

ANNUAL REPORT

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Catalyzing
the transition
towards sustainable
development

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SDPI is an independent, non-profit research institute on sustainable development.

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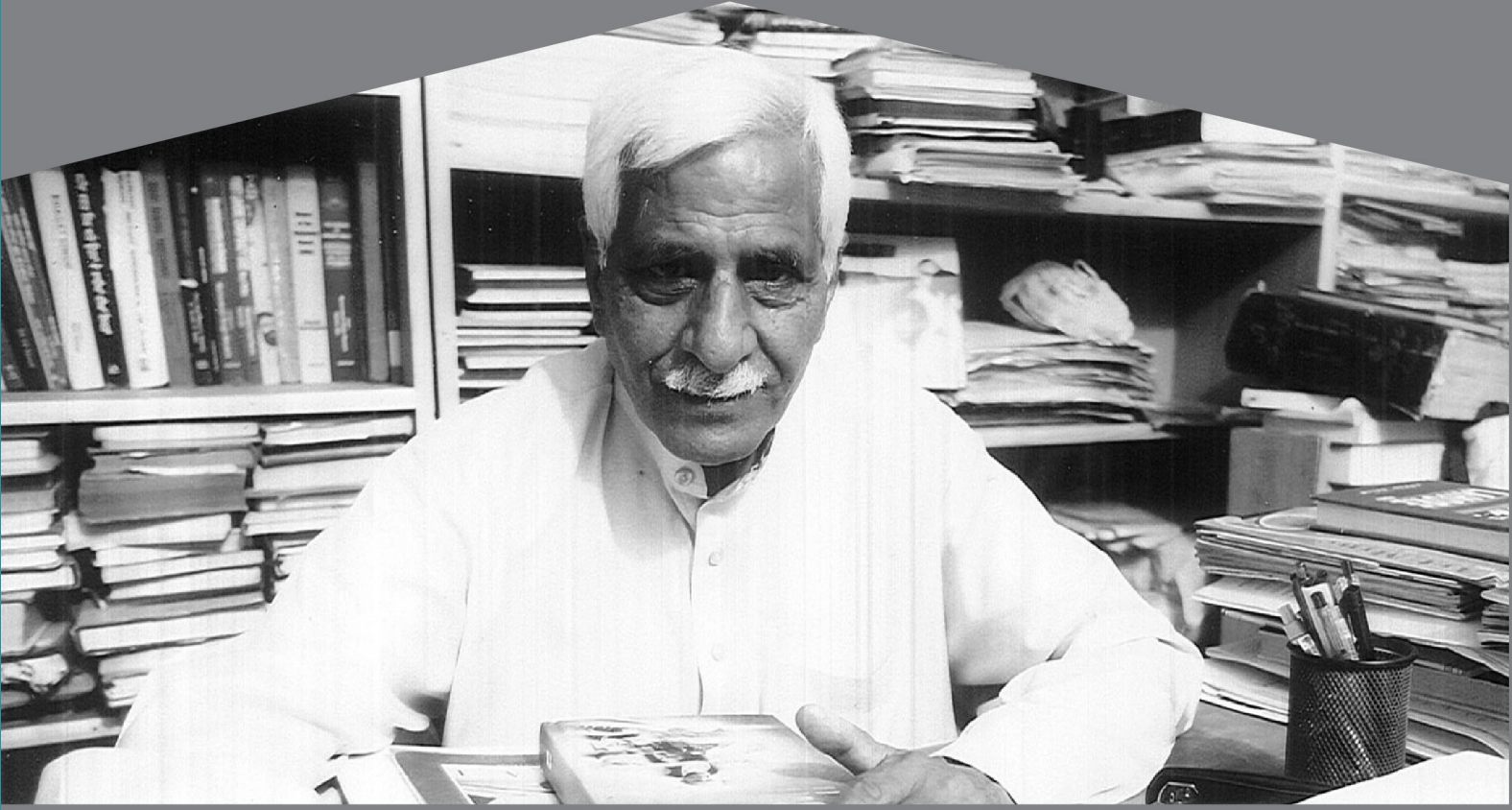
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Saleem Khilji

Designed by:

Umair Hassan

Goodbye Ahmed Salim



A soul missed beyond measure

اک پیڑھوندی اے، بیگانگی دی
پر آپ اپنے وطن وچ
جدوں بندے اُتے ایہہ قیامتاں ڈگدیاں نیں
اوہنا پلاں وچ
ماں! اسیں تینوں اڈیکدے آں

This report is dedicated to late Ahmed Slim
who was recognition to SDPI

(Continued on page 121)

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT SDPI

Founded three decades ago (August 1992) on the recommendation of Pakistan National Conservation Strategy (NCS), also called Pakistan's Agenda 21, SDPI was registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. The NCS outlined the need for an independent policy think tank to serve as a source of expertise for policy formulation, policy analysis, policy intervention, and policy programme advisory services. SDPI strives for bridging research-policy gap through effective policy outreach and capacity building.

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MISSION

To catalyze the transition towards sustainable development defined as the enhancement of peace, social justice and wellbeing within and across generations

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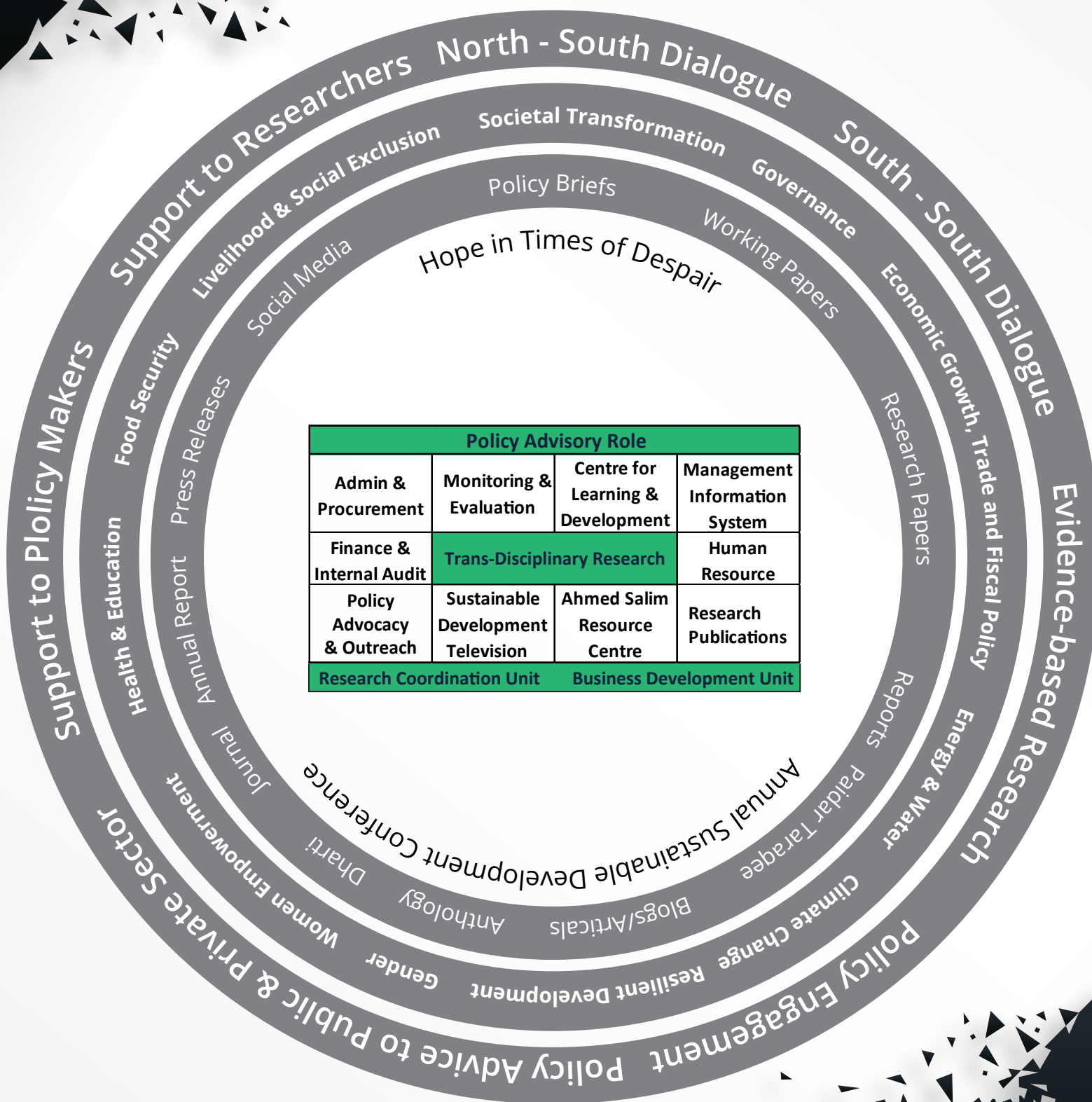
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VISION

To be the centre of excellence on sustainable development policy research, capacity building and advocacy in Pakistan

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SDPI at a Glance



Policy Advisory Role			
Admin & Procurement	Monitoring & Evaluation	Centre for Learning & Development	Management Information System
Finance & Internal Audit	Trans-Disciplinary Research		Human Resource
Policy Advocacy & Outreach	Sustainable Development Television	Ahmed Salim Resource Centre	Research Publications
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Pictorial Frames of 26th Sustainable Development Conference











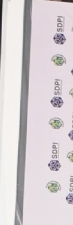












Light at the End of the Tunnel: Hope in Times of Despair

26th SITC

November 2023

Islamabad



Sustainability Investment Expo 2023





Hackathon for Food Security & Pak-Afghan Trade in Agriculture



SDPI at COP-28



Pakistan, a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, set up its pavilion at the 28th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 28) held in the United Arab Emirates from 30th November to 12th December 2023.

Pakistani team participated in a number of side events focusing on the country's vulnerability and resilience towards climatic events. The events, including panel discussions and plenaries, revolved around topics ranging from floods to voluntary carbon markets. Delegates from around 200 countries participated in the COP 28, who discussed how to contain climate change during this two-week long conference.

SDPI was part of the Pakistani delegation comprising government officials from the Ministries of Climate Change and Foreign Affairs, National Disaster Management Authority and National Disaster Risk Management Fund. SDPI assumed the lead source in providing climate information during different plenaries and discussions.

During the discussions, SDPI team led by its Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri advocated for scaling up climate finance and simplifying the process to access it. He underscored that the developing counties, G-77 plus and China need to establish unity for working out indigenous solutions as just energy transition without proper finances is elusive. He suggested that Pakistan should also establish its own loss and damage fund to address the inequalities due to climate crisis.

POLICY RESEARCH

FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTRE

02

ZERO HUNGER



National Precision Agriculture: A blueprint study

Time Frame: November 2022 - March 2024

Introduction

Precision Agriculture (P-Ag) is a smart farming management approach that leverages Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) such as IoT, mobile apps, remote sensing, GPS/GIS, VRT, UAVs, etc. to enhance crop production, boost economic efficiency, and improve environmental quality. By utilizing these technologies, farmers can make informed decisions regarding fertilizer and seed application, pest control, irrigation, and machinery operation. Precision Agriculture is a promising solution to address the impact of agricultural inputs on soil and the environment, allowing for precise and site-specific input application of seed, fertilizer, water, and pesticides, with a focus on profit optimization while minimizing the risk of environmental degradation.

Under this backdrop, there are potential measures and ways to overcome challenges of precision agriculture adoption in Pakistan. SDPI is working with key public sector organizations for the identification of adoptability pathways for ICT and artificial intelligence-based precision agriculture systems, which include Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS); data collection, storage, and analysis for small, medium, and large farms; high-performance computing services; drone regulation and real-time air space monitoring for drones; satellite-based services;



bio/nano-fertilizers, pesticides, and soil microbes; and hydroponic greenhouses.

SDPI sees this opportunity as part of a broader agenda for agricultural growth in the country as envisioned by the Agriculture Transformation Plan's 'Mechanization' component. It will also help increase agricultural productivity to levels comparable to other regional and developed countries. In this backdrop, it is imperative to conduct a comprehensive study to analyse the prospects of P-Ag in Pakistan.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A few consultations of stakeholders, Focal Group Discussions, and Key Informative Interviews were conducted at provincial and federal level with the aim to understand the different perspectives as well as estimate the market potential for Precision Agriculture Technologies (PATs) in Pakistan.

A field survey was carried out to identify the precision agriculture adoptability pathways at the farm level.

Two seminars were organized to share results of the survey findings with stakeholders on adoptability pathways and options for introducing PATs in Pakistan.

OUTCOMES

More specifically, the study will provide:

- Mapping and analysis of stakeholders (from government, industry, farmers) and SWOT Analysis & Key Challenges identification for DAAS (Drone-As-A-Service) implementation in Pakistan.
- Supply chain handlers, ICT solution providers, and academia to be involved in the precision agriculture interventions (Research, Development, Outreach, etc.).
- Avenues for a dynamic, robust, and competitive Precision Agricultural Technologies (PATs) industry to cater to the needs of Pakistan and the world with high-quality products as well as new job opportunities through the introduction of service layer and analysis of suitable business model(s) for the service industry of P-Ag.
- Programme Design and Corresponding Budget for National Roll-out of Precision Agriculture Technologies (mentioned above) Commercialization & Acceleration Programme.
- Implementation and coordination strategies at provincial level with corresponding economic impact analysis with special consideration to Public Private Partnership arrangements.
- Analysis of commercial potential of indigenously developed components of a Precision Agricultural Technologies (PATs). Moreover, develop a comprehensive business plan for the prototype precision agricultural technologies.



Focal Person: Dr Kashif Majeed Salik (kashif@sdpi.org)

Partnership for Advocacy on Nutrition related Policies in Pakistan

Time Frame: May 2023- April-2024

Partner: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is in dire need of an all-encompassing national nutrition policy to guide the federating units to adopt a context appropriate harmonized approach (e.g. food system, education system, social protection system, WASH system, health system, etc.) in line with the national and provincial priorities and evolving trends. The project will mobilize multiple stakeholders from diverse sectors to participate in engagement workshops and take ownership of the policy formulation process. National and provincial level stakeholders, including implementation authorities, the SUN business network, young experts, and women- and youth-led organizations working on nutrition will participate in consultations, engage, and connect with each other and provide inputs to policies.

Objectives: This initiative aims to assist the government of Pakistan to formulate the following nutrition related policies and measures.

Pakistan Multisectoral National Nutrition Policy 2023-30

Devised in coordination with the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, this policy will be the guiding document for all provinces to adopt a context-specific and synergized systems-level approach.

National Healthy Diets Policy

This policy will address the dietary needs of the population with the help of the government for aligning, strengthening, and prioritizing the actions needed to ensure improved access, availability, and demand of healthy diets.

National Nutrition Research Agenda

This will serve as the guidance tool for different entities working on Nutrition in Pakistan. Similarly, under this agenda top ten priority areas will be identified for providing guidance to academia and research entities to conduct research.

Food System Dashboard

A 'Subnational Food Systems Dashboard' will be set up in partnership with the government to collect national and local data across a range of key food system indicators. This dashboard will enable experts to utilize data for policymaking and future studies.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

An advocacy campaign is underway taking all stakeholders on board to develop a critical mass through a vibrant engagement with legislators, media, health/nutrition experts, line departments and thought leaders from the very beginning. The help of social and traditional media (both print and electronic) is being taken as an instrument to create momentum.

OUTCOME

A policy Implementation Plan having inputs and consensus of diverse stakeholders, with roles and responsibilities clearly defined and agreed on, to ensure the successful introduction and implementation of nutrition policies.

Focal Person: Qasim Shah (qasim@sdpi.org)

China–Pakistan Economic Corridor: Green Development Programme

Time Frame: May 2023 – April 2024

Partner: Embassy of People’s Republic of China, Islamabad

INTRODUCTION

SDPI has conducted extensive evidence-based outreach activities to create an enabling environment for greening of the investments under CPEC. While Pakistan and China have shown policy support for the green development, the geopolitical turmoil driven by the Russia-Ukraine conflict had immediate adverse socio-economic impacts on Pakistan’s energy sector. On the one hand, it imperiled the economic recovery from COVID-19, inflation, energy and food in-security, on the other, disruption in energy supply chain is among the current challenges faced by the decision makers. Apart from the energy sector, China has also made significant strides in agriculture and transport sectors. Being an agriculture-based economy, this also provides an opportunity for Pakistan to learn from the Chinese practices. This also opens a wide number of opportunities, including cross-country capacity building, knowledge sharing, and trade programmes.

