropped from 4.75 per 100,000 to 3.88 per 100,000, and the percentage of inmates without a sentence decreased by 3.2%. Between 2013 and 2018, there was an 8-percentage point increase in child registration at age 5, however, the rate is still quite low at 42.2%. (7).

Good Health and Well-being

In terms of SDG 3, Pakistan has made moderate progress on improving most of its key health indicators. As seen in Figure (3), Pakistan's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) dropped from 276 per 100,000 in 2006-07 to 186 per 100,000 in 2018-19. Furthermore, there was a 10% increase in the number of births attended by qualified medical experts. (7). As seen in Figure (4), Pakistan's under-five mortality rate reduced from 66 per 1000 in 2014-15 to 62 per 1000 in 2018-19 (9).

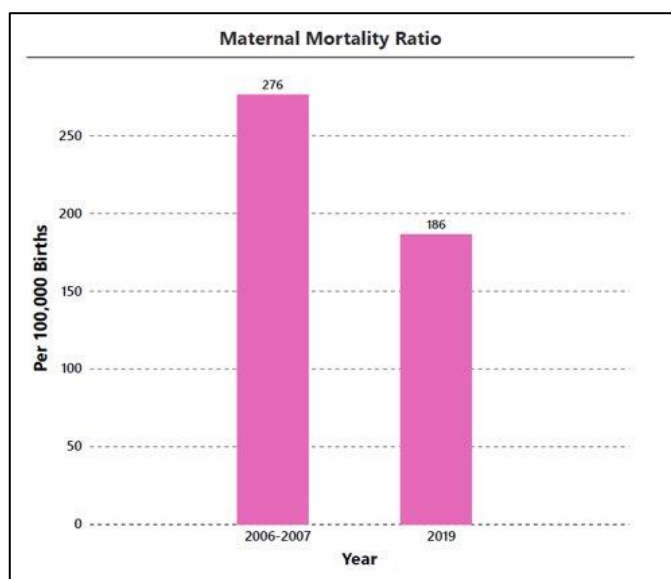


Figure 3. Maternal Mortality Ratio per 100,000 from 2006-07

Balochistan witnessed a substantial drop in MMR from 2006–07 to 2019, falling from 785 to 298 deaths per 100,000 live births. Sindh experienced a more modest decline, dropping from 314 to 224 deaths per 100,000 live births. There were falls in MMR in Punjab and KP as well, from 227 to 157 deaths per 100,000 live births and from 275 to 165 deaths per 100,000 live births correspondingly. Moreover, AJK's MMR reduced from 201 to 104 deaths per 100,000 live births between 2007–2008 and 2019. The MMR for GB declined remarkably from 600 to 157 deaths per 100,000 live births between 1999 and 2019. (10).

The national immunization rate rose by 11.5% between 2013 and 2018. Coverage increased from 29.1% in 2012–13 to 49% in 2017–18 in Sindh and from 65.5% to 79.9% in Punjab. Moreover, coverage in Baluchistan increased from 16.4% to 28.8% during the same period (10). In KP, the rate of vaccine coverage has increased slowly, reaching 9% over the previous five years (2013–18) (7).

As Figure (5) illustrates, the percentage of women in the reproductive age group (15–49 years old) who met their family planning requirements increased from 47% in 2012–13 to 49% in 2017–18. Among the provinces, Sindh demonstrated a noteworthy improvement, with this percentage doubling to 50.2% in 2017–18 from 24.5% in 2012–13. (8)

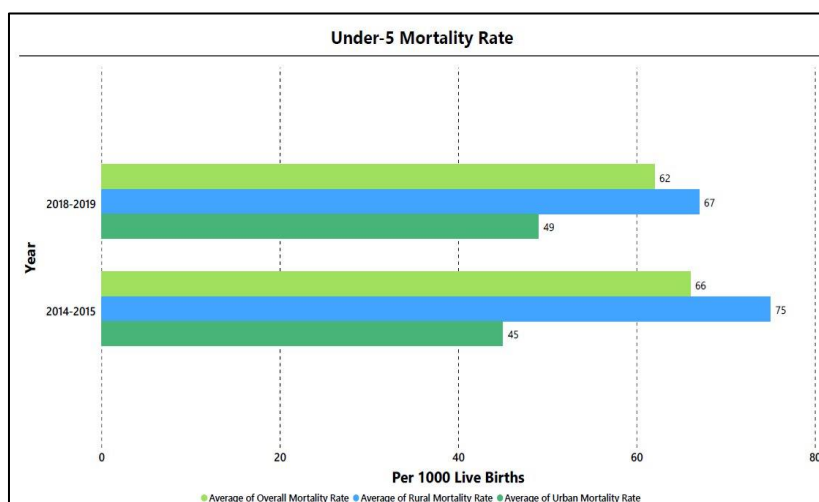


Figure 4. Under-5 Mortality Rate per 1000 births from 2014-15

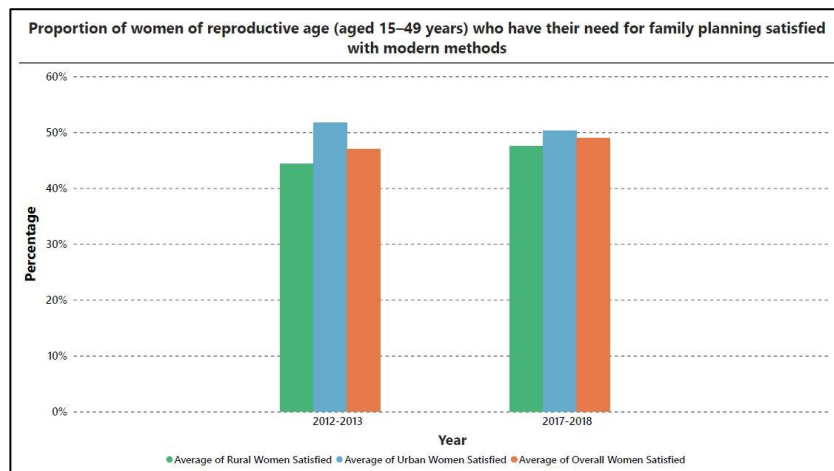


Figure 5. Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

The national incidence of tuberculosis has decreased, falling from 270 cases per 100,000 individuals in 2015 to 265 cases per 100,000 individuals in 2019. (10). Between 2014–15 and 2019–20, the death rate owing to traffic injuries fell from 2.91 per 10,000 to 2.51 per 10,000. (7).

Mental Health

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Pakistan has one of the highest rates of mental disease in the world, (12) with an estimated 24 million individuals in need of mental healthcare. However, the nation only has 0.19 psychiatrists per 100,000 individuals. (13). The WHO estimated that 19,331 individuals died by suicide in 2019, 14,771 of them were men and 4,560 of them were women. (14) Depression and anxiety affect 10% to 16% of adults, while 10% are affected by bipolar disorder and schizophrenia (15). Pakistan's mental health challenges worsen due to low literacy rates, lack of awareness, and cultural stigma, with women more at risk. A 2012 WHO report noted 13,337 suicides, predominantly affecting women, with a rate of 7.5 per 100,000 people (16). Around 10% to 20% of children and adolescents also face mental health challenges (15). There are just 400 certified psychiatrists in Pakistan, and there are not enough state-run mental health facilities or psychiatric units in teaching and general hospitals. About 90% of persons with mental challenges are left untreated as a result of this significant treatment gap. (17)

Gender Equality

As illustrated in Figure (6), the percentage of women and girls aged 15 and over who report having experienced physical, sexual, or psychological abuse at the hands of their current or previous intimate partner has decreased from 18% in 2012–13 to 13.6% in 2017–18. There has been a decrease in the prevalence of physical violence across various regions. In Sindh, the rates declined from 15.5% to 9.4% in 2012-13 and 2017-18 respectively, while rates in Punjab decreased from 14.9% to 10.3% during the same period. From 2012–13 to 2017–18, KP fell from 31.1% to 23.4%, while GB saw a similar decline in rates from 9.5% to 4.7%. Conversely, during the same period, Balochistan had a rise in rates from 31.3% to 34.6%. (8).

