COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AND UNICEF 2018-2022
RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

OVERVIEW
EVERY CHILD SURVIVES AND THRIVES - HEALTH
EVERY CHILD SURVIVES AND THRIVES - NUTRITION
EVERY CHILD LEARNS
EVERY CHILD IS PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION
EVERY CHILD LIVES IN A SAFE AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS
ADOLESCENTS
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
FOREWORD

Pakistan was the sixth country in the world to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, less than one year after it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989. However, children and adolescents living in Pakistan still face acute challenges. As soon as children are born, they must overcome neonatal mortality rates that are among the highest in the world. Particularly in rural areas, they often lack access to adequate maternal and child health services, including sanitation. Many children grow up stunted. Without exclusive breastfeeding and access to nutritious food, their growth and development are impaired. Only one-third of children under five have their birth registered, depriving the others of much-needed legal protection.

Things don’t get easier in the second decade of life. Pakistan has the second highest number of out-of-school children in the world — at least 23 million — disproportionally affecting girls. Those who do learn often go to schools that are neither safe, nor adequate, depriving them of the right to quality education. Those who live in heart-wrenching poverty are often forced into child labour or early marriage.

But there is hope. Over the past years, Pakistan has made steady progress for children, and the new government has committed to rise up to the challenges. “No country can prosper when there is a small island of rich people, and a sea of poor,” said Prime Minister Imran Khan, who committed to help children and young people survive, enter school, and develop the skills they need for employment.

UNICEF will continue to support the government to accelerate progress for children, work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and help children realize their rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This will be made through strong partnerships with provincial authorities, teachers and health professionals, frontline workers and social mobilizers, communities and families, and of course children and adolescents themselves.

In particular, UNICEF will work so that:

• Every child survives and thrives, having access to and using proven high impact health and nutrition facility and community-based interventions.
• Every child learns.
• Every child is protected from violence and exploitation and registered at birth.
• Every child lives in a safe and clean environment with access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

This briefing kit takes a deeper look into the challenges children and adolescents face, including the latest data and how governmental interventions have positively impacted children and communities in the past years. It also presents recent research, knowledge and evaluations, strategic directions and the work which UNICEF will implement as part of its country programme to help every child survive and thrive.

Aida Girma
UNICEF Representative in Pakistan
Pakistan is a lower-middle-income country with an estimated population of 195 million. More than 40 per cent of the population are young children and adolescents under the age of 18.\textsuperscript{1}

Advances for children include the adoption and reform of an array of laws such as Constitutional Article 25A on compulsory basic education and the enactment of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child Bill. Pakistan met the Millennium Development Goal 7 target for access to water and sanitation (91 and 64 per cent respectively). Critical advances have been made on polio prevention, and resurgent polio is robustly addressed with national eradication action plans.

Pakistan is moving forward towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite progress, significant challenges remain, as shown by the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).\textsuperscript{2} Among the challenges are continuing poverty and high population growth,\textsuperscript{3} both of which impact human development, child deprivations, and women’s and girls’ well-being.\textsuperscript{4} At present, 39 per cent of people live in multidimensional poverty.\textsuperscript{5} A UNICEF research paper indicates that 40 per cent of children experience two or more severe deprivations, and just under half experience two or more moderate deprivations.\textsuperscript{6} Among the most deprived groups are girls, religious and ethnic minorities, those in rural and remote areas or urban slums, out-of-school children, temporarily displaced populations, and those living in disaster-prone areas.
POLICY ENVIRONMENT

The immense proportion of children in Pakistan’s population has implications for both public and private resource allocations. Based on the Household Integrated Economic Survey 2015-16, the country’s average national household size is 6.31 people. Larger families are the norm in the poorest quintile, while family sizes are much smaller among the richest quintile. Thus, impoverished households have a heavy burden of dependents who stretch their limited household resources, often to breaking point.