To address these opportunities, SDPI and Embassy of People’s Republic of China are collaborating to foster green development under CPEC around two broader themes, i.e. i) Sustainable Energy, and ii) Sustainable Agriculture. This project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- By mid-2024, the project aims to communicate the socio-economic benefits of sustainable agriculture (Precision and Climate Smart) and its development prospects under CPEC to all the stakeholders through research-led advocacy activities.
- By mid-2024, the project aims to minimize policy and regulatory barriers hindering the investment of Chinese private sector in Sustainable Energy of Pakistan.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- A policy dialogue on “Transforming the Power Sector: Exploring the Prospects of China-Pakistan Just Energy Transition Partnership” was held.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- To upscale Chinese private sector financing, there is a need to develop a long-term policy for renewable energy-based adaptation and mitigation plans to ensure mechanism for facilitation and promotion of investments in RE projects.
- There is a dire need for the capacity building of financial institutions, policy makers, developers and the affected communities on environmental (and social) risk evaluation, risk management and relevant international reporting for energy projects with international collaboration as well as digital and offline knowledge sharing.

- A High-Level Symposium on “Renewable Energy Collaboration under CPEC: A Diplomatic Discourse” was held.
- A High-Level Policy Dialogue on “Climate Smart Agriculture: Lessons from China” will be organized.
- Annual State of Renewable Energy Conference 2023 will be organized.

OUTCOMES

The following publications will be produced.

- A scoping study on “Sustainable Agriculture in Pakistan: Cross learnings from China”.
- A policy paper on “Fostering the drive to sustainable energy: Options and Challenges for the Chinese Private Sector”.
- Policy briefs on Secondary Markets for Solar PV in Pakistan.
- Formation of Committee on Sustainable Agriculture with key experts from both China and Pakistan.

Focal Person: Ubaid ur Rehman Zia (ubaid@sdpi.org)

Innovation for Food Security and Pak–Afghan Trade in Agriculture: Bridging Ideas to Action through Hackathon and Funding Partnerships

Time Frame: July 2023- February 2024

Partners: Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)

INTRODUCTION

After the COVID-19 pandemic followed by Russian invasion of Ukraine, the extreme climate conditions and supply chain disruptions led to external price shocks and a deteriorating food security outlook in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Floods in Pakistan affected millions of people, who are now facing food shortages and malnutrition. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has projected that around 73% of households in flood-affected areas have inadequate resources to afford basic nutritional food, which means Pakistan's progress towards achieving SDG-2 is not satisfactory.

According to the United Nations, 95% of the population in Afghanistan is not having enough food and this percentage increases to 100% in female-headed households. As many as 28 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan are faced with acute malnutrition and 3.5 million children require nutritional treatment support. Trade-based linkages between the two countries, which could increase the supply of food and reduce prices, are also weak. This project aims to present practical solutions to the issue.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- A 2-day Hackathon was organized in Islamabad from November 17- 18 where experts from both the countries presented practical solutions to tackle food-related challenges.
- A number of seminars/webinars were held during Hackathon.
- The Project Report will be launched.

OUTCOME

The hackathon has served as a platform for promoting startup culture and innovative ecosystem focusing on local solutions for food security in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Focal Person: Asif Javed (asifjaved@sdpi.org)

SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE GROWTH

08

DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Technical Assistance for Pakistan Single Window (PSW) – Bridging Digital Innovation and Sustainability

Time Frame: June 2022 to June 2023

Partners: Centre for International Private Enterprise / National Network of Economic Think-Tanks

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan Single Window (PSW) is an integrated digital platform that allows parties involved in trade to lodge standardized information and documents with a single-entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. PSW required assistance for developing a capacity-building programme to ensure its sustainability. SDPI developed an e-learning platform that shall be utilized to organize regular trainings, and certifications for the PSW users and all other stakeholders.

This project mainly focused on mapping of PSW processes in line with the United Nations 2030 agenda. The data shared by Federal Bureau of Revenue and PSW was utilized for the creation of knowledge products.

SDPI shall support PSW to facilitate democratic governance through open trade, accountability, transparency, and responsive government through the positive engagement of the vibrant, inclusive, ethical, and empowered private sector. Furthermore, the awareness campaign and capacity-building initiatives will result in more informed stakeholders for trade ecosystem-level development resulting in the achievement of PSW's long-term goals.

Objectives: This project aims to align the SDPI's research on economic growth with that of Pakistan Single Window (PSW) in areas of action research, advocacy & outreach, and capacity-building. It also aims to aware all stakeholders of the international trade ecosystem about inclusive communication, training, certification, and accreditation mechanisms of the PSW.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Under this project, the following activities were carried out.

- 20 Key Informant Interviews and four Focus Group Discussions were held with a diverse set of stakeholders in private sector, including women, and minority people



owning their business.

- A series of five hybrid trainings and five hybrid ToTs were conducted in Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad. For each of the hybrid training sessions, the modules focused on “Digital opportunities for traders and entrepreneurs”, “Free Trade Agreements”, “GSP+”, “Trade Maps”, and “Orientation to PSW”. For the ToTs, the modules focused on “Train the Trainer program” and “What PSW is”.
- A series of bilingual (English and Urdu) outreach and awareness-raising activities was done, which included 12 podcasts, 11 webinars, four quarterly private sector awareness sessions in remote cities unable to join webinars, four quarterly media briefings for the media fraternity, and two Op-Eds were published in leading English dailies.
- One Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) was organized that focused on involving a broader network of stakeholders from civil society, academia, private sector, media, and government to present and discuss the technical policy paper.
- Two methodological frameworks titled: “Sustainability Framework” and “Trade Facilitation Monitor”, were produced.

OUTCOMES

An independent institutional Private Sector Advisory Committee (PSAC) was formed comprising representatives from importers, exporters, logistic partners, financial institutions, academia, and think tanks.

- A technical policy paper having several operational and strategic recommendations was produced.
- An e-learning platform was established for the traders who can benefit from the courses and curriculum. The courses provide

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- A consensus should be built on the reform agenda implementation items such as PSW. Recently, the requirement for consensus creation with regard to economic policies is being debated by the government. This requires a charter of the economy between all mainstream political parties.
- The political consensus should in no way be a factor in limiting the policy, legislative, regulatory, and procedural reforms that should be included in the continuous improvement cycle of the PSW. The PSW company needs to provide a timeline on the public website for both micro and macro-level interventions that will be carried out in the PSW system in the near future.
- The surveys may be conducted for the target audience of the users through online or telephonic inquiry and will eventually create feedback optimizing the performance of each feature of the PSW.
- The integration issues with the financial institutions need to be resolved as soon as possible.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the PSW system should be done on regular basis by engaging academia and research institutes by forming a dedicated working group on trade facilitation.

Train the Trainer (ToT) modules on PSW based on the needs assessment of PSAC members.

IMPACT

The capacity-building programme has been made an integral part of the PSW operations. It will bridge the gap between the public and private sectors. The formulation of PSAC will help improve the overall trade ecosystem by providing staunch recommendations to PSW governing council.



Focal Person: Ahad Nazir (ahad@sdpi.org)

Mobilizing Economic Reformers to Keep Critical Civic Space Open in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Time Frame: July 2021 to June 2023

Partners: Centre for International Private Enterprise/National Network of Economic Think-Tanks

INTRODUCTION

The project was specifically designed for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to assess the business regulatory environment for various segments, geographies, and firms in the province. Problems faced by the large enterprises in the province discourage small businesses to scale up and foreign investors to enter into joint ventures. Through an inclusive and scientific approach, progress on evidence collection and subsequent outreach and communication activities was made that led to an inductive perception about the private sector in the regulatory environment of the province. The project focused on the accountability and principles of democracy by convincing the government to employ evidence-based decision-making and working on both the supply and demand side for a better business regulatory environment.

Objective: To ensure that true principles of democracy and accountability are practiced, the project aims to provide an evidence-based set of recommendations that can be taken forward to facilitate the private sector in playing its role in society and, in hindsight, result in an inclusive decision-making process with an enhanced focus on debate and consultation.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Following activities were held during the project time frame:

- A survey was conducted with a focus on developing a strategy for KP Business regulatory environment. A business assessment report was also produced.
- Pre-budget proposals for the FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 were collected from all the chambers of commerce and Industries as well as business associations.

OUTCOMES

- One policy brief focusing on the perspectives of marginalized communities, including women, youth, and local businesses especially in Newly Merged Districts, was produced.
- One policy brief with a focus



on the investment regime in KP was produced.

- One policy paper that explores the potential of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade in improving KP's business environment was produced.
- A legal review was conducted followed by a validation public-private dialogue that helped in improving the legislative aspect of doing business in KP.
- Eight Op-Eds were published in English, Urdu, and local dialects in leading newspapers.
- Seven Public-Private Dialogues (PPDs) were organized by the National Network of Economic Think Tanks (NNETT) with a regional (divisional) focus, resulting in the development of staunch policy recommendations.
- More than 300 stakeholders were engaged during the project, who were briefed on how to improve their businesses.

IMPACT

A ease of doing business strategy devised by the SDPI will certainly improve the overall business regulatory environment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Focal Person: Ahad Nazir (ahad@sdpi.org)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need to strengthen coordination and collaboration among various sectors and stakeholders involved in KP's development to optimize resources and expertise for more effective outcomes.
- Tax relief measures, particularly in sales and income taxes, need to be proposed to alleviate the financial burden on small businesses and encourage their growth and sustainability.
- There is a need to advocate for grants and financial support specifically aimed at supporting the growth and development of micro and small enterprises.
- The implementation of robust import control measures should be prioritized to address trade imbalances and regulatory challenges. This will create a more balanced trade environment and provide a foundation for promoting export growth.
- Regular interaction between academia and industry should be encouraged for knowledge exchange, innovation, and research collaboration. This integration will bridge the gap between theoretical learning and practical applications, supporting industry growth and technological advancements.
- The government should promote the cottage industry by developing the local infrastructure to improve their market visibility.

Small Businesses, Big Impacts

1): A Fair COVID-19 Recovery for MSEs in S. Asia Based on Country-Level Studies of Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka

Time Frame: January 2022 - December 2023

Partner: Southern Voice (SV) – Global Hub

INTRODUCTION

The COVID -19 pandemic widely impacted micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in South Asia, leading to closure of businesses, income loss, and job cuts. Employing a mixed-method approach, including surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, the research reveals that the government interventions were instrumental in sustaining MSMEs during the crisis. However, disparities in accessibility hindered many informal and unregistered businesses from accessing vital financial support and exacerbating pre-existing income inequalities. Gendered inequalities were pronounced with women entrepreneurs and workers facing prolonged recovery periods. MSMEs showcased resilience by adopting digital tools and leveraging social capital to navigate challenges. Despite these coping mechanisms, substantial layoffs and wage cuts occurred, particularly in the informal sector.

This study underscores the pressing need for more inclusive and targeted support mechanisms to ensure a resilient recovery for MSMEs while addressing persistent gender, urban-rural, formal, and informal inequalities.

Objective: This study examines the profound impact of the pandemic on MSMEs in Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka with a particular focus on inequalities, coping mechanisms, and policy responses.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Governments in the region should craft policies that are explicitly tailored to MSMEs' unique profiles, incorporating variables like size, industry sector, and gender of the owner.
- The rapid pace of digitalization has been both a challenge and an opportunity for MSMEs.
- Recognizing the varying degrees of digital readiness among MSMEs, governments should introduce a comprehensive digital toolkit.
- The value of community-based models and social capital cannot be overlooked. To facilitate recovery, governments should take proactive steps to cultivate social networks, peer interactions, and network literacy, particularly among marginalized communities.

Focal Person: Dr Fareeha Armughan (fareehaarmughan@sdpi.org)

2): Pandemics, Small & Microenterprises, and Fair Recovery in Pakistan

Time Frame: January 2022 - July 2023

Partner: Southern Voice (SV) – Global Hub

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent policy measures had a significant impact on Small and Micro Enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan. It has not only exacerbated the existing challenges but also created new inequalities for the owners and workers of the SMEs.

The lockdowns resulted in decreased production activities, affecting both demand and supply, which, in turn, created a notable effect on the financial health of SMEs. It led to significant inequalities between and within these enterprises and the workers, thus highlighting the need for urgent policy action to address these issues.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The key factors in effectively responding to a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic is reliable data.
- It is crucial to provide small and micro enterprises with financial support that is tailored to their needs. This includes funds and loans that allow for sufficient time to repay and achieve business goals, thus creating a more stable economic system.
- To support women entrepreneurs in accessing finance, the government can encourage female ownership in their sectors.
- By collaborating with private sector entities and relevant organizations, the government can cultivate an environment that nurtures IT growth.
- Formal mechanisms for registering employees with enterprises can help reduce inequalities between formal and informal employment. The government can facilitate this by ensuring that employees are covered by insurance and by strictly enforcing labor laws.

Objectives: This study aims to explore the pandemic impact on the SMEs in general and looks at their financial health in particular, e.g. the adverse effects on workers, and the coping strategies of owners and employees.

The study further draws the urgent attention of the government to act and implement measures to ensure the sustainability of SMEs in a post-COVID era in alignment with SDGs 1, 5, 8, and 10.

OUTCOME

A research paper titled: Small Business, Big Impacts: Pandemics, Small & Microenterprises, and Fair Recovery in Pakistan, was published.

Focal Person: Dr Fareeha Armughan (fareehaarmughan@sdpi.org)

Gender Policy & Economic Development: Applying the Disaster Resilience Lens

Time Frame: March 2023 – November 2023

Partners: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office/Revenue Mobilization Investment & Trade

INTRODUCTION

The recent floods in Pakistan have caused a big loss of lives and livelihoods. A more adverse impact can be seen on women, who were impacted socially and economically. The devastation caused by the floods generated a national debate to build resilience especially of women, who are even more vulnerable to increased disaster risk. Pre-floods, Pakistan had launched a comprehensive National Gender Policy Framework, State Bank launched its financial inclusion strategy, while the Board of Investment has been working on the Asaan Karobar Act 2023 to give a legal structure to Regulatory Modernization. All these three policy frameworks focus the financial empowerment of women at a time when disaster risk was not man made. Thus, the recent floods and its impact on women and increased future risks have made it important to review these policy frameworks to address them from the Disaster Risk Reduction perspective and include recommendations that can lead to improved policy frameworks and implementation vis-a-vis gender.

Objectives: The study aims to assess gaps in three policies/acts defined above from a purely gender angle and additionally how these need to be modified to help women become more resilient against future disasters. The study has suggested amendments or augmentation to these policies and laws to make them more responsive to gender empowerment and building resilience of women against disasters.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A desk review and a statistical analysis was conducted. Besides, a stakeholders' consultation and seminars were organized.

OUTCOME

A research report titled: Gender Policy & Economic Development: Applying the Disaster Resilience Lens, was published.

Focal Person: Dr Fareeha Armughan (fareehaarmughan@sdpi.org)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) approach needs to be outlined in detail. It must include Theory of Change as an important component that assess the impact of women entrepreneurship programmes.
- Access to finance encourages women to initiate their own small business, and it may help women entrepreneurs to expand and grow their ongoing business.

Firms' Financial Inclusion and Export Performance: Evidence from Manufacturing Sector of Pakistan

Time Frame: April 2022 – September 2023

Partners: Research for Social Transformation & Advancement/ Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's export performance remained low and unimpressive despite employing several measures to improve it. Limited availability of long-term financing for firms to expand export capacity is one of the key factors impeding Pakistan's export performance. Literature provides robust evidence on the fact that firms' financial inclusion ensures sustainable economic growth induced by export performance and orientation. The study aims to conceptualize the impact of firms' financial inclusion on export performance in the case of Pakistan. It further quantifies the effect of firms' financial variables and other covariates on firms' export performance through Multi-Factor Model. The sample includes the manufacturing firms listed on Pakistan Stock Exchange, and the data comes from firms' balance sheet variables ranging from 1999-2020.

Objective: The study aims to provide an evidence-based policy framework that facilitates sustainable economic growth via robust export performance.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Literature Review, Data Digitization and Collection, and GMM and Quantile Regression Analysis were carried out.

OUTCOME

A research report titled: Firms' Financial Inclusion and Export Performance: Evidence From Manufacturing Sector of Pakistan, was published.