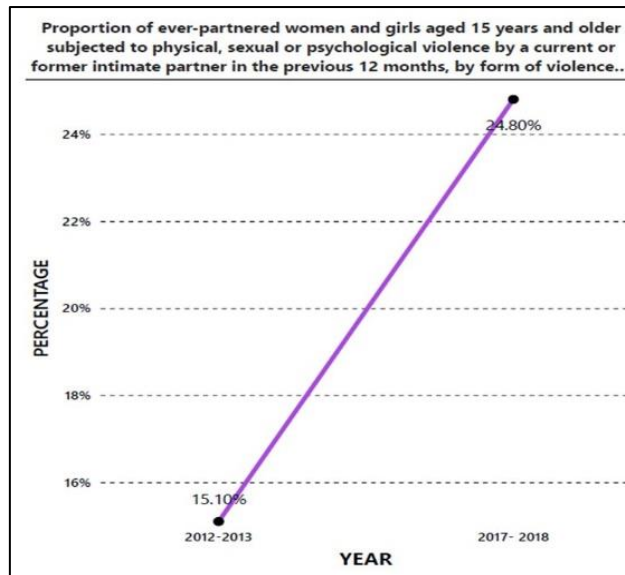


Figure 6. The proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current/former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

The gender gap against net enrolment at elementary, middle, and matriculation declined nationally between 2014–15 and 2018–19. The gender parity index (GPI) is biased in favor of girls at the matric level. Girls enrolled at a higher rate than males in metropolitan areas, where the GPI for the Net Enrollment Rate at the Matric level (ages 14–15) was 1.18. (9).

The percentage of women (15–49 years old) who independently make informed decisions about having sexual intercourse, using contraceptives, and accessing reproductive healthcare is monitored by SDG indicator 5.6.1. Figure (7) illustrates that 53% of Pakistani women nationwide stated they made these decisions on their own in 2018–19. Regionally, Sindh and Azad Jammu Kashmir also showed increases from 36% to 40% and 38% to 40%, respectively, during the same period, while Punjab saw an increase from 58% in 2014–15 to 65% in 2018–19. In comparison, over the years 2014–15 to 2018–19, Balochistan experienced a significant fall from 32% to 14% and GB from 63% to 51%. (9)

The advancement of SDG 5 also includes a rise in the proportion of women serving in national and local legislatures, which increased from 19.1% in 2013 to 19.73% in 2018 (10). The percentage of women in managerial roles has increased, rising from 2.70 percent in 2014–15 to 4.53% in 2018–19 (10).

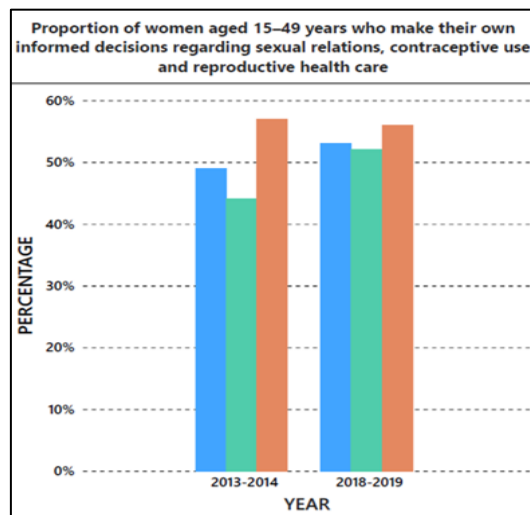


Figure 7. The proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health

In Pakistan during 2017-18, nearly 4.6 million girls were married before the age of 15, and 18.9 million girls were married before the age of 18. As shown in Figure (8), 40% of women who were married before 18 years of age gave birth, whilst nearly 50% of women married at/after the age of 18 years but before 20 years of age, gave birth (18). Around 8% of women between the ages of 15 and 19 are fertile; 6% have given birth, and 2% are expecting their first child. Since 2012–2013, the proportion of women aged 15–19 who are childbearing has remained at 8%. On the other hand, about 17% to 19% of women aged 19 have started having children. Among those with a secondary education (4%), the likelihood of conceiving drops by more than three-fold. (8)

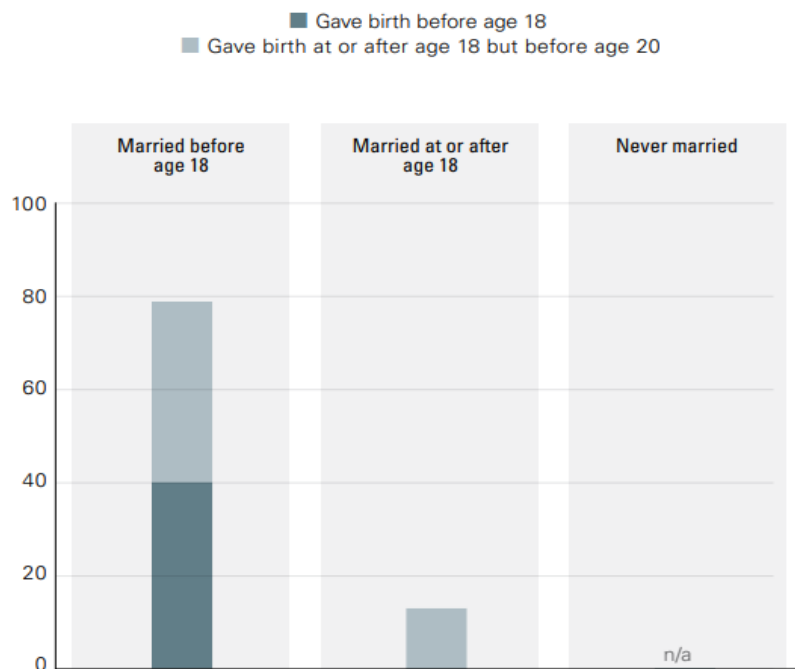


Figure 8. Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who gave birth before ages 18 and 20

Climate Action

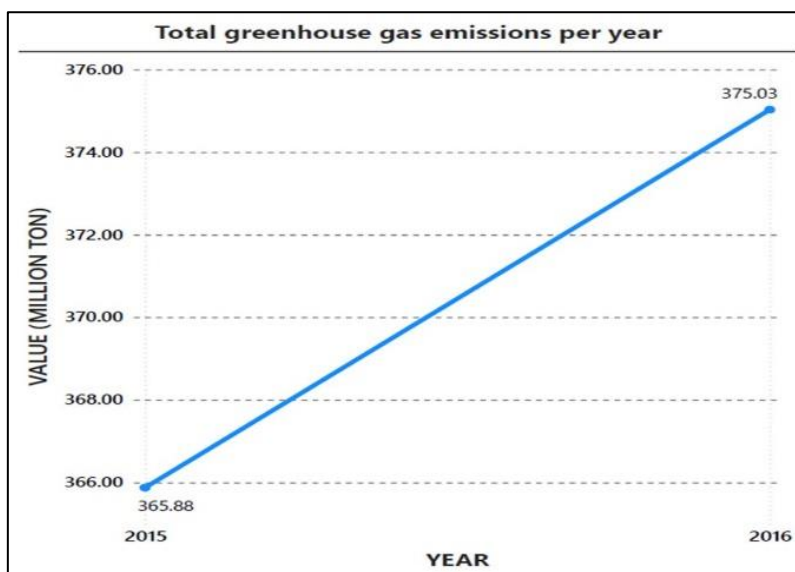


Figure 9. Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Figure (9) illustrates Pakistan's 2016 contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, which came to 375.03 million tons. The overall amount of greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2015–16 increased by only 2.5%, according to SDG indicator 13.2.2. (10)