Poverty and high population growth negatively impact the well-being of women and girls. The Gender Development Index ranking is 0.726, the lowest among comparable countries in the region; the Gender Inequality Index is 0.536, ranking Pakistan 12 out of 155 countries. Girls continue to experience disparities in education, healthcare and standards of living.

While 38 per cent of adults live in multidimensional poverty, more than half of children are poor, with significant provincial variations. Social development indicators belie extremely limited progress in recent years. The poorest and most marginalised segments of the population remain woefully under-served. As written in the “Vision 2025” document, “in terms of economic indicators, Pakistan is a middle-income country but in social indicators it falls amongst the least developed countries.”

The “Vision 2025” launched by a previous government in 2014 aimed to move the country to upper-middle-income status by prioritizing economic growth and development and the improvement of social indicators. Overall, poverty in Pakistan has been reduced and macroeconomic growth has increased. Disaster management and disaster risk reduction (DRR) remain priorities in a country prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. The new government has declared poverty, child survival, education, and youth employment national priorities.

In December 2018, Pakistan’s National Assembly passed a resolution in which it recognized the rights of every child born in Pakistan as well as mothers. In particular, the House declared that it would work to protect the rights to child and maternal health, birth registration and protection, water and sanitation, nutrition and education.

Pakistan has a federal government but the 18th Constitutional Amendment, adopted in 2010, devolves increased policy, administrative and budget authority to four provincial governments. Strengthened intra-governmental relations, both between the federal level and the provinces/districts (vertical), and between and among the federal ministries and the provinces/districts (horizontal) could make Pakistan’s governance structure stronger and more flexible. It could also facilitate more effective participation and efforts to address synergies among the SDGs.
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Pakistan has made significant progress towards achieving the SDGs and helping children realize their rights under the CRC, including government commitments to adolescent education and reductions in child and maternal mortality, and decreased instances of child marriage. Other achievements include:

• Increased polio prevention and quick response to resurgent polio, reducing the number of missed children by a factor of four
• The prioritization of routine immunisation
• The provincial formulation of cross-sectoral nutrition strategies
• A reduction in stunting from 38 per cent to 34 per cent in Punjab
• Priority actions relating to early childhood development (ECD)
• Increased social protection expenditure to 1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), which is expected to rise
• 36 per cent decrease in people practising open defecation

But as Pakistan works to reach the SDGs and ensure children’s rights under the CRC, challenges remain.

Health

Low investments in public health (0.45 per cent of GDP) as well as governance challenges constrain the capacity of the health system to deliver universal health coverage in line with SDG targets for neonatal and child survival. The maternal mortality ratio has decreased and continues to decline. However, some 8 per cent of adolescent girls give birth before the age of 18 years; under-5 mortality is 2.5 times higher among the poorest quintile and neonatal mortality has remained stagnant (55/1,000). Despite steady progress, only 54 per cent of children aged 12 to 23 months (56 per cent of boys, 51.5 per cent of girls) are fully vaccinated. Five per cent of children are not immunized at all, and immunisation dropout rates are high as a result of service inequities and a lack of parental awareness. Except for the polio vaccine, vaccine refusals are high, including in urban slums. Some 91,000 children die annually from pneumonia and 53,300 from diarrhoea, both linked to populations affected by poor water and sanitation practices and low immunisation rates.
Nutrition

Challenges exist in the quality and quantity of nutritious food available to lower wealth quintile households. Half of all children are chronically malnourished, contributing to low child-survival rates and affecting long-term physical and cognitive development. Mothers are similarly malnourished, perpetuating a negative cycle and affecting the quality of their breastfeeding, even when practiced. Stunting reflects chronic nutritional deprivation and remains at 43.7 per cent (9.6 million children). It is prevalent across all wealth quintiles in both urban and rural areas, with slightly higher rates among boys. Nearly half of stunting cases are severe, and wasting affects 15 per cent of children. Due in part to cultural practices, the rate of early initiation of breastfeeding is low (18 per cent in the first hour after birth, 38 per cent exclusive breastfeeding at 0 to 5 months), and formula use has increased substantially over time. Less than 3 per cent of children receive an adequately diversified diet, nearly 62 per cent are anaemic, more than half are vitamin A-deficient and 40 per cent are deficient in both zinc and vitamin D. Micronutrient fortified foods are often not available. Parents and other caregivers often lack knowledge about how to feed children appropriately and often lack the resources to do so. Provincial Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Units have begun prioritizing cross-sectoral work, and social protection systems need to expand their coverage.