Focal Person: Dr Fareeha Armughan (fareehaarmughan@sdpi.org)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A balanced asset mix is crucial for improving exports. To avoid excessive leverage risks, firms must balance debt and equity. Diversifying the asset mix to include liquid and intellectual property can boost export success. Gearing affects export performance differently depending on a firm's debt levels. Firms, specifically the manufacturing firms, need to enhance their assets and resources, which significantly impacts the firms' export performance. The findings suggest that the composition of assets in the LSM sector should consider the development of intangible assets, as they play a significant role in firms' export performance in developed countries with high financial development. The National Tariff Policy, which imposes high tariffs on imported items, has an anti-export bias. To introduce textile-sector dyes, tariffs must be at Bangladesh's level.

Scope of Digital Trade Integration for Pakistan and Central Asian States: An Action Plan

Time Frame: Feb 2023, to Nov 2023

Partner: CAREC Institute

INTRODUCTION

Digital trade integration requires free cross-border movement of not only digital products, services, and technologies but also other manufactured goods, data, capital, talent, and ideas along with the availability of integrated physical and virtual infrastructure. It also requires the removal of digital trade barriers as well as extensive technology, legal and policy coordination between the member states. It involves regulatory structures/policy designs, digital technologies, and business processes along the entire global/regional digital value chain.

This study focuses the significance and scope of digital trade integration between Pakistan and selected Central Asian countries,

Objective: The study aims to explore the scope of digital trade integration between Pakistan and selected Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and provide action plan for the stakeholders to promote regional integration.

OUTCOME

A detailed report was produced.

Focal Person: Asif Javed (asifjaved@sdpi.org)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The governments should ensure digital inclusion by reducing the urban and rural divide. Learning on digital inclusion could be sourced from within the selected countries and factored into domestic digital trade policy and regulatory frameworks.

There is lack of local research in Pakistan and selected Central Asian countries on the sector-specific potential of SSTC. Social innovations at the local level could be developed through regional collaborative research efforts where one or more think tanks and universities could work together.

The governments should work collectively to enable regional online payment system. There is also lack of bilateral online channels to do transactions. The working group proposed initially, could deliberate, and propose the next plan of action in this regard.

Specific ICT capacity-building programmes for the youth, women, and the public particularly in rural areas to provide practical training in e-commerce are required.

By collaborating on aspects such as visa, compliance with standards, opening bank branches, harmonization of licences and permits can help promote regional integration for which more interaction among specialized national institutions is required

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

07

AFFORDABLE
AND CLEAN ENERGY



Clean Energy Transition Programme

Time Frame September 2022 – October 2023

INTRODUCTION

It is a narrative building programme that was carried out in collaboration with the mainstream political parties to strengthen their political discourse. It revolved around research on policy and regulatory instruments for the offtake of renewable energy resources in Pakistan, supporting mechanisms for private/corporate sector for achieving their efficiency and decarbonization targets, and key enablers for clean energy transition in energy demand sectors.

For the advocacy of these themes, SDPI engaged parliamentarians, ministries, diplomats, and financing institutions, in addition to the institutions that directly impact the energy policy landscape of Pakistan.

Objectives: This programme aimed to build the narrative of clean energy transition in political discourse. Key thematic areas of the programme were as follows:

- **Election Manifestos:** Under this objective, we worked to integrate clean energy transition into political parties' election manifestos through research-led advocacy. Based on research and stakeholders' consultations, an "Agenda for energy sector reforms" was forwarded to all the political parties on behalf of SDPI and the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs.
- **Annual State of Renewable Energy:** Annual State of Renewable Energy Report is an annual research product of SDPI that describes in detail the changing portfolio of renewable energy in Pakistan.
- **Clean Energy Diplomacy:** Under this theme, we engaged with foreign governments, development partners, and financing institutions to promote clean energy transition, emphasizing energy efficiency and decarbonizing demand sectors.
- **Industrial Decarbonization:** Under this theme, a scoping study was

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- To upscale the penetration of renewable energy in Pakistan, the Ministry of Energy needs to develop a comprehensive action plan under its regulatory and fiscal framework, in consultation with provinces within a fixed timeframe.
- To finance the Renewable Energy Transition, there is a need to develop structured finance products under the concessional financing framework by using Pakistan Credit Guarantee Company (PCGC) or InfraZamin through first-loss guarantee structures or junior equity provisions.
- For decarbonization of Pakistan's hard to abating industrial sector, the government needs to develop an emission accounting mechanism and provide a legal cover for industrial data sharing, thus preventing them from losing market uniqueness and competitiveness.

conducted on decarbonization potential of hard to abating sectors with a special focus on cement sector of Pakistan.

- Power Wheeling: This theme contained activities that will be conducted to advocate the challenges for private sector around market-based power mechanisms (Wheeling and etc.).

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Major activities done in this programme included:

- Parliamentary consultations on “Inclusion of Just Energy Transition and Climate Action in Election Manifestos 2023”
- High-Level Policy Dialogues on “Energizing Pakistan’s Future: Engagement with foreign diplomats on energy transition”
- “Annual Renewable Energy Conference 2023”
- Policy Dialogues on “Levers for Decarbonization of Pakistan’s Cement Sector”.
- Policy Dialogues around power wheeling reforms to support offtake of renewable energy in Pakistan.

OUTCOMES

- Annual State of Renewable Energy Report 2023 was launched at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference in November.
- Scoping study on Decarbonization of Pakistan’s Cement sector [Published].
- Agenda for Pakistan’s Energy Sector Reforms [Published].



Focal Person: Ubaid ur Rehman Zia (ubaid@sdpi.org)

Green CPEC Alliance Programme

Time Frame: April 2023 – March 2024

INTRODUCTION

Under this programme, the Green CPEC Alliance (an alliance between SDPI and Pakistan China Institute) would re-direct Chinese investments away from emission-intensive infrastructure and towards green infrastructure projects, e.g. from coal to renewable energy, and ideally an early retirement of existing coal-fired power plants. The alliance has worked with the stakeholders to scale the experiences of greening CPEC to greening the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The alliance will provide the basis for a full phasing-out of environmentally harmful projects in accordance with the Green Development Guidance for BRI projects.

Key thematic areas of the programme include:

- ADB's Energy Transition Mechanism: Under this theme, the energy transition mechanism of ADB will be analyzed and how CPEC-related projects are being evaluated under it.
- Shadow Energy Transition Mechanism: Under this theme, a shadow energy transition mechanism of Pakistan will be developed through econometric modeling. Besides, a comparative cost-benefit (or SWOT) analysis of CFPPs under CPEC and GENCOs will also be conducted.
- ESG framework of CPEC Projects: Under this theme, a pilot ESG reporting framework, Pilot ESG toolkit and ESG guidelines will be developed for all energy projects under CPEC.

Objective: This programme aims to accelerate the greening of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the backdrop of regional turmoil and spiraling energy crisis.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- High-Level policy dialogue on "Transforming the Power Sector: Exploring the Prospects of China-Pakistan Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETPs)" was conducted.
- High Level Symposium on "Renewable Energy Collaboration

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- To ensure uptake of renewable energy on behalf of the Chinese private sector, the government needs to open communication channels, including strategic communication for clarity & consistency (e.g. MoUs), involve stakeholders for diversity to ensure consensus and uniformity, on-time payments, provisions of liquidity damages, and ensures the sanctity of contracts.
- For greening of the investments coming under the CPEC, there is a need to collectively design a toolkit for the financing institutions that can help implement Environmental Social Management System (ESMS) for medium and high-risk projects, under which the clients report mitigation measures after every six months. This may include multiple phases

under CPEC: A Diplomatic Discourse” has been held.

- Consultation on “Scoping the feasibility of early retirement of coal power plants in Pakistan” was held.
- Policy dialogue on "10 years of BRI: lessons learnt and charting the way forward for green development" will be produced.

OUTCOMES

- Position Papers at High Level Belt and Road Forum have been launched in Beijing.
- A shadow early retirement plan has been prepared for coal power projects under CPEC

ranging from project screening and evaluation to decommissioning of the project.

- Financing institutions, project developers, and regulatory bodies must provide a more supporting environment through different schemes, incentives, standards, rules and implementation guidelines for green investments under CPEC by striving to prefer environment-friendly projects over others and of the same financial risk level. These investments can be referred to against the Traffic Light System of BRIGC green development guidance.



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Unlocking pathways to support implementation of carbon markets in Pakistan

Time Frame: August 2023 – June 2024

Partner: Embassy of Denmark, Islamabad.

INTRODUCTION

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is considered an opportunity to achieve national emission reduction targets more cost-effectively, as it allows countries to voluntarily cooperate to reach more ambitious reduction targets. There are financing mechanisms such as “Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs)” in place that play an extremely crucial role for optimizing climate resilient investments. Pakistan has participated in carbon trading through different initiatives such as Mangrove plantation project in Indus Delta (targeting \$12 billion in revenue) which is selling carbon credits in global market. However, the country is still unable to harness its potential due to the absence of a carbon market. Among global leaders, who have efficiently overcome the climate and energy issues, Denmark is one of them. Now, its an opportune time for Pakistan to learn from Denmark.

Given this backdrop, SDPI in collaboration with Embassy of Denmark has initiated this project in Pakistan. with the aim to develop a holistic strategy for a carbon market framework in Pakistan, address the current knowledge gaps, leverage international best practices, and build the capacity of stakeholders around the current opportunities, challenges, and the way forward.

Objectives:

- The current knowledge gap in implementation framework of carbon is reduced by conducting a research study on Carbon markets.
- The discourse of carbon markets is expedited at federal and provincial level by conducting capacity building and training of all stakeholders across the carbon value chain of Pakistan.
- The discourse on “Implementation of carbon markets in Pakistan” to foster climate action is increased through advocacy and communications outreach activities such a social, print, and electronic media campaign, documentaries and awareness raising campaigns.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Capacity Building sessions will be organized in which all the key stakeholders, including ministries, federal and provincial government officials, private sector, developers, journalists, and social media activists will take part.
- Training of trainers: A workshop on need assessment and implementation framework for carbon markets in Pakistan was conducted.
- A policy dialogue on Effective implementation of carbon markets in Pakistan was organized.

OUTCOME

A holistic framework for the implementation of carbon markets in Pakistan will be developed in addition to the capacity building of different stakeholders,-including public sector, private sector, journalists, and social media.



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Fostering green, affordable, and inclusive energy transition in impoverished regions of Pakistan

Time Frame: March 2023 – October 2023

Partner: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

INTRODUCTION

Energy plays a crucial role in economic growth, a fact underscored by the recent triple 'C' crises (i.e. Climate Change, COVID-19, and Ukraine-Russia Conflict). These crises have inflicted heavy socio-economic losses on Pakistan due to climate-related infrastructure damage, demand, and supply chain disruptions due to lockdowns and geopolitical conflicts. These disruptions have caused a steep rise in fuel prices that is more strongly impacting the impoverished and low-income population.

To address these challenges, policymakers need to focus on affordable and environment-friendly energy sources that may promote an equitable energy transition, especially for the poor. Shifting towards sustainable energy is essential, but there's a need to ensure affordability for those most affected by rising energy costs and environmental risks.

Considering the issues of affordability, reliability, and accessibility in the impoverished regions, UNESCAP-SDPI formed a consortium to conduct empirical research around renewable energy solutions. This study has explored opportunities to deploy sustainable energy technologies, as well as address energy poverty and inequality.

Objectives: Key objectives of the project include:

- To understand the current status of electricity access, including access tiers and key challenges hindering its growth;
- To take stock of different off-grid renewable energy-based models currently being practiced, and what success stories can be further upscaled to ensure access to clean and affordable energy;
- To conduct a survey around community's perception in response to different off-grid RE solutions and their willingness to install off-grid

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Civil Society Organizations working to support decentralized energy systems should work in collaboration with community-based organizations to create financial models that encourage the land affected people with reduced bills, tax exemptions, and additional social and environmental co-benefits.
- The Ministry of Energy should work with the provincial governments to create innovative business models for "last-mile energy service delivery", especially ones that can lead to business opportunities and income generation through productive use of energy.
- To enhance expertise in the design, installation, and operation and

- solar under the presence of different regulatory and financing instruments;
- To examine how energy access interventions may be designed to facilitate productive uses.

MAJOR ACTIVITY

A roundtable discussion titled: "Fostering a Green, Affordable, and Inclusive Energy Transition in Impoverished Regions of Pakistan" was held.

OUTCOME

A Policy Paper titled: "Fostering a Green, Affordable, and Inclusive Energy Transition in Impoverished Regions of Pakistan", was published.

maintenance (O&M) of mini grids, capacity building programmes should be designed for government departments, financing institutions, and project developers. These programs can receive technical and financial support from multilateral and bilateral institutions.

- To create a favorable environment for the private sector to engage in decentralized energy systems, the government entities should adopt the "Principle of Subsidiarity," delegating tasks efficiently at the consumer scale. Comparable barriers and challenges faced by both international and local investors must be tackled by offering a business-friendly atmosphere.

Focal Person: Ubaid ur Rehman Zia (ubaid@sdpi.org)

Unlocking private finance to support implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions in Pakistan.

Time Frame: March 2023 – October 2023

Partner: Private Financing Advisory Network

INTRODUCTION

To support global transition in line with Paris Agreement, substantial investments are required to facilitate low-carbon development. This may be categorized by the flow of finance from developed to developing countries as per international commitments, mobilization of local finance through private sector and local banks, and flow of finance through Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs). Under the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), presented in 2021, Pakistan has committed reducing its emission target by 50% by 2030 subject to the availability of international finance. The associated cost is estimated at \$7-14 billion per annum till 2050 for adaptation and \$101 billion for clean energy transition by 2030.

Objectives: To address this challenge, SDPI in collaboration with Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) initiated this project with the aim to achieve the following key objectives:

- To explore different avenues for financing institutions and development partners to bridge the financing gap needed to achieve a timely and just energy transition in Pakistan and fulfil its NDC commitments.
- To analyze the current status (distribution) of wealth in Pakistan and how upcoming investments can be transferred from existing sectors towards low-carbon development.
- To discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with mobilizing private finance to support energy transition and low carbon development.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- To develop transparency of climate finance investments and to ensure that the investments are directed towards the right projects, the Ministry of Climate Change should work with policymakers and regulators to develop a robust and a strong Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for climate finance instruments to enhance credibility and accountability.
- The government in collaboration with State Bank, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, and Pakistan Stock Exchange need to develop a de-risking framework for climate finance. For projects undertaken with foreign investors, de-risking mechanisms for currency devaluation, such as Currency Exchange Funds, should be developed with DFIs.

MAJOR ACTIVITY

- A panel discussion on “Annual State of Renewable Energy 2023: Mobilizing the role of private sector financing” was held at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference in November.

OUTCOME

A Research Report and investor’s guide in this regard was produced and launched on the occasion of 26th Sustainable Development Conference in November.

- To avoid currency devaluation risks, priority should be given to the financing contracts that provide funds to the local currency. For such projects, the government should provide incentives, and open a revolving account in collaboration with SBP to provide security to the medium and large-scale project investors.
- Information instruments like workshops, seminars, advertisements should be utilized to guide FIs and green developers about the green principles, national and international covenants and protocols that Pakistan is part of or signatory to. Alongside, this information should be disseminated through media to enhance climate finance investment.

Focal Person: Ubaid ur Rehman Zia (ubaid@sdpi.org)

Energy Security in South Asia and Transition to Sustainable Sources

Time Frame: August 2023-October 2023.

Partner: Friedrich Naumann Foundation

INTRODUCTION

Approximately 67 per cent of the energy used in South Asia is reliant on imported fuel. In the recent past, disruptions within the international market such as increasing demand, insufficient supply and conflicts have put pressure on South Asian governments to ensure energy security within their countries. A probable solution could be to diversify energy sources, which can be achieved through regional cooperation and integration. India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in the region possess gas and oil reserves. Besides, Pakistan and Afghanistan have natural gas reserves; Similarly, Nepal and Bhutan have a high potential for hydroelectricity. However, switching to alternate sources, preferably renewable ones, will prove to be beneficial for the region. South Asian countries are engaged in cross-border power trade, but it exists typically bilaterally. Political tensions within the region primarily create a disabling environment for electricity trade and trans-regional power transmission. A regional energy policy might facilitate and accelerate the transition from dependence on non-renewable energy to sources of renewable and green energy. The region can easily rely on solar, wind, and hydropower generation.

Objectives: The study aimed to address the following questions:

- How can the affordability of distributed renewable energy be ensured for the impoverished segments and regions across the country? What positive gender impacts can be delivered?
- What kind of rules and regulations must be put into place to introduce credit facilities for inhabitants of impoverished areas and how they may also make use of net-metering?
- Can community-based public public-private partnerships (PPPs) play a role in expediting the implementation of affordable energy sources?