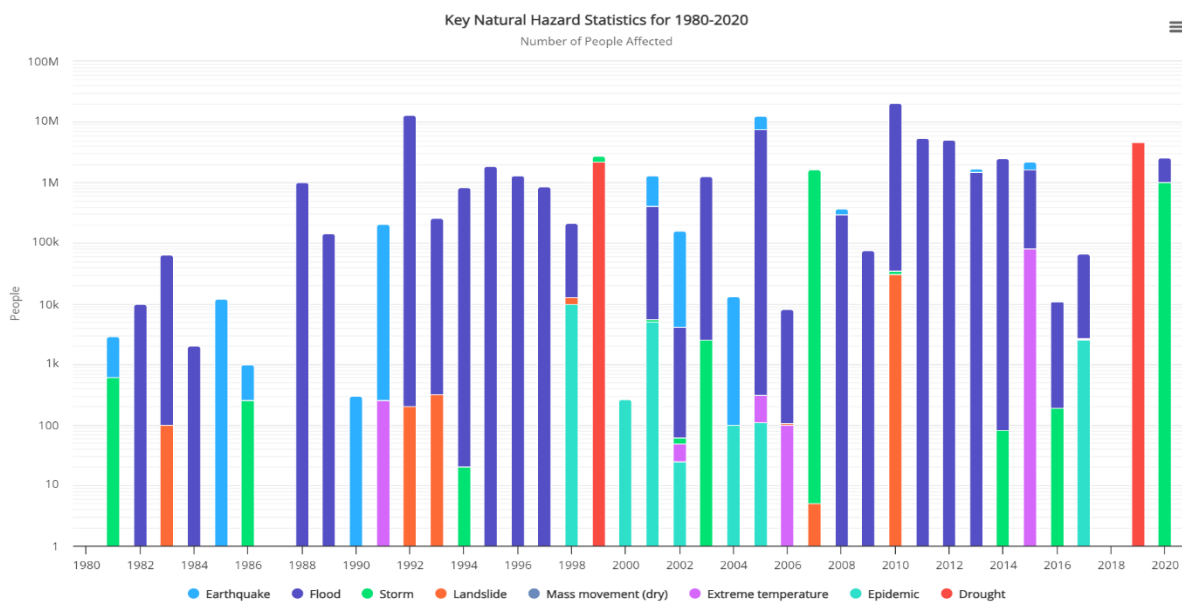


Figure 10. Key Natural Hazard Statistics for 1980-2020

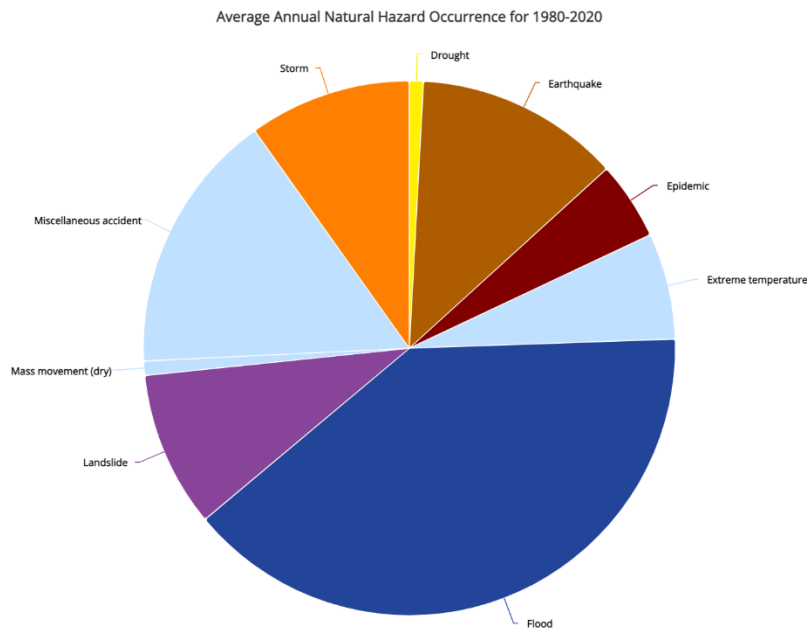


Figure 11. Average Annual Natural Hazard Occurrence for 1980-2020

Pakistan suffers from the effects of extreme weather events as shown in Figure (10) and Figure (11), respectively (19). Pakistan saw a sharp decline in the number of natural disaster-related deaths, from 0.29 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.06 per 100,000 in 2018. Natural disaster-related injuries likewise declined, from 0.71 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.07 per 100,000 in 2018. In addition, in 2018 there were 5.4 per 100,000 persons directly affected, down from 351 per 100,000 in 2017. (10)

Various regions of Pakistan have been impacted by natural disasters, as reported by their respective Provincial Disaster Management Authorities. Sindh has been affected by droughts, heatwaves, cyclones, storm surges, earthquakes, and tsunamis (20). Whereas different parts of Punjab are vulnerable to floods, earthquakes, droughts, and embankment erosions (21). Baluchistan contends with floods, earthquakes, cyclones, heatwaves, droughts, tsunamis, and landslides (22). KPK has also witnessed natural catastrophes such as glacier melting, drought, floods, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), high winds, avalanches, and land sliding (23). In Gilgit-Baltistan the most common hazards are earthquakes, flash floods, glacial outburst floods, riverine floods, heavy snowfall, snow avalanches, landslides, debris flows, erosions, rock falls, and torrential rains (24). Azad Jammu and Kashmir struggles with flooding, earthquakes, and land sliding as per the State Disaster Management Authority (25).

Natural disaster-related mortality in Punjab fell sharply from 0.06 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.02 per 100,000 in 2018. Similarly, from 0.01 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.05 per 100,000 in 2018, injuries declined. There was a significant decline in the number of directly affected individuals from 421.68 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.30 per 100,000 in 2018. In contrast, incidents of natural disasters in Sindh resulted in 0.18 per 100,000 deaths in 2018 as opposed to 0.10 per 100,000 in 2015. Moreover, the number of injuries increased from 0.11 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.19 per 100,000 in 2018. The number of directly impacted individuals increased significantly from 245 per 100,000 in 2015 to 3558 per 100,000 in 2020. In KPK, the number of deaths resulting from natural catastrophes decreased significantly between 2015 and 2017, from 0.94 per 100,000 to 0.02 per 100,000. In a similar direction, from 6.03 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.255 per 100,000 in 2017, fewer injuries occurred. The number of directly affected individuals also fell sharply, from 392 per 100,000 in 2015 to 1.6 per 100,000 in 2017.