Education

In education, the number of out-of-school children is decreasing and retention rates are improving. However, 22.6 million children aged 5 to 16 years (12.1 million girls; 10.5 million boys) are out of school. Disparities based on gender, geographic location, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status are significant (65 per cent of Sindh’s poorest rural children never attended school; 78 per cent of girls in Balochistan are out of school). Preschool enrolment among children aged 3 to 5 years is 39 per cent, illustrating this group’s limited school readiness, which is frequently the result of multiple factors including malnutrition and lack of early stimulation. Pre-primary education is not yet an official “class,” and the 3 to 4 years age group falls outside article 25A of the Constitution on the right to education. The supply of schools at the pre-primary and secondary levels is low (i.e., only 19 per cent of government schools serve middle and high-school students) and, when available, often lack safe, appropriate infrastructure, particularly in emergency situations. Pakistan has invested in expanding public education and budgets. Despite this, only 2.8 per cent of GDP is spent on education — far from the commitment made of 4 per cent by 2018. The limited enforcement of policy commitments and challenges in equitable implementation impede reaching those most in need.
Protection

Several SDG targets relate to UNICEF’s child protection mandate, including violence against children, child marriage, child labour, and legal identity. Currently, the births of 34 per cent of children under 5 years are registered, with rural rates significantly lower than urban rates (23 versus 59 per cent). This means almost 60 million Pakistani children under the age of 18 years are unable to prove their citizenship and parents legally. Causes include the high cost and time required for registration, bureaucratic hurdles and a lack of knowledge about procedures. Encouragingly, registration rates for newborns have improved significantly with the use of mobile phones.

Limited statistics at the national level are available on violence against children (VAC). Further data collection and analysis on VAC is needed, including on gender-based violence, psychological aggression and physical punishment or violent behaviour as discipline. Legal and policy frameworks are being developed, although challenges remain with regard to effective implementation.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Pakistan has met the Millennium Development Goal 7 target for water and sanitation (91 and 64 per cent respectively) and provincial governments are committing resources to reduce open defecation. The country has made steady progress in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), despite a budget of only 0.2 per cent of the GDP. Drinking-water policies are being developed or are in place in all provinces, with sanitation policies implemented or drafted in nearly all of them. While open defecation has declined considerably, 25 million people still practice it. Access to improved sanitation is over 30 percentage points higher in urban areas than rural ones. Some 18 million people lack access to improved water sources, and 37 million people do not have water within their premises. More than 68 per cent of households drink water unfit for human consumption due to bacterial contamination. Key bottlenecks include the perception that water is a free and infinite resource, and the low availability of water and soap for handwashing at critical times, both of which are highly correlated with poverty. At the institutional level, more accountability is required for the more efficient use of water, for operations and maintenance, and for cleanliness of water. Only two in three primary schools have access to drinking water and/or functional latrines. Most schools are insufficiently equipped with menstrual hygiene management facilities and do not offer information on menstrual hygiene for adolescent girls, negatively affecting their retention after puberty. No data is available on WASH systems in health facilities.

Disaster risk reduction

The national and provincial capacity to respond to natural and man-made disasters has improved. However, Pakistan requires greater attention to child-centred, risk-informed planning and policies that target the specific vulnerabilities facing children and their families, with stronger connections between humanitarian and development programmes.
COUNTRY PROGRAMME

The country programme’s priority results are aligned with, and contribute to Pakistan’s ‘Vision 2025,’ the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022 (UNSDF, also known as ‘One Programme III’).