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- To address financing gap to support renewable energy uptake across South Asia, the government entities can collaborate with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and other Financial Institutions to establish a regional pool of “long-term investors” which can invest in long-term financing mechanisms such as issuance of bonds to attract investors.
- Given that South Asia lacks a “deep capital market”, there is need to establish a dedicated financial market for renewable energy projects. The regional financing tools may include R&D support, grants, soft loans and facilities, credit enhancement, credit lines, guarantees, incubators, public venture capital funds and public

- How can cross-border cooperation expedite energy transition for energy pressed countries in South Asia?

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- A panel discussion on 'Energy Security in South Asia and Transition to Sustainable Sources' was held.
- A roundtable on 'Supporting Energy Security in Pakistan and Transition to Sustainable Sources through Regional Cooperation' was organized.

equity funds.

- To foster off-grid RE across South Asia through exchange of good practices and learning across the countries, there is a need to develop a "regional Mini grid cooperation mechanism" with representation of relevant ministries/departments of the member countries.

OUTCOME

A policy paper titled: South Asia's Energy Transition: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Way Forward through Regional Cooperation, was published.

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Market Research on LED lighting – A case study of Energy Efficiency and Mercury-free Lighting in Pakistan

Time Frame: January 2022- March 2023

Partner: Collaborative Lighting and Appliance Standards Program

INTRODUCTION

In Pakistan, the energy-efficient lighting landscape as per SDPI's findings holds the potential to decrease electricity demand by 1.2 TWh by 2030, transforming to 1% of the country's current electricity use. This reduction not only leads to substantial cost savings, estimated at \$120 million, but also curbs CO2 emissions by one million tons. The government initiatives, such as the 2020 Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for energy-efficient LED lighting and a 5-star labeling scheme, have encouraged the adoption of LED lights. With a mere 3% customs duty on LEDs compared to 20% on other lighting products, and a 0% sales tax for local LED production versus 17% for imports, Pakistan has fostered a robust indigenous market.

Beyond the energy benefits, transitioning from fluorescent to LED lighting in Pakistan promises a significant environmental impact. It will not only contribute to energy savings but also reduce CO2 emissions, coupled with the implementation of mercury-free lighting, addressing environmental and health concerns. If materialized, this shift can cut mercury pollution by 700kg, slash CO2 emissions by 33,000 kt, and result in substantial electricity bill savings, approaching \$6.5 billion in Pakistan.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Major activities included:

- A market survey to assess the penetration of LED lights in Pakistan;
- A consultative discussion on

Policy Recommendations

- Locally manufactured products should be exempted from sales tax and customs duty to safeguard the interests of domestic producers, stimulate economic growth, and enhance competitiveness in the global market.
- There is a need to develop a comprehensive "Mercury Waste Disposal Policy" along with a robust implementation framework, led by the Ministry of Climate Change and the institutions concerned to ensure safe and environmentally responsible management of mercury waste.
- Financing mechanisms like fee disposal and deposit-refund systems should be established emphasizing regional approaches where national strategies are impractical to ensure sustainable collection, recycling, and disposal of lighting products; this will promote environmental responsibility and resource conservation.
- There is a need to prioritize the phase-out and replacement of High-Intensity Discharge (HIDs)

Pakistan's stance on proposed amendments at the Minamata; A convention during COP 4.2, gathering participation and recommendations from key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, and Federal Board of Revenue;

- SDPI's findings on COP-5, featuring representation from MoCC Pakistan, private sector participation, and international speakers from Africa; (The event is titled "Mercury-Free Lighting Multiple Pathways to Compliance.")



A consultative meeting on Pakistan's stance on proposed amendments at Minamata Convention during COP 4.2

IMPACTS

- As a result, the manufacturing, sale, and import of incandescent lamps and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) had been stopped since July 1, 2023. This noteworthy accomplishment by the Government of Pakistan (GoP) highlights the decisive action taken by the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), with the approval of the federal government.
- At Minamata COP 5, 147 governments, including Pakistan has agreed to phase out all fluorescent lighting by 2027.

Focal Person: Ubaid Ur Rehman Zia (ubaid@sdpi.org)

Lighting in manufacturing, streetlights, and open spaces with energy-efficient alternatives, aligning with sustainability goals and promoting widespread adoption of eco-friendly lighting solutions.

Enforce rigorous adherence to Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for locally manufactured and imported LED lamps by fostering collaboration between the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority and Lighting Associations of Pakistan, ensuring market offerings are both compliant and energy-efficient, promoting sustainable practices and economic benefits.

Advocacy campaigns on socio-economic advantages of efficient and eco-friendly lighting may be launched in smaller cities and rural areas.

There is a need to prioritize upscaling off-grid lighting technologies, particularly solar-powered "light source packages," to address electricity issues. Manufacturing associations need to adopt these advanced technologies, ensuring a safer and sustainable lighting solution, enhancing public health and well-being.

Market Research on LED lighting – A case study of Energy Efficiency and Mercury free Lighting in Pakistan

Time Frame: January 2022- March 2023

Partner: Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP)

The energy-efficient lighting landscape in Pakistan holds the potential to decrease electricity demand by 1.2 TWh by 2030, transforming to 1% of the country's current electricity use. This reduction not only leads to substantial cost savings of about \$120 million but also curbs CO2 emissions by one million tons.

Beyond the energy benefits, transitioning from fluorescent to LED lighting in Pakistan promises a significant environmental impact. It will not only contribute to energy savings but also reduce CO2 emissions, coupled with the implementation of mercury-free lighting, addressing environmental and health concerns. This shift can cut mercury pollution by 700kg, slash CO2 emissions by 33,000 kt, and result in substantial electricity bill savings of \$6.5 billion.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Conducted a market survey to assess the penetration of LED lights;
- Organized a consultative discussion on Pakistan's stance on proposed amendments at the Minamata Convention during COP 4.2, gathering participation and recommendations from key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC

Policy Recommendations

- Exemptions on sales tax and customs duty for locally manufactured products is essential to safeguard the interests of domestic producers, stimulate economic growth, and enhance competitiveness in the global market.
- A comprehensive "Mercury Waste Disposal Policy" should be devised along with a robust implementation framework led by the Ministry of Climate Change and institutions concerned, to ensure safe and environmentally responsible management of mercury waste.
- There is a need to establish financing mechanisms like fee disposal and deposit-refund systems, emphasizing regional approaches where national strategies are impractical to ensure sustainable collection, recycling, and disposal of lighting products, promoting environmental responsibility and resource conservation.
- There is also a need to prioritize the phase-out and replacement of High-Intensity Discharge (HIDs) Lighting in manufacturing, streetlights, and open spaces with energy-efficient alternatives, aligning with sustainability goals and promoting widespread adoption of eco-friendly lighting solutions.
- Rigorous adherence to Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPs) must be enforced for locally-

& EC), National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

- Presented our study findings on the occasion of COP-5, featuring representation from MoCC Pakistan, private sector, and speakers from Africa at the event titled: "Mercury-Free Lighting - Multiple Pathways to Compliance."

OUTCOMES

- The manufacturing, sale, and import of incandescent lamps and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) has been prohibited since July 1, 2023. It shows the decisive action taken by the NEECA with the approval of the federal government.
- At Minamata COP5, as many as 147 governments, including Pakistan, agreed to phase out all fluorescent lighting by 2027.

manufactured and imported LED lamps by fostering collaboration between NEECA and Lighting Association of Pakistan, ensuring market offerings are both compliant and energy-efficient, promoting sustainable practices and economic benefits.

- There is a need to expand advocacy campaigns to smaller cities and rural areas, emphasizing the socio-economic advantages of efficient and eco-friendly lighting, ensuring widespread awareness and promoting the adoption of energy-efficient practices in rural sectors for sustainable development.
- Upscaling off-grid lighting technologies, particularly solar-powered "light source packages," should be prioritized to address the lack of electricity access for 50 million Pakistanis. Encourage manufacturing associations to adopt these advanced technologies, ensuring a safer and sustainable lighting solution, enhancing public health and well-being.



Participants of a consultative discussion on Pakistan's stance on proposed amendments at the Minamata Convention during COP 4.2.

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Sustainability and Resilience Programme

16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND
STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Community Resilience Research Network and Policy Outreach Activity

Timeframe: October 2022 to September 2023

Partner: Creative Learning

INTRODUCTION

The Community Resilience Research Network (CRRN) and Policy Outreach Activity focused on evidence-based P/CVE research influencing national policy targets. This was done through well-organized and measurable activities focused on evidence-based policy advocacy and stakeholder mobilization. The policy advocacy and research initiatives ensured that the publications from CRRN reach policymakers. The CRRN includes members from the media, civil society, and local government institutions in addition to academia. Experts from across the disciplines of Political Science, International Relations, Sociology, Political Economy, Communications, Education, Religious Studies, Psychology, Criminology, Anthropology, and other related fields were invited to join the network.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

The following activities were done during the project implementation period.

- A total of 3 one-day training workshops for media professionals were organized under this project in Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi (one at each location). The purpose of these workshops was to share some research-based knowledge produced by the members of the CRRN with media professionals on community resilience and countering/preventing violent extremism so that they are able to prioritize community resilience, P/CVE in their reporting and storytelling in line with the role of media in shaping public perceptions on community resilience.
- As many as 12 policy dialogues were organized in Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi. The objective of these sessions was to Provide policymakers and policy influencers with the evidence they need to make informed decisions about Community Resilience to Violent Extremism.
- **Travel Grants:** As part of the project, we have awarded five competitive internal travel grants to the network members. The objective was to provide network members with an opportunity to present their research on Countering Violent Extremism to an international audience.

OUTCOMES

- Throughout the period, the project has generated valuable evidence-based insights into Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in Pakistan, along with practical solutions.
- In total, nine policy papers and six synthesis papers were produced. The Policy Papers were published in SDPI publication series. Out of six synthesis papers,

two were published in journals, two in SDPI policy brief series and the remaining two are at the disposal of the authors, who can publish either with SDPI or somewhere else. The themes related to CVE in the context of Pakistan were chosen for these papers.

- The network members produced 42 Op-Eds on the subject which were published in various national and local newspapers.

A list of Policy Papers and Synthesis Papers published or in the process of publication is as under:

Policy Papers:

1. Preventing Terrorism and Extremism in Pakistan after re-emergence of Taliban in Afghanistan: A perspective from southern Punjab
2. Fostering Community Resilience: Harnessing Pashtun Folklore and Local Voices against Violent Extremism
3. Countering Violent Extremism through Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Approach
4. State Building and Good Governance as an Antidote to Violent Extremism)
5. Opting for an Integrated Approach to Countering Violent Extremism from Educational Institutions: A case of Southern Punjab
6. Role of Students' Societies/Unions in Creating Peace, Harmony and Tolerance in Universities in Punjab
7. Developing Youth Resilience to Violent Extremism through Evidence Based Policy & Practices of Curriculum Development The case of Pakistan Studies
8. Analyzing Legislative Framework and Cyber Security Responses against Violent Extremism and Terrorism
9. Countering Violent Extremism through Financial Literacy - A New Paradigm for Pakistan

Synthesis Papers:

1. A Synthesis of Pakistan's Counter Violence Extremism Approaches
2. Exploring Factors in Countering Violent Extremism to Promote Resilience Insights from Research in Pakistan)
3. Exploring Radicalization among Women in Pakistan: Causative Factors and Impact
4. Religious Extremism and Community Resilience: Case Study of Pakistan

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- To address the challenge of Violent Extremism (VE), it is important to develop a comprehensive strategy that takes into account various factors responsible for VE. These include socio-cultural, psychological, and political factors. Additionally, it is necessary to implement a comprehensive and inclusive response plan that identifies the underlying causes of violent extremism. This plan must provide support to rural communities, particularly addressing socio-economic disparities by providing opportunities for education and employment.
- The justice system should be

IMPACTS

An MoU was signed with the P/CVE wing recently established at the National Anti-terrorism Authority (NACTA). SDPI and the wing will work closely in terms of research exchange and capacity building activities. The P/CVE wing of NATCA is a dedicated entity that comprises over 100 different level analysts.

Dr Shafqat Munir, the project lead, has been appointed as member of the Research and Policy Working Group on CVE set up at the Press Information Department, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

University of Karachi, University of Punjab, University of Management and Technology Lahore, and many other universities in Pakistan have either started CVE as a subject or set up as department/center.

reformed to address the trust deficit and to build cordial state-citizens relationship. It is crucial to establish a framework based on theoretical foundations which can help us understand the issue of violent extremism. This framework should also address the issue of religious thought in educational institutions, and screening for emotional intelligence.

- Youth and policymakers must be sensitized on sensible use of digital platforms for countering violent extremism. Policy interventions should be developed to provide support to vulnerable populations, including women and minorities, to counter violent extremism. The establishment of a fair and impartial justice system that upholds the rights of all individuals, regardless of their social or religious background, should be the top priority.

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Technology Enhanced Stakeholder Collaboration for Supporting Risk-Sensitive Sustainable Urban Development'

Time Frame: October 2022 to Oct 2023

Partner: University of Salford/ Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

INTRODUCTION

The study tried to address priority number two of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), which is to strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk and contribute to the remaining three priorities (understanding disaster risks, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response).

It aimed to promote a participatory approach that supports the transparent and democratic involvement of all the stakeholders to analyze, forecast, visualize, and debate disaster-risk trade-offs and to choose development plans that ensure sustainability and equitable resilience, giving considerations to climate change adaptation.

Objectives: The basic objective of the project was to investigate socio-technical systems required to enable a transition towards a more risk-sensitive and transformative urban development approach in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

MAJOR ACTIVITY

At least 8 research studies were conducted in Peshawar and Nowshera with several associated activities, including interviews, and workshops.

OUTCOMES

- Corresponding journal papers were produced by project partners.
- An android Application developed and operational in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa can also be scaled up at national level.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Digitally enhanced multi-agency collaboration models must be designed.
- Resilience frameworks that can measure actual resilience should be formulated.
- There is a need to adopt digital approaches for modelling community & infrastructure vulnerability.
- Modelling of cascading effect of disasters should be done.
- Social media and real-time intelligence gathering to support disaster response need to be used.
- 3D visualization of real-time satellite data need to be arranged for constructing live disaster events to support disaster response.
- There is a need to adopt digital platforms by the national agencies.

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Partnership Influencing climate resilience agenda

Time Frame: May 2023 to October 2023

Partner: Oxfam

INTRODUCTION

The study revolved around the four key thematic areas such as: i) climate resilience (e.g climate finance), ii) Disaster Risk Reduction-DRR (hazard, risk/vulnerabilities reduction), iii) Loss and damage, and iv) Institutional capacity building.

We believe that these four themes are interconnected amid a debate on climate justice and climate finance. During this debate, the haves have owned plenty of resources, including cash, which the have-nots need the most to handle loss & damage and adoption to climate change and building institutional capacity both on climate adaptation and DRR, risks and vulnerabilities.

In this context, it is a well-thought-out project that focused influencing as part of the Oxfam's programming approach to advocate to change norms, behaviours, as well as policy and practice. The project employed added tools of evidence, lobby work, and wider alliance and partnership building to influence the policy elites at national, regional, and global levels.

Objective: The main objective of the project was to forge a strategic partnership to influence the decision-making circles in the four key thematic areas.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Conducted four research seminars to present papers and invite feedback from sector experts and government officials.
- Briefing/meetings with government

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need to align the existing policies and build synergies among various institutions to develop a comprehensive and coherent national climate finance strategy that helps fund local level climate actions in line with national and global development goals and climate action plans. Technical and human resource capacity issues require serious consideration. The quality and authenticity backed by accurate data in proposals will be a key if Pakistan aspires to access climate finance avenues.
- NDMA and PDMA should extend full support in gearing up DDMA as regularly functioning bodies at the district level to ensure that they fulfil their mandated roles and responsibilities. Each DDMA in disaster prone areas should be given better equipment for its emergency operations, a management information system, and stronger technical capacity. Additionally, contingency stocks should be stored in the vicinity of vulnerable areas so that boats and other relief and rescue work can be started immediately.
- There should be a Central Secretariat for reporting, compilation, and databasing of data on climate

officials to share policy briefs and full papers to advocate change.

- Launch of papers in Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore followed by capacity development trainings for media and civil society around climate action.
- Pre COP28 national level consultation with government, parliamentarians, academia and civil society.