Natural disaster-related mortality in Baluchistan dropped dramatically from 0.13 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.03 per 100,000 in 2018. Additionally, from 0.29 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.08 per 100,000 in 2018, fewer injuries were reported. From 70.35 per 100,000 in 2015 to 24.25 per 100,000 in 2018, the number of directly affected individuals fell. (10)

There were no baseline statistics available for Gilgit-Baltistan. However, according to the most recent data from 2018, there were 93.16 people who were directly impacted by natural catastrophes, 0.54 deaths and 0.27 injuries per 100,000 individuals. (10)

Policy Analysis

A total of 89 policies were found to address gender equality (n=59), climate change (n=22), and mental health (n=8). The federal government has passed laws pertaining to gender equality (n=29), mental health (n=1), and climate change (n= 22). Compared to the federal level, more policies for gender equality (n = 32) and mental health (n = 7) have been implemented at the provincial level. Conversely, fewer (n=8) provincial policies have been developed in response to climate change.

Mental Health:

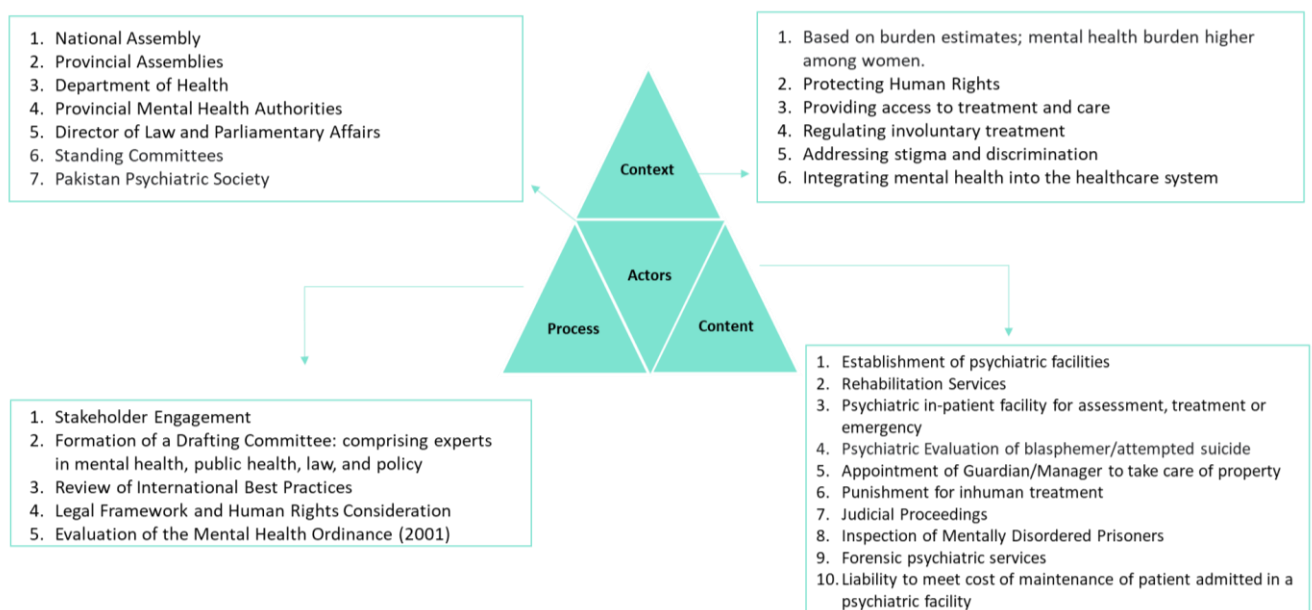


Figure 12. Policy Triangle Framework for Mental Health Policies

We identified eight policies pertaining to mental health in Pakistan. Among these policies, one was passed at the federal/national level, while Sindh (n=4), Baluchistan (n=1), Punjab (n=1), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (n=1) devised provincial policies after the 18th amendment.

Policy Context:

Depression and anxiety are among the top 25 causes of disability across the world. They can affect women and men throughout the course of their lives at different ages and in various contexts (26). In Pakistan, these mental health challenges are hard to tackle due to cultural stigma, a lack of understanding, and an extremely low literacy rate. As a result, women are more likely to experience a wide array of these mental health issues (16). According to a 2012 report by WHO that shed light on 13,337 suicides, women were the most affected gender – with a 7.5 per 100,000 people rate (16).

Mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression impact around 10% to 16% of adults. On the other hand, about 10% of adults struggle with disorders ranging from moderate to severe, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Similarly, around 10% to 20% of teenagers and children also encounter mental health difficulties. (15)

Pakistan faces a significant treatment gap in mental health care, with fewer than 500 psychiatrists and limited psychiatric facilities. This results in approximately 90% of individuals with common mental disorders going untreated. (12). There are only four large psychiatric hospitals and 654 psychiatric units in general hospitals, with a limited number of psychiatric beds (about 2.1 per 100,000 people), and only 1% designated for pediatric care. Outpatient mental health services are insufficient, covering approximately 3729 per 100,000 people, with minimal provision for pediatric services. (16)

Policy Actors:

When it comes to devising legislative frameworks that guide mental health policy in the country, many stakeholders play a significant role. The policy is primarily devised after collaborating with *Provincial Assemblies*, the *National Assembly*, and additional stakeholders. However, the *Department of Health and Provincial Mental Health Authorities* are mainly responsible for overseeing and implementing regional mental health initiatives/policies.

Apart from ensuring adherence to the law, the *Director of Law and Parliamentary Affairs* also investigates legislative loopholes in several mental health-related policies. Furthermore, *standing committees* facilitate discussions on mental health-related issues within legislative bodies. A major stakeholder that assists in crafting and implementing evidence-based policies is the *Pakistan Psychiatric Society*. Collectively, these stakeholders work together to develop all-encompassing mental health policies that cater to the various requirements of Pakistan's populace.

Policy Process:

The 1912 '*Lunacy Act*' played a significant role in transferring the custody of laws related to mental health care from the British colonial era to the newly Independent State of Pakistan in 1947. (16).

This act caused many laws to remain unchanged, and the focus persisted on custody rather than treatment. However, over four decades later, in 1992, the government of Pakistan began working on a new mental health law. For further assistance and feedback, the draft was also sent to psychiatrists. As a result, the *Mental Health Act* was drafted, and the *Lunacy Act* was removed in 2001. The same year, renowned psychiatrists from the UK also attended the *Pakistan Psychiatric Society* biennial conference, where the official draft of the new act was presented. The act placed emphasis on care access, patient rights, appropriate procedures, and prevention of mental illness altogether. Together with the assistance of these psychiatrists, the *Federal Mental Health Authority* finally came to being to create a code of conduct and define guidelines for patient care. However, once again, the *Federal Mental Health Authority* was dissolved nine years later, in 2010. Following the 18th constitutional amendment, the provinces received exclusive rights to enact their own mental health laws, which they did from 2013-2024. (27)

Policy Content:

'*The Sindh Mental Health Act of 2013*' was one of the key acts for tackling mental health care challenges in the province of Sindh. This law addressed the number of individuals with mental health challenges that required care and treatment. It also covered guidelines for when patients could be

discharged, what their legal matters are, what human rights they possess, and the setting up of services for forensic psychiatry. By working extensively on crafting and implementing these laws, Sindh set a precedent for the rest of Pakistan (28).

Following this, the provision of mental health care in Sindh underwent further refining via the 2015 ‘Sindh Mental Health (Amendment) Act’ (29). This act looked particularly into the assessment and care of individuals who had faced blasphemy accusations or attempted to commit suicide. It emphasized the need for psychiatric assessment of cases of this nature.