UNICEF will:

• Increase evidence-based advocacy to push for legislation and policy benefiting children, as well as advocating for strengthened, child-focused systems that use planning, budgeting, cross-sectoral approaches, and delivery monitoring to address disparities.

• Move from a project approach to a programme approach, with less emphasis on pilot/demonstration projects not linked to scale up opportunities and leverage of resources.

• Deepen the continuum and balance between development and humanitarian work aligned with ongoing development of national capacities on DRR and emergency response.

• Expand strategic government partnerships at all levels to reach more disadvantaged children, including in poor urban areas, and strengthen government ownership and accountability, thereby complementing quality civil society partnerships.

• Support communication for development (C4D) for positive behavioural and social change.

• Develop more innovative partnerships with the private sector.

In coordination with federal and provincial governments, UNICEF will work at different levels and sectors to implement policy initiatives for children. The organization will advocate for equity in social spending, while demonstrating cost-effective options to sustain and improve children’s access to quality services. The focus will be on districts with the greatest disparities and worst child-development indicators in rural and urban settings.
In all programme components, UNICEF will implement cross-sectoral strategies to enable girls and boys, including adolescents, to benefit from effective child-focused policies, services, and clear accountabilities. This cross-sector strategic approach will focus on early childhood development and adolescence. Additionally, equity and social policy, gender, communication for development (C4D), and disaster risk reduction will each be incorporated into sectoral programmes to enhance results.

UNICEF will help establish strong policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms, enabling duty bearers to effectively reach the most disadvantaged children and families, particularly those living in urban areas. This will support communities to adopt positive behaviours for childcare.

**Establish strong policy frameworks:** UNICEF will seek to strengthen policy frameworks and corresponding financial support mechanisms to ensure that concrete results for children and adolescents are achieved by the government.

**Strengthen implementation mechanisms:** UNICEF will promote a results-focused approach in public administration with regard to services for, and affecting, children. By using the commitments in the CRC and the SDGs as a basis, UNICEF will build capacity in view of more effective administration of services, particularly at the subnational level.

**Strengthen the five areas:** UNICEF will specifically focus on health, nutrition, education, protection, and WASH where progress is essential for children and their families and for national efforts to succeed in achieving the SDGs.

**Supply side:** UNICEF will seek to train, assist and support duty bearers to effectively reach disadvantaged children, particularly those living in urban areas. UNICEF will support improving policies and financing and implementing strategies for services benefiting children’s rights.

**Demand side:** UNICEF will seek to support communities, families, and parents in adopting positive attitudes and behaviours for improved childcare at home as well as more timely and effective use of social services when required.

**Social inclusion:** A social inclusion element will contribute to policies and systems in view of reducing child poverty, through evidence and high-level technical support.
EXPECTED RESULTS

Every Child Survives

**HEALTH:** By 2022, the most disadvantaged newborns and children benefit from integrated newborn and child health interventions and healthy behaviours

**NUTRITION:** By 2022, the most vulnerable boys and girls, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women through improved utilization of services and improved practices show a measurable reduction in stunting and wasting

Every Child Learns

**EDUCATION:** By 2022, more children, particularly girls and the most disadvantaged, benefit from equitable and appropriate early childhood education/basic education services

Every Child Is Protected from Violence and Exploitation

**CHILD PROTECTION:** By 2022, 65 per cent of girls and boys under-5 are registered in Pakistan, with universal birth registration achieved and embedded within civil registration and vital statistics systems in two provinces, children access appropriate child protection preventive and/or response services, primarily through public case management and referral system in at least two provinces and one territory, and communities practice positive behaviours contributing towards a protective environment for children

Every Child Lives in a Safe and Clean Environment

**WASH:** By 2022, more people in Pakistan including women and children and the most deprived stop practicing open defecation, and have access and use safely managed water and sanitation services in rural and deprived urban areas

Cross-sectoral

- Early childhood development
- Adolescents

PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCES

UNICEF will work with an increasing variety of partners to help accelerate Pakistan’s efforts towards achieving the SDGs. This will include strengthened partnerships with the government, including the relevant federal ministries and provincial government departments. We will work with registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, media, and the private sector to promote sustainability. We will contribute to strengthening partner capacity.