OUTCOME

Four policy papers were published.

action coming in from both provincial and federal sources. Additionally, there is a need to build capacity and resources to provide or actualize the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall keep engaging with a cohort from within concerned departments and ministries and have regular capacity-building sessions as well as cohort meetings to ensure built-in capacity for reporting progress on the implementation of climate actions.

- Implementation of localized early warning systems, coupled with regular drills, can significantly improve readiness for emergencies. Thirdly, fostering partnerships between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and communities will promote effective coordination and resource allocation during crises.

Focal Person: Ahmed Khaver (ahmedkhaver@sdpi.org)

CLIMATE CHANGE & MIGRATION

13

CLIMATE ACTION



Trends and impacts of climate change on migration in Pakistan

Time Frame: January 2023 to April 2023

Partner: International Organization of Migration (IOM)

INTRODUCTION

Climate change impact is increasing with each passing year in Pakistan, particularly in rural areas where an estimated 132 million population is dependent upon climate-sensitive livelihoods. The ability of rural population to cope with or adapt to the changing environmental situation depends on social, economic, and human capital in addition to their technical capacities as to how they can be able to diversify their (agricultural) incomes. It requires updated knowledge about new techniques, climate resistant crop varieties and access to government support programmes, which at present are inadequate.

The sudden onset of events (such as floods, heavy rainfall, heatwaves, droughts) occur frequently incurring loss of human lives, land, livelihood sources and infrastructure. Likewise, the slow onset of events (such as rise in temperature and sea level) are responsible for the gradual decline in agriculture productivity, degradation of ecosystem services, shifting of cropping zone, increase in crop water requirement, and decline in soil fertility, thus reducing farm income and labour requirements. A recent global report on internal displacement places Pakistan among 50 countries that show new increasing trends of displacement due to floods, heavy monsoon rainfall along with other non-climatic factors such as conflicts and earthquakes.

The National Climate Change Policy has no agreed operational definition of climate induced migration; therefore, the country has no data for mapping the scale of phenomena and potential to mitigate the migration pressure. This has made climate-induced migration invisible at policy and implementation level.

Objectives:

- To engage communities to discuss and analyze their issues relating to climate change, environmental degradation and migration;
- To strengthen their resilience for climate adaptation.



MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- 45 semi structured interviews of affected gender and migrants were conducted in Swat, Dera Ghazi Khan and Dadu.
- 15 FGDs comprising targeted group of flood and drought affected population, migrants and return migrants were organized.
- One on one meetings were held with key local stakeholders, including academics, urban unit, planning unit, NGOs, CSOs and important provincial stakeholder in Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and Quetta.

OUTCOME

A research report on 'Trends and Patterns of Climate Induced Migration' was published.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Migration itself provides an alternate source of livelihood or survival strategy for the vulnerable population. The wellbeing and security of vulnerable migrants may decline due to the complex inter-relationship between migration and socio-economic, political, cultural, and demographic factors. These are critical issues that require attention of multiple stakeholders and need to be addressed through well-coordinated efforts from various departments.

Efforts are on to have an agreed operational definition of climate induced migration so that it might be incorporated in the NCCP.

The last decade observed growth in climate migrants, who move to urban and peri-urban areas for their livelihood. Though the pattern varies, few displacements are seasonal, few are cyclical and a few are permanent. Approximately two million people in the country are expected to become climate migrants by 2050.



Focal Person: Dr Kashif Majeed Salik (kashif@sdpi.org)

Establishing a regional learning and action platform– A knowledge hub on labour migration in South Asia

Time Frame: October 2021 to July 2023

Partner: International Labor Organization

INTRODUCTION

Labour migration is one of the key pillars of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) which stresses the need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility and enhanced cooperation at global level. At the time of GCM adoption, the UN Member States also agreed to establish a Capacity Building Mechanism that will include a global knowledge platform with the objective to support governments in the implementation of GCM.

In this perspective, this study reviewed the existing policies of various countries to protect their migrants, return migrants focusing on how to protect international migrants and their rights. It identified the important themes (i.e. migration policies, gender and migration, migration and health, migration and development, and adverse drivers of migration) to focus on. Sub-themes would be identified later.

In this effort, our regional partners were: International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), India; Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka; Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), Bangladesh and Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM), Nepal.

Objectives: For the implementation of the GCM at the national and regional levels, the study aimed to conceptualize the establishment of a Knowledge Hub in South Asia.



The Knowledge Hub will bridge information gaps on labour migration in South Asia on the one hand, and on the other it will examine specific labour migration and mobility issues through a broader lens of decent work and the socio-politico-economic trends in the sub-region and beyond. Initially, it will establish links and collaborations among the partners.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Capacity building programmes were carried out to impart training to young researchers in South Asia on migration concepts, measures, theories, research issues and various aspects of migration. A number of seminars and meetings were conducted.

OUTCOMES

- A Migration Portal was developed, which consists of a repository of data and evidence on migration and related issues in South Asian countries. It will create a space for governments, civil society, trade unions, private sector, academics and thinks tanks to engage with new research so as to bring broader perspectives and empirical evidence to policy discussions.
- Research was published in the form of newsletters, books, articles, research papers, etc.
- Under this programme, researchers and institutions in South Asia working on labour migration or related themes will be connected.
- Internships and fellowships will be provided to young scholars to participate in capacity building and learning programmes.



POLICY RECOMMENDATION

South Asian countries, including Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh, heavily depend on foreign remittances. They offer secure livelihoods to underprivileged rural communities through international labor migration. However, these countries face challenges in implementing migration policies and achieving SDGs related migration targets (including safe, orderly and regular migration, decent work promotion, lowering migration cost), especially for unskilled laborers. To address these critical issues, both national and regional attention is required with a particular focus on collaborative research and knowledge-sharing hubs at the regional level.

Focal Person: Dr. Kashif Majeed Salik (kashif@sdpi.org)

Sustainable Human Mountain Settlement Assessment for Pakistan

Time Frame: September 2023-November 2023

Partner: International Centre for integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

INTRODUCTION

Mountain human settlements that are exposed to climatic and non-climate factors are faced with multiple political, social, economic, and bio-physical change processes that generate several risks. In Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region, the population residing either in rural or urban areas, are simultaneously exposed to multiple risks, from climate change to massive environmental degradation, to social change, population growth, urbanization, and poverty and inequality, along with technological, cultural, and political dynamism.

Presently, the HKH region in Pakistan houses 16.8 million population, a number swiftly increasing due to migration, urbanization, and tourism. Consequently, 19 out of 33 per cent of the country's urban population resides in the HKH region. The rapid influx of urban dwellers, growing at a rate of 5 per cent annually, combined with 80 million yearly tourists, strains the availability of scarce natural resources for the local population. For instance, demographic development due to changes in community dynamics has adversely affected the natural resources in the form of deforestation, depleting underground water resources, declining agriculture productivity and environmental degradation.

Objectives: In view of the above scenario, the specific objectives of the scoping assessment are:

- To understand key trends and development changes in mountain settlements;
- To stock take the current risks, challenges, and opportunities in the context of compounding risks and impacts of climatic and other socioeconomic changes;
- To foster collaboration to enhance the sustainability and resilience of human mountain settlements.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- A methodological framework was developed for the scoping assessment, and enlist the key stakeholders in Pakistan, who are working on the issues of human settlements in the mountains.
- A rapid assessment was done in a selected mountain settlement in Pakistan.

OUTCOMES

- A synthesis document based on literature view and secondary data in line with the framework of assessment study was produced.
- The first draft of the scoping assessment study from Pakistan, combining synthesis of review and rapid field assessment in Pakistan was submitted.
- The regional study on women labour migration in south Asia. The study includes key recommendations for policy uptake.



Focal Person: Dr Kashif Majeed Salik (kashif@sdpi.org)

CLIMATE COLLECTIVE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

13

CLIMATE ACTION



Indo-Pak Climate Collective

Time Frame: April 2023 - April 2024 (Phase I)

Partner: German Embassy

INTRODUCTION

Indo-Pak Climate Collective is a German embassy initiative that focuses on promoting bilateral cooperation on various aspects of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and transboundary environmental governance. The study will be completed in three phases. During the inaugural phase (2023-2024), the Indo-Pak Climate Collective will take up the issue of smog that plagues various parts of Pakistan and India. It is a very serious issue that needs bilateral cooperation on an urgent basis.

Objective: The study aims to explore the issue air pollution in India and Pakistan with special reference to smog.

OUTCOMES

A book comprising three policy briefs has been compiled. The titles of policy briefs are:

- Air Quality Monitoring in India and Pakistan: Status, Gaps and Future Directions
- Crop Residue Burning
- Vehicular Pollution in Pakistan
- ition towards a cleaner environment.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sustained investments in technical and programmatic capacity are needed that can enhance the installation, operation, and maintenance of advanced air quality monitoring systems, and foster formal or informal networks of experts in both sides of the borders.
- Strengthening of transboundary agreements and cooperation frameworks can pave the way for harmonized air quality standards and coordinated measures for pollution control across South Asia.
- Pakistan and India must prioritize sustainable crop residue management, including use of basmati fodder and adoption of agricultural innovation. Learning from successful private sector strategies and involving stakeholders early in planning are crucial.
- Financial incentives should encourage the adoption of lower carbon agricultural practices, expediting the transition to sustainability. Revitalizing regional agreements like the Malé Declaration and the South Asia Cooperative

Environment Programme can enhance knowledge sharing and address transboundary issues such as seasonal smog more effectively.

- There is a need for policy and legislative strengthening of motor vehicles exhaust values. The values have become outdated as they were set up prior to establishing Euro 5 standards. Moreover, a stringent application of emission standards is required that can enforce penalties and repercussions for violation of any standards.
- A significant number of vehicles plying on the roads are not Euro 5 compliant. Phasing out of old diesel-powered engines, especially in heavy vehicles, must be prioritized for a healthy trans

IMPACT

This project will strengthen cooperation between Pakistan and India in order to address transboundary issues like smog, environmental sustainability, public health, and bilateral cooperation.

Focal Person: Junaid Zahid

03

GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



HEALTH &

EDUCTAION

04

QUALITY EDUCATION



Strengthening Pakistan's Policy Framework on Tobacco Taxation, HTPs/E-cigarettes/ SLTs, including ONPs and Tobacco Pack Warnings

Time Frame: March 2023 to May 2024

Partner: Bloomberg Philanthropies

INTRODUCTION

Novel nicotine and tobacco products (pouches and vaping devices) have made rapid ingress in Pakistan. In the absence of a distinct policy, these products are spreading across the length and breadth of the country where the number of tobacco users is in millions.

This project not only stresses the need for curbing tobacco use in all its forms but also curtailing the use of novel nicotine, and tobacco products and devices.

In this regard, the project aims to facilitate policy development in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and tobacco control partners.

The project highlights that there is a long overdue and unaddressed Graphic Health Warning (GHW) policy and rotation issue. The GHW size was increased to 60% in June 2019 to measure the impact. However, the impact was not measured, the pictures were not changed, the size was not increased/proposed to be increased, the textual warning was not changed/updated, and no rotation was affected.

Even there is no long-term tobacco taxation policy. The project further develops a tobacco industry (TI) monitoring plan and maps the environmental impact of tobacco and its products.

It may be mentioned that most of the tobacco control policies were enacted and implemented through Statutory Regulatory Ordinances (SROs).

Objectives: Following are the objectives of the project.

- To assist the Ministries of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination, and Finance in inter-ministerial efforts for the development of a tobacco taxation and pricing policy;
- To provide technical support for policy positions on Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs), Electronic cigarettes (E-cigs), smoking chemicals liquid, nicotine pouches & Smokeless Tobacco;
- To generate evidence to counter Pakistan's tobacco industry and its allies' manipulations of tobacco control;
- To support the Ministry of Health (MoH) in existing Tobacco Control Laws (TCLs) on GHW on tobacco/nicotine products, including its rotation.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

An SDPI delegation led by the Executive Director called on the Honourable President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi, on 8 March 2023, to discuss measures for reducing tobacco

consumption in Pakistan. The delegation suggested reconsidering the contents of the Statutory Regulatory Ordinance (SRO) for heated tobacco products at par with the other tobacco products issued by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination.



A delegation of SDPI led by Executive Director Dr Abid Suleri meets President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi to inform him of the efforts on tobacco control.

In this regard, the delegation also sought a meeting between the Ministry's technical advisory group and experts from CSOs, think tanks, academia, media, and independent medical researchers.

SDPI has held a series of webinars on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) MPOWER measures to create awareness among the youth and those who are unaware of the ill-effects of tobacco use.

OUTCOMES

- Tobacco & New Nicotine Products in Pakistan: A Market and User Survey is in technical review process and will be launched soon.
- A Conversation with Dr Gan Quan WNTD 2023 (Available on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZwNOauQ6HI>)
- A policy brief on Tobacco Taxation

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pakistan is currently following a complex two-tiered tobacco taxation system. As a result, tax evasion and under taxation has been observed in Tobacco Industry. To stop it, there is an urgent need for a simple uniform tobacco taxation structure.
- Being a cottage industry, smokeless tobacco products are largely untaxed in Pakistan. Therefore, bringing smokeless tobacco under taxation gambit and banning of all electronic nicotine/tobacco products is immediately required.

Policy Scope of the Framework is in technical review process.

- A policy brief on Tobacco Taxation Regional and Global Best Practices, comprising recommendations is also in technical review process.

IMPACT

All these efforts will help curb the menace of tobacco and Pakistan will soon come up with a concrete tobacco taxation policy in line with the guidelines provided by WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.



SDPI Joint Executive Director Dr Vaqar Ahmed presents a shield to Director, Tobacco Control, The Union, Dr Gan Quan on World No Tobacco Day 2023.



SDPI researcher Wasif Naqvi talks at a Radio programe run by Islamabad Capital Police on the implementation of tobacco control mechanisms in the city.

Focal Person: Syed Ali Wasif Naqvi (wasif@sdpi.org)

Reducing Industrial Trans Fatty Acids in Pakistan

Time Frame: October 2023 to June 2024

Partner: Cargill

INTRODUCTION

Industrial trans fatty acids (iTFA) are a major public health concern in Pakistan with high levels of consumption linked to a range of health problems, including heart diseases, diabetes, and obesity. The food industry is a major contributor to the problem with many products containing high levels of trans fats. A study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) reveals that Pakistan is one of the top 10 countries with the highest number of deaths attributable to iTFA consumption. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended reducing the intake of iTFA to less than 1% of total energy intake to prevent non-communicable diseases. The project has been prepared for a collaborative effort towards reducing iTFA in Pakistan.

Objectives: The major objectives of the study are as follows:

- To reduce the consumption of iTFA by increasing policy engagement, public awareness, and education about the health risks associated with iTFA consumption;
- To encourage the food industry to reformulate their products and reduce or eliminate iTFA from their products;
- To engage with the government and advocate the reduction or elimination of iTFA in the food supply.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- A comprehensive review of the iTFA situation in Pakistan will be conducted.
- Policymakers and general public will be sensitized about the health risks associated with iTFA consumption. Besides,
- A database of iTFA-free alternatives will be maintained to share it with food industry representatives.

Focal Person: Fatima Muzammil (fatimamuzammil@sdpi.org)

Pakistan Biosafety Capacity Building Programme

Time Frame: October 2023 to December 2023

Partner: US Soybean Export Council

INTRODUCTION

The global surge in Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) has reached Pakistan's crucial oilseed sector, demanding a delicate balance between potential benefits and stringent safety. To address this challenge, a transparent Biosafety Clearance House is urgently needed. Current regulations and undergoing amendments lack comprehensive coverage. Thus, a focused capacity-building initiative integrating policy, regulations, licensing, and data management is vital. This initiative aims to enhance knowledge, streamline processes, and align practices with international standards, ensuring a robust regulatory framework for Pakistan's future.

Objectives: The study aims to:

- Analyze federal EPA's capacity needs for efficient license processing;
- Conduct targeted training on regulatory policies for safe market development;
- Ensure testing labs adhere to SOPs/ISO standards;
- Provide data analytics tools for informed decision-making;
- Study global biosafety regulations for best practices, guiding adaptation to international standards.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Comprehensive training will be conducted on GMO regulations, policy analysis, and global protocols.
- Expert-led FAQ session addressing biosafety, licensing, and GM event testing will be organized.
- Initiative outcomes will be compiled, future areas for development will be identified, and potential risks to licensing and lab standards will be highlighted.