The efforts continued, and on January 26, 2024, the provincial government introduced the ‘Sindh Mental Health Policy 2023-2030’ (30). This policy is not only the first of its kind but also highlights the need to allocate a budget for mental health programs across the country. From incorporating mental health education into the school curriculum to training health care workers, this policy has brought forward several suggestions to improve the provinces and the country’s mental health crisis. Another key suggestion it brought forward is translating the law into local languages to make it more accessible to the locals.

Similarly, other provinces of Pakistan have also been stepping forward and working to improve mental health care via innovative laws. For example, the province of Punjab introduced the ‘Punjab Mental Health Act of 2014’ (31) to facilitate the creation of a ‘Mental Health Authority’. By doing so, the provincial authorities ensured that steps were taken to prevent mistreatment of people with mental health challenges. Following this, the provinces of KPK and Baluchistan also passed their own laws in 2017 and 2019 respectively. The aim of the ‘Baluchistan Mental Health Act of 2019’ (32) and the ‘KPK Health Act 2017’ (33), was to improve regulations, protect the rights of people, provide community care, and set up special facilities for psychiatric care.

Climate Change:

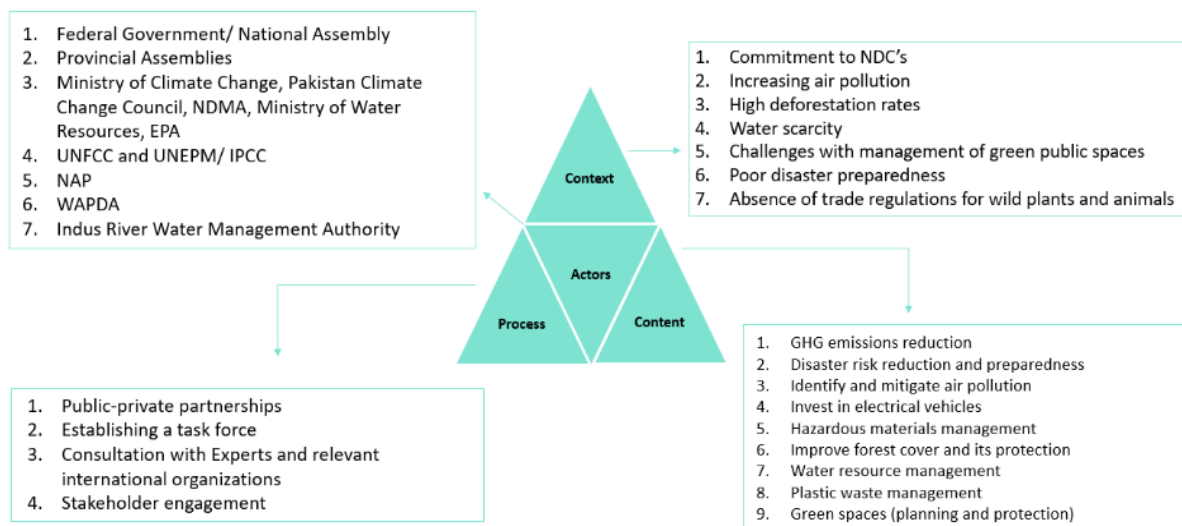


Figure 13. Policy Triangle Framework for Climate Change Policies

We identified 22 policies for climate change in Pakistan. Among these policies, 15 were passed at the federal/national level, while Punjab (n=3), Baluchistan (n=2), Sindh (n=1), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (n=1) devised policies to address regional needs and priorities.

Policy context:

Despite contributing less than 1% to the worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan ranks as the

fifth most affected nation by climate change globally (34) , and over the coming century, is expected to face increased temperatures, shifts in precipitation patterns, and a higher likelihood of climate-related hazards such as floods, droughts, and cyclones. According to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) index, the country is positioned at 150th out of 181 countries in terms of vulnerability to climate change (35). Pakistan's susceptibility to these threats has been clearly evidenced in the past and in recent years through the economic and social impacts of the severe drought from 1999 to 2002 (36), Cyclone Yemyin in 2007 (37), and the catastrophic floods of 2010 (affecting 21 million people) (38) and 2022 (affecting 33 million people) (39). Moreover, a report by the Government of Pakistan (GOP) has highlighted nine significant climate change challenges facing Pakistan (40). These challenges consist of more frequent and severe floods and droughts; the retreat of glaciers in the Hindu Kush-Karakoram-Himalayan (HKH) ranges; heightened silt accumulation in dams; a decrease in agricultural output; the relocation of plant species; the encroachment of sea water into the Indus delta; disputes over water usage among different riverside communities; the degradation of mangrove forests; and increased health hazards. In response to the significant risks posed by climate change to its future development, as well as its food, energy, and water security, the GOP has launched initiatives to enhance its understanding, planning, and implementation of measures aimed at mitigating its vulnerability to the evolving climate.

Policy actors:

The *Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)* stands as the key entity responsible for implementing and devising strategies concerning climate change adaptation and mitigation. It collaborates extensively with various provincial climate frameworks, local government bodies, research institutions, funding organizations, global entities, and other relevant federal ministries and departments, including the *Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD)*, the *National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)*, the *National Energy Conservation Centre (ENERCON)*, the *Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA)*, and the *Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources and Climate Change (PCRWRCC)*. The MoCC oversees the functioning of the NDMA across all levels—federal, provincial, and district—validating its effectiveness in integrating mainstream approaches through robust policies, legislation, strategies, and institutional development to address severe disasters.

The *Prime Minister's Committee on Climate Change (PMCCC)* serves as the leading authority overseeing climate change initiatives both globally and domestically. It is tasked with providing overarching policy guidance related to climate matters. The *Ministry of Water Resources (MWR)* plays a critical role in overseeing mitigation and adaptation strategies. Additionally, the *Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MPDS)* and the *Ministry of Finance (MoF)* are pivotal in coordinating the allocation and execution of financial resources for climate action. The MoCC manages international climate finance flows, with the MoF responsible for the receipt and distribution of these funds. At the subnational level, individual provinces maintain their own environmental legislation, institutions, climate change units, and Environment Protection Authorities (EPAs), ensuring further collaboration with district-level entities for the effective implementation of climate change policies.

Pakistan modestly benefits from various international climate finance opportunities, receiving support from multiple sources such as the *Asian Development Bank (ADB)*, the *Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)*, the *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)* program, the *Adaptation Fund*, the *European Commission (EC)*, the *Global Environmental Facility (GEF)*, and *Japan's Fast Start Finance initiative*, among others. Majority of this international funding is directed towards initiatives aimed at mitigation.

Policy Process:

Pakistan began its focused efforts on formulating climate change policies in 2008, with the establishment of the *Climate Change Task Force* by the Planning Commission. The primary aim of this Task Force was to develop a climate change policy aimed at aiding the government in achieving sustained economic growth while effectively tackling the challenges brought about by climate change. In 2012, in response to the extensive flooding in 2010 that incurred over USD 10 billion (41) in damages and subsequent report of the Task Force (42), Pakistan introduced the *National Climate Change Policy (NCCP)* (40). This policy aimed to establish a broad set of policy objectives and initiatives, primarily concentrating on adaptation efforts. The NCCP was later revised and updated in 2022. In 2017, Pakistan enacted a climate change law aimed at expediting the implementation of essential measures on the ground. This legislation introduced a *Climate Change Council*, tasked with policymaking, and a *Climate Change Authority*, designated as the executing body for climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives. Additionally, the law established the *Pakistan Climate Change Fund* to financially support such initiatives.