We will also continue to work with other United Nations agencies as part of the UN country team and the “One UN” approach, and on bilateral cooperation to strengthen government ownership and accountability. We will also develop more innovative partnerships with the private sector.

Civil society, academia, and private sector play an important role in building consensus and systems to address the many challenges. Broader societal participation leads to knowledge exchange and valuable innovations.
Main UNICEF Partners

Partners in government:
- Ministry of Climate Change
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Elementary and Professional Development
- Ministry of Human Rights
- Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination
- Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms
- Academy of Education Planning and Management
- Expanded Programme for Immunization
- Federal Ombudsman’s Office/Office of the National Commissioner for Children
- National and Provincial/area Disaster Management Authorities
- National and Provincial Emergency Operations Centres
- National Commission for Human Rights
- National Education Assessment System
- Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
- Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources
- Prime Minister’s Task Force and Focus Group; Provincial and Divisional Task Forces for Polio Eradication
- Provincial/area Bureaus of Statistics
- Provincial/area Departments of Education
- Provincial/area Departments of Health
- Provincial/area Departments of Labour and Human Resources
- Provincial/area Local Government and Rural Development Departments
- Provincial/area Non-Formal Education Departments/ Directorates
- Provincial/area Planning and Development Departments
- Provincial/area Public Health Engineering Departments
- Provincial/area Social Welfare Departments

Partners in development:
- United States Fund for UNICEF
- GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance
- UK Aid
- Japan
- UAE Crown Prince Court
- Germany
- European Union
- USAID
- UNOCHA
- Italy

Secondary donors:
- Rotary International Polio Plus
- Gates Foundation
- Norwegian telethon
- UN Foundation
- Norwegian Committee for UNICEF
- Global Partnership for Education
- Canada
- Canadian Committee for UNICEF
- Australian Committee for UNICEF
- French Committee for UNICEF
- Japan Committee for UNICEF
- Walt Disney
- New Venture Fund
- Individual donors
Donor agencies and private foundations

UNICEF Pakistan has successfully strengthened partnerships with major donors through briefings, joint field visits, programme launches and events, increased social media presence, and developed high-quality proposals and reporting. These efforts increased awareness and visibility of UNICEF’s programmes and maintained our position as the partner of choice for many development partners. Close partnerships have been developed with key donors such as USAID, Canada, DFID, the European Union, Japan, JICA, the IKEA Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, GAVI and Rotary International among others.

UNICEF Pakistan will continue to strengthen existing partnerships with both public and private sector partners as well as diversify funding sources, all in view of achieving more results for children. The office has proactively contributed to the development of joint UN programmes for cross-sectoral interventions resulting in additional resources being allocated to UNICEF along with sister UN agencies such as UNFPA, UNDP, WFP, UNHCR, FAO and IOM to implement coordinated joint programmes as part of the One UN programme. It is envisaged that more funding will be channeled through this mechanism in the coming years.

Partners in the field:

- Action Against Hunger
- Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
- Balochistan Boys Scouts Association
- Balochistan Rural Support Programme
- Bunyad Literacy Community Council
- Civil Society Human and Institution Development Programme
- College of Youth Activism and Development
- Drug and Narcotics Educational Services for Humanity Balochistan
- Health Education and Literacy Programme
- Health Nutrition Development Society Karachi
- Help in Need
- Human Development Organization Doaba
- Indus Resource Centre
- Islamic Relief
- Lodhran Pilot Project
- Muslim Aid
- National Institute of Urban Infrastructure Planning, University of Engineering and Technology
- National Rural Support Programme
- Oxford Poverty and Human Development
- Peace Education And Development Foundation
- Plan International
- Punjab Rural Support Programme
- Qatar Charity
- Rural Support Programmes Network
- Sarhad Rural Support Programme
- Sindh Agricultural Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization
- Social Action Bureau for Assistance in Welfare and Organizational Networking
- Society for Empowering Human Resource
- Strengthening Participatory Organization
- Islamic Development Bank
- World Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- Asian Development Bank