Focal Person: Fatima Muzammil (fatimamuzammil@sdpi.org)

Partnering with Local Actors to improve Health and Education Service Delivery

Time Frame: September 2022 To July 2023

Partner: Palladium

With the collaboration of Palladium Private Ltd, under USAID's NPI Expand HDA Program Grant, SDPI has implemented this project in Upper Dir district. This project was aimed to improve education and health service delivery through strengthening the capacity of the local government, enhancing civic participation in local level planning, and better utilization of available public resources to address the gaps in health and education service delivery in Upper Dir. The direct beneficiaries of the project included elected representatives of Tehsil councils, Village and Neighbourhood Councils, Tehsil administration, health care providers, teachers, PTC (Parents Teacher Council) and PCMC (Primary Care Management Committees) members, district health, education and population welfare department officials, and civil society organizations working in health and education service delivery in the district.

Objectives:

- To strengthen civic engagement by creating sustainable opportunity platforms for participatory local development planning for improved health and education service delivery.
- To develop innovative social accountability tools for identifying, prioritizing and addressing gaps in health and education service delivery.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Opportunity platforms/Committees (15 Committees at VC/NC and Tehsil Level were formed) for participatory planning at the local level for enhanced interaction between local elected representatives, service providers and other related institutions/individuals.
- Training of participants on local planning, budgeting, expenditure tracking through SAP, and its use for tracking expenditure viz a viz progress was conducted at local level.
- The project also successfully enhanced the capacity of the committees on the use of Citizen Report Card (CRC) to use data on social indicators (education and health) for identification of the needs and



gaps in education and health at the grassroots level and how to priorities these needs and fill gaps by strengthening accountability at local level.

- SDPI revitalized 24 PTCs and 7 PCMCs and also conducted three rounds of monthly meetings with 24 PTCs and four rounds of monthly meetings with 7 PCMCs. Previously, PTCs and PCMCs existed in project intervention areas but their engagement in the matters of improvement of school and BHU was missing due to lack of monthly meetings as per requirements of the official guidelines.



Focal Person: Qasim Shah (qasim@sdpi.org)

Reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by Improving Access to and Quality of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services in Buner District.

Time Frame: September 2022 To September 2023

Partner: Palladium

INTRODUCTION

New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) EXPAND Human Development Activity (HDA) is a three-year (2021-2024) programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It was designed to strengthen the technical and organizational capacity of new and underutilized partners (NUPs) besides supporting them to scale up health and educational innovations. In Pakistan, the NPI EXPAND HDA aims to support the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by increasing the availability and use of quality education, health, and family planning (FP) services. The programme results were aligned with policies of the provincial government to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration, civic engagement in services, and partnerships with non-governmental actors. Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) being the implementing partner of NPI EXPAND HDA joined hands with the local government and implemented the programme on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) in two Tehsils of Buner district, i.e. Daggar & Gagra).

Objectives: This programme aims to:

- Improve the access to and quality of MNCH services in the targeted health facilities through capacity building of the Department of Health (DoH) and Population Welfare Department (PWD) staff;
- Create awareness about MNCH in the target community through civic mobilization;

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

- Provision of basic essential equipment to the health facilities, i.e. 6 Basic Health Units (BHUs), 8 Family Welfare Centers (FWCs), 1 Rural Health Center (RHC), and 18 Community Midwives (CMWs);
- 240 health care providers were trained on:
 1. Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC);
 2. Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI);
 3. Maternal and Essential Newborn Care;
 4. Community based IMNCI.
- Supported 78 Lady Health Workers (LHWs) to revive the 234 Village Health Committees (VHCs) and 78 Women Support Groups (WSGs).

- Capacity building of 48 VHC representatives on:
 5. Community Management Skills Training (CMST);
 6. Key facts about Family Planning (FP);
 7. Key facts about MNCH.

- As many as 320 Health Awareness Sessions were conducted by engaging two male and 2 female each social mobilizers in non LHWs covered areas.
- At least 50 religious scholars were engaged for promoting MNCH best practices among 12,000 men and boys.
- MNCH and FP messages were disseminated among 56,000 individuals through radio, cable TV and social media in Buner and its surrounding areas.
- Revitalization of seven Primary Health Care Management Committees (PCMCs) for an improved health service delivery.

Focal Person: Waheed ul Zafar Zahdi (waheedzafar@sdpi.org)

Reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by Improving Access to and Quality of Family Planning Services in Buner district

Time Frame: September 2022 To August 2023

Partner: Palladium

INTRODUCTION

New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) EXPAND Human Development Activity (HDA) is a three-year (2021-2024) programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The programme has been designed to strengthen the technical and organizational capacity of New and Underutilized Partners (NUPs) and supporting them to scale up health and education innovations. In Pakistan, the NPI EXPAND HDA aims to support the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by increasing the availability and use of quality education, health, and family planning (FP) services. The programme results were aligned with policies of the provincial government to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration, civic engagement in services, and partnerships with non-governmental actors. Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) being the implementing partner of NPI EXPAND HDA joined hands with the local government and implemented the programme on family planning in two Tehsils of Buner district, i.e. Daggar & Gagra.

Objectives: This programme aims to:

- improve the access to and quality of FP and MNCH services in the targeted health facilities through capacity building of the Department of Health (DoH) and Population Welfare Department (PWD) staff; and
- Create awareness about FP and MNCH in the target community through civic mobilization.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Basic essential equipment was provided to the health facilities, including 8 FWCs and 1 RHSC-A.

- 200 selected DoH & PWD health care providers were trained on:
 1. FP Counselling & Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT);
 2. Short Acting Reversible Contraceptives (SARC);
 3. Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC);
 4. Permanent Methods; a: Male Vasectomy, b: Female Tubal Ligation;
- 42 Youth Ambassadors (YAs) were engaged to promote FP and their capacity building was done on:
 5. Community Management Skills Training (CMST);
 6. Key facts about FP;
 7. Key facts about Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH).

- Two Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and two Advocacy Forums (AFs) were formed to promote FP.
- 13 seminars were organized in educational institutes for FP awareness to engage 470 young individuals.
- 07 workshops were conducted with Civil Society Influencers to engage 170 individuals.
- FP awareness drive was launched through media which engaged 56,000 audience.

Focal Person: Rana Nazir Mehmood (nazir@sdpi.org)

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

05

GENDER EQUALITY



DEI for Facilitating Women in Policy under Women Leadership Program

Time Frame: September 2021- October 2023

Partner: Michigan State University, US Department of State & National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE)

INTRODUCTION

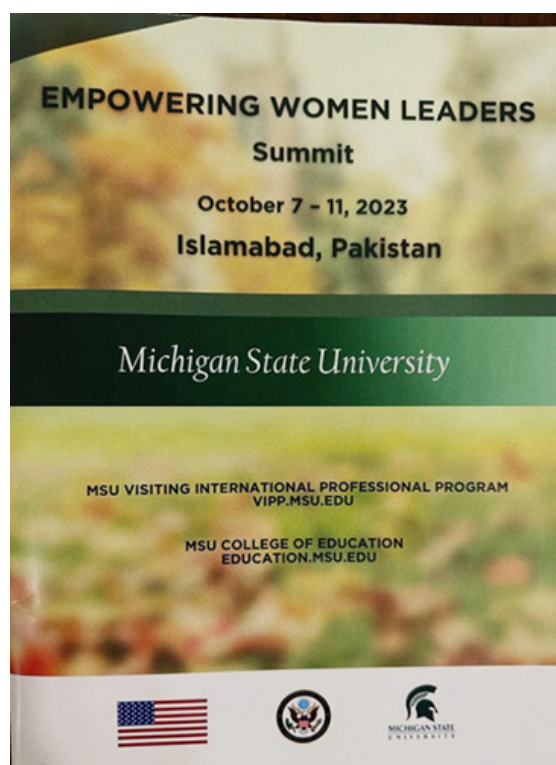
In August-September 2022, Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP) and the College of Education at Michigan State University, US selected and welcomed 25 Senior Women Leaders from Pakistan for a Leadership Development Program which is the part of a two-year US of State Department funded project in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC). The programme aimed to address the equity gap in women's leadership in Pakistan preparing them for Leadership/Advisory roles in future. The Programme focused on equipping and empowering women at different stages of leadership development, a process that occurs at the individual, institutional and system levels. It was a multi layered initiative with actions that:

- Provide women with professional learning in key content and skills necessary for decision-making;
- Build a mentored cadre of women leaders, who develop skills to mentor future leaders;
- Enlist local support and advocacy for promoting women to leadership positions;
- Develop a national platform of networking tools, resources, and mentoring expertise for future women leaders in Pakistan.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Under this program, a 'Seminar Series' was held focusing on the following five categories.

- Women in Power (Members of National and Provincial assemblies)
- Women in Bureaucracy
- Women in Diplomacy
- Women in Research & Development
- Women in Higher Education
- Women in Entrepreneurship



OUTCOMES

- Under this programme, women were provided with professional learning in key content and skills necessary for decision-making.
- A cadre of women leaders was built, who have developed skills to mentor future leaders.
- A national platform of networking tools, resources, and mentoring expertise was set up for future women leaders in Pakistan.
- The Network for Women in Policy (NWIP) was launched.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is a need to take proactive measures to improve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness.
- Women, who are aspiring to achieve higher positions need to attend mentoring and networking programmes, whether they are internationally linked, or institutionalized nationally.
- Upward mobility is always required that must be combined with some kind of decision-making responsibility.
- There is a need to introduce gender inclusive language at institutional level because it actually displays the character and the intent of the organization.
- Gender diversity does not mean that we only mentor and make equal opportunities for women, it also means that we have to reach out to the males and try to make spaces for women in the male dominated environment.

Focal Person: Dr. Fareeha Armughan (fareehaarmughan@sdpi.org)

South South Cooperation

17

PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Research Study on Personnel Exchanges as a cooperation model for South–South and Triangular Cooperation

Time Frame: May 2023-December 2023

Partner: United Nations Office for South South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Knowledge exchange has become the most important and dynamic pillar of South-South and triangular cooperation. It has gained prominence among developing countries who are increasingly recognizing that the good practices generated from the Global South have been cost-effective and easily adaptable. Exchanges of Southern expertise and knowledge offer viable pathways to address common challenges among the developing countries and to accelerate progress in the achievement of the SDGs.

The exchange of personnel in development cooperation allows for an intensive exchange of knowledge and skills that promote effective and sustainable development. In the reciprocal model, personnel move both North-South, South-North and South-South. Hence, in addition to enhancing partnerships, stimulate dialogue and support development activities in the South, the exchange of personnel also affects societies in the North.

Objectives: The study aims to explore the following questions.

What is the relevance of personnel exchange for achieving the development cooperation agendas and priorities?

It is well realized that in addition to the explicit focus on technical knowledge, international personnel exchange has aspects of indirect learning, whereby those being hosted gain insight and often sympathy with social, political, and cultural aspects of the host country. What is the Global South perspective on this form of “public diplomacy”?

How will COVID-19 and the growth of virtual meetings and learning arenas impact on personnel exchange in the years to come? How can a digital platform on South-South Cooperation such as the South-South Galaxy be utilized to compliment/ contribute to personnel exchange?

OUTCOME

A research paper was produced.

Focal Person: Asif Javed (asifjaved@sdpi.org)

POLICY ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

26th Sustainable Development Conference

Light at the End of the Tunnel: Hope in Times of Despair

20 – 23 November 2023 | Islamabad

Introduction

Since its foundation, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) has championed intellectual discourse by hosting a succession of Sustainable Development Conferences (SDCs).

The SDC is a flagship event of the Institute that not only provides a forum for SDPI's own research but also invites other researchers, practitioners, policy makers and academia to share their work and engage in a dialogue with fellow panelists and audience. This annual event has been established as a prime conference in South Asia with a major focus on Asia and beyond. It is one of SDPI's efforts in tackling sustainable development challenges through mutual and collaborative knowledge sharing, critical analyses and best practices. Details of the SDCs can be found at <https://sdpi.org/sdcseries>

Launching this tradition in 1995 with the inaugural SDC, each event culminates in the publication of an anthology — a testament to the rigorous peer-reviewed research inspired by the conference. These anthologies encapsulate the rich dialogues, insights, and pioneering discussions from their respective SDCs. Recent anthologies can be downloaded for free from <https://sdpi.org/sdconference/sdcpublications/publications>

Twenty-Sixth SDC (2023)

“Light at the End of the Tunnel: Hope in Times of Despair” was the overarching theme of SDPI's Twenty-Sixth SDC. It was inaugurated by H.E. Dr Arif Alvi, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the evening of 20 November 2023 followed by panel and plenary discussions from 21 – 23 November 2023. Altogether a total of 40 sessions were organized of which 09 were plenary sessions and 31 concurrent sessions. Over 300 speakers represented the following 19 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, India, Kenya, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK and the USA. It was attended by an audience of over 3,000 people.

For the first time, alongside SDC, Sustainability Investment Expo 2023 was held along with the Food Security Hackathon. The Expo aimed to bring together both public and private sector players in the design, production, and management of sustainability products, services, and initiatives while the two-day Food Security Hackathon focused on innovative initiatives to address food security challenges

confronted by Pakistan and Afghanistan. Details of the Conference may be found at <https://sdpi.org/sdconference/>.

Policy recommendations were formulated during thematic and interactive sessions, roundtables, and policy forums at this year's conference. These recommendations can also be viewed at <https://sdpi.org/sdconference/Light-at-the-End-of-the-tunnel-Hope-in-Times-of-Despair/policy-recommendations>.

Over the past years, SDCs are being held in a hybrid format. Some speakers joined online and so did the audience. Sessions were streamed live and recordings have also been made available for later viewing at this link: <https://sdpi.org/sdconference/Light-at-the-End-of-the-tunnel-Hope-in-Times-of-Despair/videos>

SDC Anthology

Jointly published by SDPI and Sang-e-Meel and launched at the 26th Sustainable Development Conference.

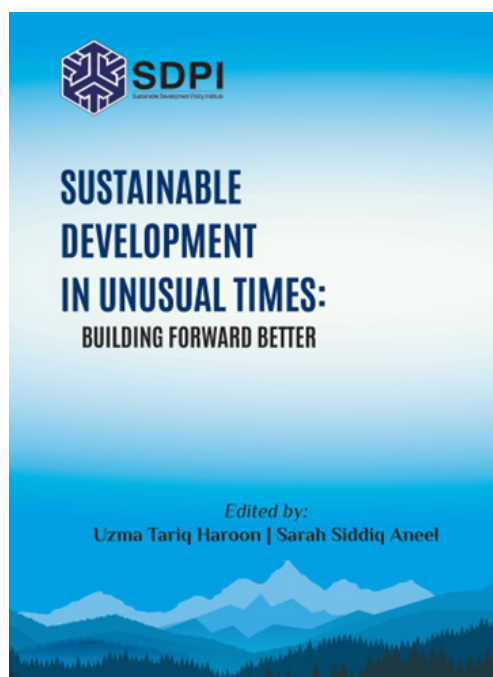
To purchase a copy, please contact Ahmed Salim Resource Center at (051)2278134. For free download of a copy, please visit <https://sdpi.org/sdconference/sdcpublications/publications>

Blurb

Sustainable Development in Unusual Times: Building Forward Better provides a comprehensive exploration of the intricate challenges and innovative solutions for the sustainable development of South Asia, with a central focus on Pakistan. Amidst an era marked by climatic adversities, geopolitical conflicts, and a global health crisis, this anthology serves as a pivotal reference, diving into multifaceted issues ranging from climate resilience and energy, trade, governance vulnerabilities to gender disparities and healthcare challenges.

The section on Environmental & Economic Paradigms addresses topics of climate resilience, renewable energy solutions, and forward-thinking trade policies for Pakistan.

It underscores the potential of the Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) model and stresses the importance of climate diplomacy and Green Bond markets. Authors discuss energy insecurity and urge that while the sector is



traversing through uncertain phases, strong domestic policy and regulatory support is essential for adopting a low carbon pathway and addressing both demand and supply side concerns. Finally, the use of innovative financial instruments, such as Catastrophe (CAT) Bonds, hinting at a promising avenue to reinforce sustainable agriculture and mitigate natural disaster risks; and the need to broaden the country's trade vision, especially Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), are debated.

Governance Imperatives turns the lens to the profound societal impacts of public policy decisions. Authors conduct a deep dive of the Taliban's rise to power in Afghanistan and its implications, underscoring the importance of a well-structured, holistic refugee and asylum framework for Pakistan. Additionally, another chapter discusses the complexities of decentralisation stressing the latent promise of truly empowered local governments. The authors advocate for greater political ownership, adoption of best practices, streamlining bureaucratic processes, and enhancing public participation in decision-making to transform Pakistan's governance landscape.