Building on the NCCP, in 2013, the government introduced the *Framework for Implementation of the Climate Change Policy (2014–2030)* (43). This framework highlighted the susceptibilities of different sectors to climate change and outlined relevant adaptation and mitigation measures. Actions for each sector were planned with specific timelines: immediate actions to be taken within two years, short-term actions within five years, medium-term actions to be executed within 10 years, and long-term strategies to be implemented over 20 years. The sectors addressed included energy, water, agriculture and livestock, forestry, transportation, industries (such as textile, fertilizer, sugar mills, cement, steel, and large-scale petrochemical factories), and urban planning. The Framework also emphasized the critical need to enhance institutional capabilities at both federal and provincial levels to effectively execute planned actions against climate change, which includes obtaining necessary funding.

Policy Content:

A few of Pakistan's federal/national level policies have incorporated measures to address climate change that include the *National Sustainable Development Strategy 2012* (44) emphasizing the integration of climate change considerations into the strategic planning for key economic sectors prone to climate risks. The strategy outlined a comprehensive approach for enhancing Pakistan's resilience to climate change, suggesting a range of measures including local-level adaptation strategies, ensuring the security of water, energy, and food under climate stress, and reducing disaster risks by making existing infrastructure more climate-resilient. The document also advocated for sustainable land management practices, improved coordination across ministries, capacity building for governance at both national and provincial levels, fostering regional research collaborations, developing shared early-warning mechanisms, and establishing a national fund dedicated to climate change initiatives. The *National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy* (45) of the country, established in 2012, acknowledged the significant risk climate change poses throughout its content. Its goals encompassed the development of a cohesive national capability for tracking and identifying vulnerabilities and hazard trends, including those related to climate change impacts, and the encouragement of development planning that integrates disaster risk considerations with environmental and climate change issues. The policy also outlined different plans to create a comprehensive database for tracking damages and losses from multiple hazards to aid in monitoring vulnerability and risk, as well as to enhance research focused on the effects of climate change on glaciers and ice caps. In 2013, the government unveiled a draft of the national *Agriculture and Food Security Policy* (46) with objectives that include enhancing the sector's ability to adapt flexibly to climate change and bolstering its resilience to swiftly bounce back from crises and emergencies. The draft policy highlighted the

necessity for actions that foster climate-smart agricultural practices. Additionally, it advocated for the initiation of specific flagship national programs aimed at mitigating the risks faced by the country's arid, flood-prone, and coastal areas, though it stops short of detailing any specific programs dedicated to climate change adaptation. The *Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act 2012* (47) outlines regulations governing the export, import, and trade of wildlife species included in CITES appendices, with penalties for violations. Additionally, *Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Rules 2018* (48) defines terms and regulations for trade in wild animals and plants, issues permit, designates enforcement authorities, and addresses the welfare of confiscated specimens to conserve endangered species and promote sustainable trade under the Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012. The *Prohibition of Non-degradable Plastic Products (manufacturing, sale, and usage) Regulations* of 2013 (49) prohibits the import, manufacture, sale, and use of non-degradable scheduled plastic products (polyethylene, polypropylene, or polystyrene items) and mandates the registration of pro-degradant additives used in certain plastics. It also requires clear labelling of oxo-biodegradable plastic products and establishes penalties for non-compliance. The policy underwent an amendment in 2015 to incorporate standards from various organizations to better regulate the environmental impact of plastic bags under the Environment Protection Act. Other policies that came into being include *Ban on Polythene Bags Regulations, 2019* (50) and *Single-use Plastics (Prohibition) Regulations, 2023* (51). The *National Forest Policy of 2015* (52) mainly highlighted the capacity of Pakistan's forests to contribute positively to carbon sequestration through tree-planting efforts. It also emphasized the need for forestry education and for research bodies to enhance their ability to deal with the impacts of climate change. The *National Electric Vehicle Policy of 2019* (53) incorporates new foreign direct investment incentives to stimulate investments in electrical vehicles. The *National Disaster Risk Management Policy* of 2019 covers disaster risk management, including legal and institutional frameworks, economic and fiscal risk assessment, sovereign risk financing, private risk transfer, and capacity building. The *National Clean Air Policy (NCAP) of 2023* (54) aims to identify one priority intervention in each of five sectors with the aim of accelerating progress to reduce air pollutants across all major sources; transport, industry, agriculture, waste and households.

Gender Equality

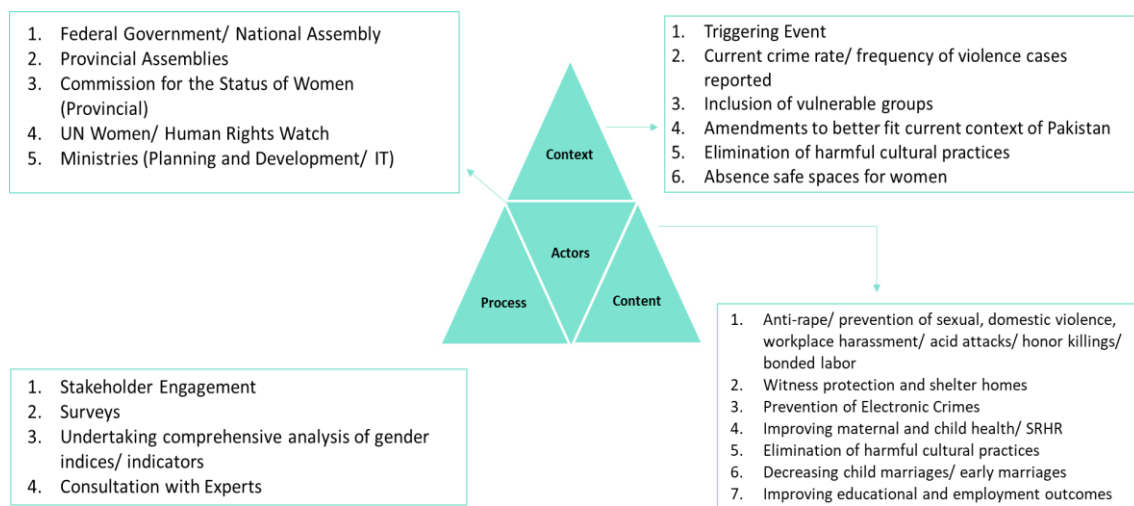


Figure 14. Policy Triangle Framework for Gender Equality Policies

We identified 59 policies aimed at promoting gender equality, with a specific focus on addressing indicators outlined in SDG 5.2 (elimination of violence against women), 5.3 (elimination of harmful

practices against women), and 5.6 (universal access to sexual and reproductive health). Among these policies, 29 were passed at the federal/national level, while Punjab (n=10), Sindh (n=7), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (n=6), Baluchistan (n=5) and Azad Jammu Kashmir (n=1) contributed policies tailored to their respective regional needs and priorities.

Policy Context:

To address the widespread gender inequality and violence against women and girls in Pakistan, gender-related policies are required. Data shows alarming rates of violence and gender inequity, underscoring the urgent need for legislative changes to safeguard and empower women and girls.

The Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2017–18 reports that 28% of all married women have at some point been a victim of physical abuse, with over one in four having experienced it since the age of fifteen (8). In Pakistan, Sindh (15%) has the lowest rate of physical violence against women, while FATA (56%), has the highest rate. Among women who have ever been married, current husbands are the most frequent perpetrators of physical violence (80%) (55). With high incidence of honor killings, sexual assault, and domestic abuse, violence against women is a widespread problem in Pakistan. Approximately 1,000 women are killed annually in honor killings, while innumerable more are victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse (56). The prevalence of such violence highlights the critical need for all-encompassing regulations that safeguard women and girls from harm and give them access to justice and support services.