International finance institutions:

- Islamic Development Bank
- World Bank
- Asian Development Bank

Donor agencies and private foundations

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**BUDGET**

The annual regular resources planning level for the country programme is US $31.25 million-US $156.27 million for a five-year period. The other resources allotment level has been US $55.6 million on average in the past three years. The current country programme has a higher ceiling of US $88.75 million per annum proposed, for a five-year planning level of US $443.73 million. This brings the total annual planned ceiling amount to US $120 million and the overall country programme ceiling to US $600 million.

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<tr>
<th>Programme Components</th>
<th>US$ (in thousands)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RR¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal and Child Survival</td>
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<td>Nutritional Status of Girls and Boys</td>
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<td>Safely Managed Water and Sanitation Services</td>
<td>20,940</td>
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<td>Children in School and Learning</td>
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<td>Children protected from violence</td>
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<td>• Children are registered at Birth</td>
<td>9,647</td>
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<td>Programme Effectiveness</td>
<td>46,659</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>156,270</td>
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1. Regular Resources
2. Other Resources

**PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT**

UNICEF is implementing a robust country programme with built-in accountability measures. Results are reviewed at quarterly and annual meetings with the government and key partners, and corrections are based on lessons learned.

The programme and risk management strategy identify key inhibiting factors and their impact on children and service-delivery systems; establish well-resourced and cross-sectoral approaches involving programme staff and communications; strengthen the capacity of provincial governments and partners; mobilize and leverage resources to achieve results; assess programme delivery approaches to further increase the cost effectiveness of activities, safety, security, efficiency and value for money; and implement plans based on audit recommendations to adopt risk-informed programming that strengthens sustainability and reformulates cost-effectiveness.
Monitoring and evaluation

The results and resources framework is the basis for monitoring and evaluation. Accountabilities for results are enforced through a yearly plan, the implementation and review of research, impact monitoring and evaluation, and the costed evaluation plan. Performance is measured through rigorous programmatic monitoring, annual reviews, situation assessments such as multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS), programmatic and country-led evaluations, and strategic research.

Biannual review meetings with the Economic Affairs Division enable UNICEF to follow up on implementation and results. We also work to strengthen systems by building and supporting national capacities on monitoring and evaluation for the SDGs. Joint work with other United Nations agencies supports the generation and utilization of evidence, with timely programme adjustments and planning based on formative and summative research and evaluations. UNICEF contributes to strengthen partner capacity to generate and use equity-focused data, including to measure progress.

Endnotes

3 Total Fertility Rate among the poorest is 5.2, compared to 2.7 among the richest, meaning that the doubling time for the poor population is half that of the richest. National Institute of Population Studies. 2013. *Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2012-13*. Government of Pakistan. Islamabad.
4 Pakistan ranks 147th out of 188 countries in the 2015 Human Development Index, placing it in the low human development category, with an inequality-adjusted HDI loss of a further 29.9 percent. The female HDI value for Pakistan is 0.436, compared to 0.601 for males, resulting in a Gender Development Index value of 0.726, lowest among comparable countries in the region; the Gender Inequality Index is 0.536, ranking Pakistan 121st out of 155 countries.
6 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
10 2005-06 data.
11 Vision 2025, op. cit.
14 See booklet on cross-sectoral programming in this briefing kit.
16 The Economic Affairs Division is responsible for assessment of requirements, programming and negotiations of external economic assistance related to the Government of Pakistan and its constituent units from foreign Governments and multilateral agencies.

The maps in this publication are stylized and not to scale. They do not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The dotted line between Jammu and Kashmir represents approximately the Line of Control agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the Parties.