In the concluding section, Gender & Health Narratives, the anthology examines societal constructs and healthcare challenges. This section zeroes in on strategic solutions, to overcome deep-seated gender disparities, such as a transformative shift in the patriarchal mindset through media engagement, boosting women's financial autonomy through interest-free loans, promoting their professional advancement with targeted tools and trainings, and promoting gender equality via educational reforms. The book then shifts its focus to the frequently neglected topic of rare diseases, highlighting the urgent need for inclusive healthcare policies, joint initiatives between the public and private sectors, community-centric healthcare strategies and prompt interventions in treating neurological ailments in Pakistan.

Written by the best and brightest minds, **Sustainable Development in Unusual Times** is not just a book, but a manifesto for change. It is a clarion call for collective action, an earnest invitation to rethink established paradigms, and a futuristic blueprint for ensuring a thriving, sustainable Pakistan.

Blurb by Sarah Siddiq Aneel

Advocacy and Outreach Programmes

Advocacy and Outreach activities are integral to disseminate the institutional endeavours in connection with policy research, networking and lobbying to a wider audience. These activities play a crucial role in fostering societal awareness, stimulating reflective discussions, and generating a positive impact among the public. Through purposeful advocacy and outreach, the institution actively promotes insightful discussions on key issues of public importance, including economic development, climate change, energy, food security, resilient development, etc. These initiatives serve as conduits guiding both public and private sectors in making well-informed policy decisions.

In 2023, the Advocacy Unit organized around 100 activities, including seminars, webinars, guest lectures, book and report launches, etc. These events discussed diverse range of topics, including health, economy, human rights, energy, environment, food security and covered most of the aspects of Sustainable Development Goals. These activities provided a way for analyzing national progress towards the SDGs on the one hand and well-researched policy advice on the other to address the gaps in the national policies. The detail of these events is as under:

- 18 Monday seminars
- A national conference on World Environment Day under title: "Reimagining plastics and renewable solutions to environmental solutions"
- A national conference on "Community resilience to disasters and climatic hazards - Amplifying voices of the vulnerable people from the frontline"
- 1 Book Launch
- 1 Memorial Reference
- 3 trainings on 'Climate Action' for media and civil society activists
- Launch of four thematic policy papers on Climate Action
- 6 MoU signing ceremonies, and
- 2 consultations with parliamentarians on election manifestos

The unit reached out to thousands of people through these advocacy activities and the audience joined them either in-person or online from various parts of the world. The Unit also remained actively engaged during the year with parliamentarians and notable experts of their fields.

Like previous years, the Unit continued to secure space in the leading national and international print media and websites. The advocacy events were covered in almost 500 newspapers and websites through the Press Release dissemination.

Major Events of the Year

The details of some key events organized by the Advocacy Unit are as given below:

- **Distinguished Guest Lecture:** Environmental governance in addressing plastic pollution and the role of CSOs



Inger Andersen, the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme, delivered the lecture. She said that each year 400 million tons of plastic products are generated out of which 300 million tons end up in global waste basket, creating a big hazard for the environment. She stressed the need to carry the shared responsibility not only in reducing plastic packaging but also in the use of plastic packaging at different stages during transit. She called upon civil society to play its role in advocating the issue, generating scientific data, and creating awareness to reduce plastic waste. She called for stringent legislation to govern and reduce plastic waste and improve recycling and extended producer guarantees.

Seminar: Economic Integration of Transgenders



Addressing the seminar, Ms Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety, and Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), said the challenges confronting the transgender community are enormous and a lot needs to be done for their social acceptance, rights, and financial empowerment. . She said that BISP has introduced Hybrid Social Protection Scheme for transgenders to improve their financial literacy.

Reem Sharif, Transgender Rights Expert at the Ministry of Human Rights and Advisor at Tahafuz, Punjab Police, highlighted that the low registered population of transgenders is due to the fear of stigma and hate. She said the lack of registration prevents the community from accessing crucial basic services, including quality education, health and legal services, rendering them vulnerable and marginalized.

Seminar on International Women's Day: "DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality"



Pakistani women must have digital literacy, access to digital products, internet services and knowledge of e-commerce to bridge digital gender divide and tap the unlock economic potential, said experts and added that policies in Pakistan are usually gender blind, therefore, a more gendered and inclusive approach is needed in policy making. They called for improving online safety of women to provide them a conducive environment.

Policy Dialogue on World Environment Day

"Reimagining plastics and renewable solutions to environmental solutions"



Experts at the policy dialogue discussed the way forward for managing plastics and air pollution from the production and consumption of energy.

Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman said "It was high time for the country to embrace the 7Rs strategy to end worsening plastic pollution through the circular economy model that helps to overcome menace of plastic waste with multiple mutually beneficial opportunities". Senator Rehman said the 7Rs strategy demanded everyone for making conscious choices to reduce plastic consumption, reimagining the design and manufacturing to minimise their environmental impact.

Parliamentary Consultation: “Towards a Sustainable Future: Inclusion of Just Energy Transition and Climate Action in Election Manifestos 2023”



Experts said that Russia-Ukraine crisis had caused un-proportional energy inflation in developing countries, thwarting their clean energy transition and access, therefore, clean energy transition should be supported with finance mobilization to promote technology transfer. They said prioritizing climate action and renewable energy while designing party manifestos could exhibit commitment to tackling climate change and could strengthen Pakistan’s position in international climate finance partnerships.

Focal Person: Moazzam Sharif Bhatti (moazzam@sdpi.org)

Reference in memory of late Ahmed Salim



The end of 2023 brought a sad and tragic news for SDPI. Ahmed Salim, a cherished member of SDPI, had died. Throughout his life, he has advocated for the rights of the marginalized, working-class labourers and women. He left behind a treasure and legacy of extensive literature on Punjabi literature and poetry, archives. To honor his invaluable and meritorious services to literature and activism, a reference was organized at the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL). It was chaired by caretaker Federal Minister and renowned artist Syed Jamal Shah. Eulogising the life and works of late Ahmed Salim, he proposed the preservation of late author's biggest archives as a national asset for the future generations.

PPP-P leader Senator Farhat Ullah Babar said Ahmed Salim was a national asset as the wealth of his knowledge not only belonged to his family members but also the entire nation. 'He had the largest individual archives in the country and was a generous expert who always shared study and research material without any bias to all for free.'

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Taj Haider of Pakistan People's Party, said Ahmed Salim always advocated the rights of the marginalized and never compromised on his principles through his writings. 'He compiled the literature that was progressive in nature and banned by the dictators.'

Nuzhat Abbass from UK highlighted his efforts for defending the rights of women and oppressed through his writings and artistic works.

Navsharan Singh from Chandigarh, India said Ahmed Salim was the poet of humanity, equality, rights, and women empowerment and a genuine defender of human rights. 'His demise left a deep impact on the minds of all who remained associated to him.'

Dr Pritam Singh from UK recalled his first interaction with Ahmed Salim at Oxford, UK. 'Ahmed Salim had a painful narrative on the partition in 1947 and had associated his strong feelings to partition. He was committed to Punjabi language and society without any sentiments of exploitation, inequality and malice.'

Rana Fawad, CEO of Lahore Qalanders, recalled that Ahmed Salim had convinced him to lay the foundation of the first ever street theater for the labourers. 'He used to spent all his earnings on buying books and lived a contented life.'

Harris Khalique, Secretary General of HRCP, said Ahmed Salim considered the knowledge of all social sciences and humanities in totality that laid the foundation of

strong basis of knowledge ideology free from any biases and discrimination.
DG PAL Sultan Muhammad Nasir, Humera Ashfaq, Zareena Salamat, Kulsum Zaib, Barrister Naseem Bajwa, UK, Dr Anwaar Ahmed, Akhtar Usman and Brig. (R) Muhammad Yasin of SDPI also spoke their hearts out for Mr Ahmed Saleem in acknowledging his services to the nation and society.





Focal Person: Moazzam Sharif Bhatti (moazzam@sdpi.org)

Sustainable Development Television (SDTV)

Sustainable Development Television (SDTV) is a web-based television owned by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Since its inception in 2011, it provides quality video production facilities to government, non-government, international development agencies and corporate sector.

It regularly produces short video packages, documentaries and talk shows on issues related to sustainable development. In a short span of time, SDTV has developed its internal core production facility, which includes a studio, lighting system, cameras, sound mixers, switchers, and other essential production equipment. In addition, SDTV also provides live streaming and broadcasting services to its valued customers for greater outreach and advocacy.

Through SDTV, the SDPI reaches out to wider groups of public and private sector professionals. The detail of its important programmes is given below.

No	Guest	Theme	Screenshot
1	Mumtaz Baloch Spokesperson, Foreign Office, Pakistan	Ethnic cleansing by Israil in Gaza must stop now, or it may engulf regional countries to ignite an all-out war in Middle East, which will have serious impact on countries like Pakistan. Spokesperson, Foreign Office, Mumtaz Baloch says, Pakistan in closely engaged with Saudi Arabi, UAE, Qatar and Kuwait on 'Foreign Direct Investment' deals, which will help salvage from recession and vulnerabilities on external payment account.	
2	Dr Moeed Yousaf President, Beaconhouse National University	As the new cold war theater is warming up, Pakistan must do footwork to move from Geo-Strategy to Geo-Economics, as all inputs comes from China and products and services exported to the so-called greater West. Rector and President of Beaconhouse National University, Dr. Moeed Yousaf and Dr. Rabia Akhtar have co-authored a book, Pakistan's Geoeconomic Pivot: Strategies, Opportunities, and Challenges, which says the country needs policy, bureaucratic and other Infrastructure and Governance.	

3 Dr Amjad Saquib The world community under the banner of the UN has identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to get rid poverty in 2030, as a core socio-economic issue. Chairman, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saquib says, 'Financial Inclusion and Skill Development' are the two pillars of the policy, interwoven for alleviating poverty and creating enduring pathways to tread on.



4 Jianyu Zhang China is often criticized by the West for giving loans for its own gain and self-projection. Now, they have initiated 'Green Belt and Road Initiative,' President of China, Xi Jinping says will compensate for \$100 Billion promised at COP25 in Paris, but not made available. Executive Director of the BRI International Green Development Institute, Jianyu Zhang says Green Development is not an 'Abstract Concept; it is Delivered on Ground.'



5 Dr Adil Najim The humanity has seen many hardships in history, like wars and natural calamities, but this time it is climate change - peculiar, progressive, and permanent - which says 'Change or parish.' President, WWF, Dr. Adil Najim says, thermostat of the world has gone astray, and it's reading has little meaning to scientist and policy planners. As a result there is no reliable date foundation to plan on. If that is the reality on ground, then what is there as advice.



6 Hridayesh Joshi Climate Change is a wholesome change and above all it is the change of narrative, so the story must be told and that too through characters. We have today with us a person from India, who is busy changing narrative through his stories. Journalist, Hridayesh Joshi says, today we need to relate stories of change for changing perception.



7 Sanjay Vashist Climate Change has hit India hard, posing grave challenges to the normal way of life. To tackle the change directly and squarely, a strong climate action is needed. Sanjay Vashist, Director, Climate Action Network, South Asia is building narrative across geographic boundaries to get the action percolated at local level.



8 Dr Tariq Banuri Education for Development is a known fact, Pakistan has failed to imbed in its development programme, time and again. To salvage from the current economic malaise, the country now needs to spend at least 4 percent of its Gross Domestic Product on education, continuously and on stable basis, former Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Dr. Tariq Banuri says.



9 Mr Zafar Masood President, Bank of Punjab Blended finance is the way forward for climate compliant projects, but still institutions need bankable guarantees. This is to reduce viability gap in the light of the prevailing business and economic realities. President Bank of Punjab, Zafar Masood says, in the runup to COP 28 in Dubai, Pakistan needs number of viable projects for securing the help pledged through 'Loss and Damage Fund' at COP 27 after floods, and to establish it as a niche. Click the link to watch his exclusive talk with Tahir Dhindsa, only on SDTV...



10 The Venerable Dr Kallanchiye Rathanasiri Monk from Sri Lanka Pakistan is the bedrock of Gandhara civilization, built on the message of peace and harmony. Oblivious to it, the Subcontinent embroils in religious infighting. Sri Lankan monk, Venerable Dr. Kallanchiye Rathanasiri believes promoting people to people contact can promote interfaith harmony in the region.



11 Vice Admiral Ahmed Saeed (retired) Director-General, National Institute of Maritime Affairs On its 10th anniversary, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) awaits to materialize its potential, which is to make it operational as the pivot of the world, through Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). DG, National Institute of Marine Affairs (NIMA), Vice Admiral @, Ahmed Saeed says, with a rejuvenated interest the only deep seaport of the region Gwadar is about to become sufficiently operational, after most of the security issues have been sorted out.



12 Mr Haroon Sharif Former Minister of State for Investment Huge 'Sovereign Wealth Funds' of gulf countries are looking forward to investing in the region, for a very high return, under government-to-government (G-to-G) arrangements for safety and security of the funds. The 'Special Investment Facilitation Council,' with armed forces on board may ensure continuity and delivery. Minister of State for Investment, Haroon Sharif says, the thing to watch minutely is that private sector is not squeezed out which may lead to greater inequality.



13 Barrister Nasim Ahmad Bajwa Lawyer and Writer from UK The good news is that Pakistan will rise to its full potential, says Barrister Nasim Ahmad Bajwah, but it will happen after complete demolition, over the next five years. The current civil unrest is the beginning of the end.



14 Lt-Gen. Nigar Johar (retired), Pakistan Army Medical Corps A Woman is Made to Work Ten Times More Than a man of the Same Caliber Before her Professional Worth is Acknowledged. The First and only Lt. General of Pakistan Army, Niger Johar, in a Brief Q&A with Tahir Dhindsa, says she Helped Pull other Women of Substance and Merit up to the Level of General Officer After she Broke the Glass Ceiling.



Publications

English Publication Unit

Following the standard of international research publications, the English Publication Unit is responsible for documenting and disseminating the Institute's research publications while holding the policy research and policy advocacy together. Besides, it is also responsible for maintaining the research and editorial quality of the publications. The unit also acts as a tool of outreach and advocacy with stakeholders. All the publications, including Research Papers, Working Papers and Policy Briefs are peer reviewed by a panel of researchers and academics, as well as screened through Higher Education Commission's plagiarism software. After a thorough technical review, all these publications undergo a rigorous editing process. An English Editorial Board has also been set up to supervise the research quality of the research papers., which provides guidelines to authors and referees as well. In addition, the unit is also responsible for an editorial review of the institute's other publications, including annual reports, project publications, policy documents, etc.

Focal Person: Saleem Khilji (khilji@sdpi.org)

Urdu Publication Unit

Urdu Publication Unit is engaged in translating books, articles, project questionnaires and research papers of the Institute which are published inhouse or in International journals. Moreover, it also publishes Urdu periodicals, including newsletter and Urdu journal in the names of Dharti (Land), and Paidar Taraqee (Sustainable Development). respectively. Urdu publications are meant for wider local awareness raising and dissemination of research at grass roots level. The unit also undertakes translation work from other organizations and individuals as well.

Focal Person: Ahmad Salim

Urban Climate Resilience and Development in Pakistan
National Policy Paper
Authors
Zainab Naeem
Dr. Hina Aslam
Research Reports, Project Publications
Urban Climate Resilience and Development in Pakistan
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JODPRP

Journal of Development Policy, Research & Practice (JoDPRP) is an official publication of Sustainable Development Policy Institute and recognised by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Volume 6 is available at <https://journals.sdpi.org/index.php/JoDPRP/issue/view/8> and a printed version can also be purchased from SDPI's Ahmed Salim Resource Center. Volume 7 (2023) will be made available in the coming weeks. Please continue to visit <https://journals.sdpi.org/index.php/JoDPRP>

JoDPRP is a double-blind peer reviewed, and open access journal. With a focus on the social, economic, and political aspects of policymaking, our Journal is a leading forum for research on development policy issues. The Journal's subject areas include various themes from sustainable livelihoods to social sector development; from inclusive economic growth to institutional governance; from energy economics to climate change; from food in/security, water and human security to education; from sustainable industrial growth to resilient development; from religious tolerance to peace and gender equity.

This transdisciplinary scholarly annual Journal aims to provide a diverse array of research and working papers, policy briefs, and argumentative essays on issues pertaining to sustainable development.

The Journal follows Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines and is listed with HEC-HJRS, Google Scholar, LOCKSS, Academia, SCRIBD, Internet Archive, BASE, Euro Pub, ARI, and Electronic Journals Library.