Another startling gender disparity in the entry into the workforce is documented in the National Report on the Status of Women in Pakistan 2023: among adult females with Grade 12 or above, only 30% were in the labor force, compared to 83% of their male counterparts (55). Significant obstacles such as gender-based violence, restricted access to opportunities for education and employment, and lack of rights prevent women from participating in the economy and attaining their basic rights.

Besides the high gender-based violence rates, the 2018 Zainab rape case (57) acted as a triggering event for change, igniting public indignation and bringing attention to the problem of child sexual abuse and violence against Pakistani women and girls. A six-year-old girl Zainab's brutal assault and murder served as a stark reminder of how susceptible children are to sexual assault and the urgency of taking immediate action to address the issue. The Zainab Alert, Response, and Recovery Act was launched by the Pakistani government in 2020 as a response to the case (58). Its goal was to create a quick response mechanism for reporting and handling situations of missing or abducted children.

Policy Actors:

The *Ministry of Human Rights* is leading the charge in Pakistani government efforts to address gender disparity, playing a crucial role in formulating and implementing policies that advance gender equality. The *Planning and Development Commission of Pakistan* is a stakeholder of equal importance as it contributes significantly to the integration of a gendered lens into the national development agenda. The *Planning Commission* works to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed throughout sectors, from economic development to health to education, through its planning procedures and resource distribution.

The *National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW)*, which promotes women's rights and influences legislative decisions to improve gender equality, also serves as an important consultative body for the federal government. Similar to the NCSW, each province has a commission on the status of women that informs the policy responses of provincial governments on issues relating to gender inequality. The responsibilities of these advisory bodies include researching, proposing legislative

changes, and monitoring the implementation of gender-related laws and policies. The National Assembly and Senate, among other legislative bodies, play a crucial role in passing laws and amending existing ones that protect women's rights and combat discrimination based on gender. Ministries such as IT further contributed to policies such as the Prevention of Electronic Crimes, 2016 (59).

Civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations also wield considerable influence in the policymaking arena. Entities like the *Aurat Foundation* and *Shirkat Gah* play pivotal roles in advocating for policy reforms, conducting research, and providing support services to marginalized communities. Through grassroots mobilization and awareness-raising campaigns, these organizations amplify the voices of women and marginalized groups, ensuring their concerns are addressed in policy deliberations.

International stakeholders and development partners, including organizations like *UN Women*, the *World Bank*, and *USAID*, provide technical assistance, funding, and expertise to strengthen Pakistan's capacity for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. Through collaborative initiatives and capacity-building programs, these entities support the government and civil society in advancing gender equality across various sectors.

Policy Processes:

The process of developing these policies in Pakistan involved various methodologies, most of which are conducted by the NCSW. These include surveys and data collection to understand the current landscape of gender inequality and identifying areas for improvement, undertaking comprehensive analyses of gender indices and indicators, stakeholder engagement, and consultation with experts and international organizations. (60)

Policy Content:

Gender-related policies in Pakistan have been shaped by a complex interplay of historical, cultural, social, and political factors. To address persistent gender-related disparities and advance women's empowerment, Pakistan saw the development of numerous important gender-related policies between 2010 and 2023. With its framework for preventing workplace harassment and guaranteeing safer workplaces for women, the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act of 2010 was a noteworthy legislative milestone (61). Protecting women's rights in the workplace was made possible by this law, which required internal committees to be established in employers to handle harassment complaints. Furthermore, financial aid to families in need, especially those headed by women, was still provided under the *Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)*, which was established in 2008 but strengthened and expanded throughout this time. Giving women more control over their lives was one of the program's dual goals in addition to reducing poverty.

Important contributions to policies that enhance gender equality have also come from provincial governments. A policy that addresses issues like harassment, discrimination, and domestic violence against women is the *Punjab Women Protection Authority Act of 2017* (62). It formed provincial agencies in charge of handling these kinds of cases. In addition to campaigning for legislative changes that would better safeguard women's interests, these authorities were in charge of offering support services to victims of assault. To further combat child marriage, a practice that disproportionately affects girls and reinforces gender inequities, the *Sindh Child Marriage Restriction Act of 2013* was a key legislative initiative (63). There are now sanctions for anyone who arranges or solemnize underage marriages, and the minimum age of marriage has been raised to 18 for both girls and boys.

The content of these policies encompasses a wide range of measures aimed at addressing various forms of gender-based violence, discrimination, and inequality. These policies include provisions for combating rape and sexual violence, protecting victims of domestic violence, and preventing acid attacks and honor killings. One such example is the *Zainab Alert, Response, and Recovery Act* in 2020, aimed at establishing a rapid response system to report and address cases of missing or abducted children (64). Additionally, policies were also put in place to address bonded labor and provide witness protection and shelter homes for survivors of violence. Another key area of focus is the prevention of electronic crimes, recognizing the increasing prevalence of cyber harassment and online abuse targeting women and girls.

Efforts to eliminate harmful cultural practices are also integral to gender equality policies in Pakistan, with initiatives aimed at reducing child marriages and early marriages, which often perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality. Moreover, policies seek to enhance educational and employment opportunities for women, addressing barriers to their participation in the workforce and ensuring equal access to education and economic resources.

Discussion:

Our report showcases a detailed overview of steps being taken in Pakistan to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It sheds light on the efforts made to tackle socioeconomic issues, especially those related to mental health, gender equality, climate action, and overall health.

The report also reiterates the achievements of objectives such as a decline in poverty rates, reduction in the maternal mortality ratio, increased accessibility of energy and clean fuel, better access of education and enhancements in sanitation and water infrastructure. Through initiatives like Balochistan's Comprehensive Development Strategy and Punjab's Growth Strategy, the government has shown promise in aligning SDGs with national development goals. Additionally, efforts have also been made to enhance transportation, encourage entrepreneurship, and promote tourism. These steps highlight Pakistan's dedication to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Pakistan's coordinated efforts demonstrate progress toward achieving the SDGs, nonetheless, challenges persist. At the provincial, district, and local levels, there is a lack of institutional and human capacity for policy analysis, planning, and coordination. To overcome these obstacles targeted investment in policy analysis and planning is required as well as inter-sectoral collaboration within the health sector (7).

Our report shows the importance of the link between sustainable development and mental health. Addressing mental health issues is pivotal to achieving SDGs, such as poverty reduction, education, and gender equality. Despite making progress in enhancing the healthcare system, Pakistan still faces significant barriers in addressing mental health challenges, which require increased funding and more integrated approaches to be employed. With the gradual destigmatization of mental health challenges and healthcare demands, Pakistan's Mental Health Law has seen substantial improvements throughout time. Before 1947, when the country gained its independence, mental health was regulated by the Lunacy Act of 1912, which placed more emphasis on confinement than treatment (27). The government reevaluated the legislation in 1992 and passed the Mental Health Act of 2001, which addresses patient rights, promotion, and treatment. This act, although an improvement from the previous legislation, still lacks a humanistic perspective as it primarily discusses the judicial processes on property rights of mentally challenged persons and their families. It also mentions the establishment of a mental health authority, which either has not been created or is not currently functional. As a result of the Pakistan's 18th amendment to the constitution, each province became responsible to enact its own mental health laws. Provincial laws, however, are a replication of the Mental Health Act of 2001 with few changes. Though it is unclear if these acts will be put into practice,

they placed a strong emphasis on the establishment of psychiatric facilities and enhanced mental healthcare infrastructure (27).

Climate action is crucial considering Pakistan's susceptibility to the effects of climate change. While Pakistan has acknowledged climate-related issues in some policies, there are significant delays in their implementation. For instance, there are still several challenges to overcome when it comes to lowering carbon emissions from the energy and agricultural sectors. Moreover, the approach in most policies tends to be reactive, short-term, and focused on specific events. To effectively address the rising climatic concerns and promote sustainable development, more funding for climate adaptation and enhanced institutional capacity are necessary. It's essential to view every policy and plan from a climate perspective, as integrating climate change considerations into policymaking is key to enabling a seamless shift towards a thriving economy. To embed climate change risks within policy decisions effectively, it's crucial to share and exchange success stories and lessons from the climate mainstreaming efforts of other global and regional communities.

In the context of gender equality, while there has been progress in raising the proportion of women in several fields, there are still large differences between the sexes, especially when it comes to healthcare access and labor force participation. Women's empowerment is nevertheless hampered by social conventions, educational attainment, and economic considerations, which exacerbate health issues and limit socioeconomic advancement. To address these hurdles and advance gender equality, substantial societal reforms as well as legal actions are required. Pakistan ranks 142 out of 146 countries on the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 of the World Economic Forum, which underscores the gender disparities present in the country (65). Targeted efforts have been made for the economic upliftment and protection of women in workplaces or from cybercrimes, but these efforts are required to be more rigorous and proactive. An important accomplishment of the federal government has been the Zainab Alert for the protection of children; however, it is imperative to underscore that this act was made as a reaction to tragic incident rather than a proactive effort to protect children from sexual abuse. Even though, some policies cater to various groups of women or specific issues, such as cyber harassment or inclusion of women in the workforce, there are no policies put in place for minority women, especially considering the high rates of forced conversion of Hindu girls. (66)

In Pakistan, where mental health, gender inequality, and climate change are pressing concerns, conducting regular and comprehensive policy reviews is necessary to identify gaps in the country's policy response as well as to make well-informed decisions regarding budget and resource allocation for the future. According to our analysis, there are implementation issues with most of the policies that were found. Therefore, another potential area for further research is undertaking monitoring and evaluation exercises to gauge how well policies are being implemented.

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Appendix

Theme	Policy
Mental Health	<p>The Mental Health Ordinance, 2001</p> <p>The Sindh Mental Health Ordinance, 2013</p> <p>The Sindh Mental Health Rules, 2014</p> <p>The Sindh Mental Health (Amendment) Act, 2015</p> <p>Mental Health Policy 2023-2030</p> <p>The Punjab Mental Health Act, 2014</p> <p>The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mental Health Act, 2017</p> <p>The Baluchistan Mental Health Act, 2019</p>

Table 1. Mental Health Policies

Theme	Policy
Climate Change	<p>National Climate Change Policy, 2012</p> <p>National Climate Change Policy, 2021</p> <p>National Sustainable Development Strategy, 2012</p> <p>National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, 2012</p> <p>National Disaster Risk Management Policy, 2019</p> <p>National Agriculture and Food Security Policy, 2013</p> <p>Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, 2012</p> <p>Pakistan Trade Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Rules, 2018</p>

	<p>National Forest Policy, 2015</p> <p>Prohibition of Non-degradable Plastic Products Regulations, 2013</p> <p>Ban on Polythene Bags Regulations, 2013</p> <p>Single-use Plastics (Prohibition) Regulations, 2023</p> <p>National Electric Vehicle Policy, 2019</p> <p>National Clean Air Policy, 2023</p> <p>The Parks and Horticulture Authority Act, 2017</p> <p>Sindh Environmental Protection Act, 2014</p> <p>The Baluchistan use of Plastic Shopping and Flat Bags Act, 2023</p> <p>The Baluchistan Environment Protection Act, 2012</p> <p>The Punjab Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2016</p> <p>The Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 2016</p> <p>The Punjab Environment Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2017</p> <p>The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest (Amendment) Act, 2022</p>
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Table 2. Climate Change Policies

Theme	Policy
Gender equality	<p>Anti-rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021</p> <p>Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act, 2017</p> <p>Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016</p> <p>The Investigation for Fair Trial Act, 2013</p> <p>Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996</p> <p>Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2018</p> <p>Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act, 2012</p> <p>Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2011 (Offences of Acid throwing)</p> <p>Criminal Law (Third Amendment) Act, 2011 (Of offences against women)</p> <p>Criminal Law (Second Amendment) Act, 2016 (Criminalizing CSA)</p> <p>Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offence in the name or on the Pretext of Honor) Act, 2016</p>

<p>Criminal Law (Amendment) Offence relating to Rape) Act, 2016</p> <p>Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018</p> <p>Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2021 (Anti-rape provisions)</p> <p>Punjab Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2012</p> <p>Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2014</p> <p>The Punjab Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and child health Authority Act, 2014</p> <p>Child Marriage Restraint 1929 - Punjab (Amendment) Act of 2015</p> <p>The Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act, 2016</p> <p>Punjab Women Protection Authority Act, 2017</p> <p><u>The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2011</u></p> <p><u>Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act, 2011</u></p> <p><u>Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offense of Rape) Act, 2016</u></p> <p><u>Criminal Law (Amendment) (Offences in the Name or Pretext of Honour) Act, 2016</u></p> <p><u>Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016</u></p> <p><u>Punjab Women Protection Authority Act, 2017</u></p> <p><u>Punjab Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 2015</u></p> <p><u>The Punjab Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2012</u></p> <p>Sindh Reproductive Healthcare Rights Act, 2019</p> <p>Sindh Child Marriage Restraint, Act, 2013</p> <p>Sindh Protection of Human Rights Act, 2013</p>
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	<p>Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013</p> <p>Sindh Bonded Labor System (Abolition) Act, 2015</p> <p>The Sindh Anti Street Harassment Bill, 2018</p> <p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Domestic Violence Against Women Act, 2021</p> <p>The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Reproductive HealthCare Rights Act, 2020</p> <p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2016</p> <p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bonded Labor System Abolition Act, 2015</p> <p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elimination of Custom of Ghag Act, 2013</p> <p>The Baluchistan Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2014</p> <p>Baluchistan Harassment of Women at Work place Act, 2014</p> <p>Baluchistan Witness Protection Act, 2016</p> <p>Protection of Violence Against Women Act 2016 - Punjab</p> <p>Protection against Harassment of Women and Workplace Act, 2010</p> <p>The Domestic Violence (Protection and Prevention) Act, 2018 - AJK</p> <p>The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Act, 2022</p> <p>Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2014</p> <p>Sindh Commission on the Status of women Act, 2015</p> <p>Baluchistan Commission on the Status of Women Act, 2017</p>
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	<p>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Women Empowerment Policy Framework, 2015</p> <p>Baluchistan's Gender Policy Action Plan, 2016-2020</p> <p>Women's Development Policy 2018</p> <p>National Gender Policy Framework, 2022</p> <p>Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act, 2020</p> <p>The Zainab Alert, Response and Recovery Act, 2020</p> <p>Protection of Journalist and Media Professionals Bill, 2021</p> <p>Torture, Custodial Death, and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Bill 2020</p> <p>Gender Reform Action Plan, 2005 to 2025</p> <p>National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence, 2016</p>
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Table 3. Gender Equality Policies