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Ahmed Salim Resource Centre



Ahmed Salim Resource Centre (ASRC) serves as an information base for the multi-disciplinary research at SDPI. It is open to general public, students, academia and research scholars in the country and abroad. The center with 36000 quality books, journals/magazines and other valuable documents is one of the biggest information resources in the entire development sector in Pakistan.

In addition, digital files as well as online resources in the different areas of sustainable development, including environment, economic growth, energy, livelihood, gender, agriculture, social development, and the current hot issues like CPEC. There is an exclusive section for government data publications.

The Centre also provides the reading facilities of local, regional, and international journals and periodicals to subscribers. It receives more than 100 serials, including journals, periodicals, newsletters and newspapers. Additional resources are available through Inter-Library Loan Programme and Publication Exchange Programme.

ASRC strives to provide information and knowledge to facilitate researchers and development practitioners what want to conduct research on sustainable development issues in Pakistan. It has grown over the years evolving into an effective coherent mechanism of acquisition, processing, organization, creation, and dissemination of information. It undertakes the following tasks:

- Select and acquire appropriate resource/research information.
- Organize electronically the research information for easy access and use.
- Advise and assist people in searching through relevant databases ,,
- Information dissemination through publications such as periodicals/ E-newsletters, books, papers, etc.
- Network with libraries and information/ documentation centers

E/Digital/Smart Library

To facilitate the academia and development sector in Pakistan, SDPI knowledge bank is going online. Now, the library can be accessed for downloading and retrieving research on different themes from across the world through subscription and registration. We are in the process of setting up a library portal (OPAC)

Networking

To enhance access to information, the ASRC knowledge bank networks with national and regional thematically coherent organizations. The ASRC's "Publication Exchange Program" has a fraternity of 100 organizations/universities. Under this programme, SDPI publications are exchanged with books and other materials published by the partner organizations. The ASRC has a formal Inter-Library Loan arrangement with Pakistani libraries in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore.

Besides, ASRC facilitates access to various databases (e.g., HEC Digital Library, got VPN from Comsats Library databases as well as E-Library Punjab, World Bank) and online journals, enabling the researchers to consult and compare their work with that of contemporary researchers of their relevant fields.

Focal Person: Ali Aamir (aliaamer@sdpi.org)

Nasir Khan–MIS Web Unit

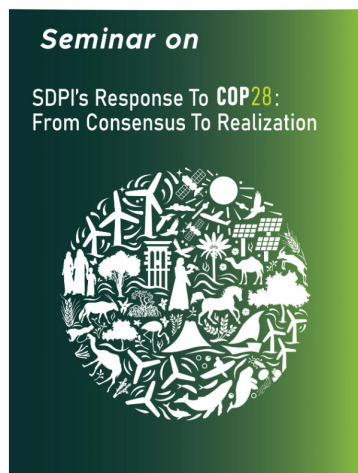
The Web unit of Nasir Khan Management Information System (NK-MIS) has recently revamped its website keeping in view the requirement of modern-day communication. It showcases day-to-day works of the Institute. The unit deals with design, development, management and maintenance of websites and web applications. It also facilitates video conferencing and live streaming during SDPI events. With a vision to become a professional web development and solution-oriented team by effectively utilizing SDPI information, resources, and emerging technologies, it works to empower the institute with result-oriented and quality applications and services.

Focal Person: Manzoor Ahmad (manzoor@sdpi.org)



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Dec 29, 2023

**CENTRE FOR
LEARNING &
DEVELOPMENT**

Center for Learning and Development

The Centre for Learning and Development (CLD) at SDPI is one of the premier learning centers of high repute, which offers high-quality trainings for professionals and leading institutions on the topics of organizational development, grooming future leaders, and emerging trends in sustainable development. The Centre was established in 1992 by Brig. Mohammad Yasin (Retired) as the Training Unit of SDPI to cater for the needs of the young researchers of the Institute and of government departments for their professional development (CPD). Later, because of its high-quality results and outcomes, the demand from other institutions tempted the Institute to launch its training programmes regularly. In 1998, a demand-driven training programme was launched for the public sector and civil society organizations. In 2001, the unit was transformed into a full-fledged Centre and renamed the country and abroad were used to attend these high-quality workshops based upon practical exposure and activity-based learning. The Center had organized several national-level capacity-building activities for partner institutions, open enrolment, and customized workshops for the academic, civil society, and public sector organizations.

With this aim, the Centre believes in participatory and interactive approaches to mutual learning and offers a number of international-level workshops to build institutional capacities, building strategies for transforming human resources, applied research, and good governance to improve quality and systems for durable solutions. The Center had given a new trend on on-the-job continuing professional development for individuals and organizational growth. Because of its activity-based learning and CPD approach, the Center was converted into the Center for Learning and Development (CLD) to cater to the needs of academia, research institutions, UN, and development organizations and somehow to improve corporate sector professionals' interaction and interactive skills.

Since its inception in 1992 till 2023, the Centre has conducted more than 1500 workshops for more than 730 public institutions, NGOs, INGOs, academic institutions, and UN bodies on various topics, trained more than 17000 professionals wherein the women ratio is above 40 per cent. It has completed joint many learning and development ventures with UN, UNESCO, UNODC, UNDP, UNICEF, USAID, and other international agencies like DFID, FHF, USEFP, British Council, USAID, AUSAID, GIZ, and various INGOs. The Centre is famous for its research and activity-based participatory learning methodologies. It engages the best international and national resource persons and trainers available in the market to yield high-quality results.

To maintain its credible position in the market, an annual survey is also conducted to identify the market needs and design future training workshops per the demand of valuable organizations and clients. The prime focus of the Centre is to engage the development, academic, and research organizations, and for this purpose, the Centre also provides a number of full and partial scholarships to students and

talented individuals; however, some women and transgender scholarships are also provided to engage all segments of the society. The Center offers mainly three types of Training learning programmes such as:

- 1) Customized Training
- 2) Training for getting projects funded
- 3) Open enrollment training (i.e. often tailored at individual level.)

In-house Trainings

In 2023, the Centre enhanced the capacity of SDPI staff through a diverse array of training sessions. Covering a broad spectrum of professional development, these sessions included topics such as Emotional Intelligence, fostering continuous improvement among employees, utilizing evidence in research and policy-making, and mastering the art of publishing in top-tier journals. The programme also delved into the fundamentals of social media marketing, honing speaking and presenting skills and refining writing abilities through a dedicated workshop. Furthermore, specialised training in script writing, rapporteurs' skills, and effective facilitation techniques were provided, showcasing the commitment of CLD to equip SDPI staff with a well-rounded skill set for optimal professional growth and contribution to the organization's objectives.



Project Trainings

The Centre for Learning and Development (CLD) collaborated in conducting the following training sessions with other units of SDPI.

Climate-Smart Agricultural Cooperation Under CPEC

This workshop had participants from both Pakistan and Chinese end with an objective to impact knowledge around climate smart agriculture based on success stories from China. The participants were also given the understanding on how these mechanisms/applications can further be applied (or are relevant) to the context of Pakistan.



Counter Violent Extremism (CVE)



The Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) workshop convened a robust exploration of critical issues, featuring in-depth discussions on various dimensions of the evolving threat landscape. Cyber-violent extremism took centre stage, with a thorough examination of legal challenges in combating cybercrime. Delving into the role of online platforms in disseminating religious extremism, the workshop shed light on the complex dynamics at play. Of particular concern was the rise of extremism among youth in universities, prompting a focused dialogue on preventive measures.

Modelling Energy Demand Using Low Emissions Analysis Platform

Under this theme, SDPI conducted a capacity building workshop for i) Public sector entities, ii) private sector, iii) Academia, and iv) think tanks working around the clean energy transition. The goal of the workshop was to impart training on the use of bottom-up models to conduct energy planning (both supply and demand) of a particular region. Through use of Low-Emissions Analysis Platform (LEAP) software, the candidates modeled long-term plans (up to 2040) for power sector capacity expansion and demand areas including i) Residential, ii) Commercial, iii) Industrial,



iv) Transport, and v) Agriculture sector of self-assumed hypothetical cities. Along with self-developed energy plans, the participants also gained insights on different types of energy models and their feasibility/applicability as per the given conditions.

"Media Challenges in reporting" in the consultations on "Analyzing bottlenecks with regard to existing framework of multi-hazard early warning systems and information dissemination in Sindh"

The workshop on "Analyzing bottlenecks with regard to the existing framework of multi-hazard early warning systems and information dissemination in Sindh, Pakistan" highlighted the crucial theme of "Media Challenges in reporting." participants engaged in collaborative group activities to identify challenges within the multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS) framework. The ensuing discussions led to the formulation of insightful recommendations aimed at developing a robust communication framework. Emphasis was placed on addressing identified bottlenecks and clearly defining the roles of primary and secondary stakeholders to enhance the overall effectiveness of the early warning systems in Sindh, Pakistan.



Decision Makers' Information Need Assessment

The Decision Makers' Information Need Assessment workshop provided valuable insights into the critical role of information in crisis management. The workshop successfully addressed power dynamics and interests that influence information

access, explored the significance of early warning systems, emphasized transparency and accountability in governance, and highlighted the potential of leveraging data for development. The nuances of human behavior in information dissemination were also thoroughly examined, enhancing participants' ability to navigate the complexities of crisis response. Overall, the workshop contributed to a more informed and resilient decision-making framework, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the intricate interplay between information and effective crisis management.



Women Campaign Readiness Programme

The workshop aimed to empower and enhance the skills of female councillors in navigating and actively participating in the local government system. The comprehensive training encompassed topics such as effective public speaking, communication skills, and inclusive citizen engagement, ensuring a well-rounded skill set for the participants. Covering aspects from the structure of local government to financial management and principles of local taxation, the workshop equipped women representatives with the knowledge and skills necessary for active contribution to local governance while addressing potential conflicts or issues like harassment in the political workspace.



Carbon Markets in Pakistan and Equitable Government

This ToT workshop was conducted for relevant ministries, development partners, and some CSOs to explain build their capacity around carbon markets in Pakistan. The participants were given training around i) Article 6 of Paris Agreement: from compliance to voluntary carbon markets, ii) Instruments for Pakistan: Policy

& Regulatory Tools, iii) Carbon Markets: Development of local carbon exchange & selling credits to international markets, and iv) Communications activities to enable effective implementation of carbon trading. Based on the workshop, the participants also analyze key challenge, opportunities, and the framework for effective implementation of carbon markets in Pakistan.



Summer Internship Programme 2023



Every year, CLD offers summer internships to graduates and undergraduates of higher educational institutions universities. This Internship was initiated in 2014, and in 2016, it was transformed into a Summer Internship Programme (SIP). Now, it has become a brand, and students aspire to do their internship with SDPI. Many students from various universities in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Karachi are joining this summer internship. The screening process is very dynamic and challenging. This year's summer internship programme was organized in two batches. The first batch included a total of 35 students and the second batch commenced with 25 students. CLD organized three distinct training sessions and engaged students in various interactive learning activities throughout the programme. This Internship provides an edge to have practical exposure to working with top-ranked institutions, which helps in job opportunities and higher studies in national and international universities. So far, SDPI has awarded SIP certificates to more than 500 students, who have successfully performed during their internship.

CLD Capacity Building HUB during SDC:

The Centre organized a Capacity Building HUB during the Sustainable Development Conference (SDC 2023), facilitating six diverse training orientations to enhance knowledge and skills. Topics covered included:

- Carbon Markets in Pakistan and Equitable Government
- Modeling Energy Demand Using Low Emissions Analysis Platform
- Training on Policy Economy as Disaster Risk Reduction Approach
- Climate Change and Health System Resilience
- Empowering Climate Leaders: Strategies for Sustainability (SDPI & Women in Energy of Pakistan)
- Project Management Orientation



CLD Upcoming Programmes

- **Empowering Climate Leaders: Strategies for Sustainability (SDPI & Women in Energy of Pakistan) Post-COP 28 Bootcamp**

This course aims to give a theoretical and practical understanding of Climate Change in the context of National Climate Governance. It will introduce participants to key aspects of a low-carbon future and create an understanding of critical aspects of climate change, such as mitigation and adaptation. It aims to be held after the COP28 to sensitize participants to key aspects of climate change policy and politics. It examines climate policy and the national climate environment.

- **Leading the Change: Sustainability through CSR and ESG Frameworks, Bootcamp**
The sustainability leadership bootcamp aims to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to become sustainability leaders capable of implementing corporate social responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles frameworks in their organizations.

- **Cross-Sector Partnerships & Sustainable Development Bootcamp**
This course is designed to empower professionals to shape a sustainable future. The program focused on implementing strategies that foster understanding and collaboration across diverse backgrounds. Participants will gain insights into navigating cultural nuances, promoting inclusivity, and effectively applying cross-cultural principles in their professional spheres.

- **Workshop Series on “Green Growth and Climate Resilience”**

SDPI is introducing its Green Workshop Series, dedicated to promoting eco-consciousness and sustainable practices. The workshops would be designed to be interactive platforms where expertise, insights, and experiences converge, sparking innovative ideas and catalyzing actionable strategies. These workshops exemplify a commitment to fostering dialogue, knowledge sharing, and capacity building to address specific environmental challenges within different contexts. This initiative seeks to gather diverse stakeholders, including United Nations bodies, government entities, civil society organizations, academia, indigenous people, journalists, and activists, to advance sustainable development principles. These workshops embody a holistic approach to addressing environmental concerns while championing human well-being, social equity, and economic prosperity under the given themes:

- Environmental and Climate Modeling
- Environmental and Energy Transitions
- Sustainable Energy Trade
- Green Growth in Agriculture
- Green and Climate Financing
- Gender and Environment

Focal Person: Sadia Satti (sadiasatti@sdpi.org)

RESEARCH NETWORKS

Climate Action Network South Asia

During the last two decades, the world has witnessed a sharp increase in internal migration because of disasters particularly floods and earthquakes. In 2019, conflict and disasters have triggered 33.4 million new internal displacements across 145 countries and territories. In Pakistan, 100,000 displacements occurred between January 1st and December 31st in rural areas. It is usually observed that when livelihoods of people are devastated by climate change in the rural areas, they migrate urban areas to earn money for their food.

In this backdrop, civil society organizations in the region formed Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) in 2019. CANSAs is a network of more than 200 CSOs working on climate change issue in South Asia. SDPI Executive Director, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri was elected the co-chair of the network.

Objective

The purpose of the network is to build solidarity for migrants and displaced communities due to climate through evidence-based research and sensitizing media and policy makers about migration due to climate change in Pakistan.

Focal Person: Dr Shafqat Munir (shafqat@sdpi.org)

Network for Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan

Partner: European Climate Foundation

Energy and climate change are the core challenges for Pakistan. If not addressed properly, they can easily jeopardize sustainable development in the country. Pakistan has an estimated annual adaptation need of \$6-14 billion for the clean energy transition whereas it would require a total of \$101 billion by 2030. Considering these issues, the NCET is envisioned to bring along all the visionary stakeholders to address the risks posed by climate change and deliver a smooth transition to a low-carbon economy.

Objectives

To engage and facilitate stakeholders in Pakistan's clean energy transition debate pertinent to uptake of Variable Renewable Energy sources (solar and wind), energy efficiency and conservation, Transmission and Distribution networks, off-grid systems, and decarbonization in (and beyond) the power sector.

- To identify the key elements missing from Pakistan's near and long-term energy sector planning.
- To build capacity around the challenges and opportunities for corporate sector

in setting their net-zero targets and mainstreaming sustainability into their development agendas.

- To identify the green financing opportunities & consult on development priorities for green infrastructure in Pakistan.
- To identify the technically and economically feasible solutions for renewable energy uptake in Pakistan. Market barriers along with renewable energy adoption challenges that can be addressed through the support of policies and regulations
- To promote technical knowledge on policy planning for cleaner, accessible, and reliable energy while advocating gender equality and social inclusion
- To summarize key findings and insights on technology transfer for curbing greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change
- To develop and propose a framework to share the newly emerging green technologies, practices, and low carbon solutions
- To increase sectoral, inter-provincial, & international collaborations to reduce the electricity cost and secure the grid
- To do green financing on green bonds, sustainable finance instruments, and tools to stimulate and enhance private sector investments to support our efforts to a green economy of Pakistan.

Focal Person: Ubaid ur Rehman (ubaid@sdpi.org)

Community Resilience Research Network

The concept of Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) alongside peace, development and resilience has emerged as part of a modern approach to counter extremism and terrorism. Through CVE, we can cope with the threats to peace and security paving the way for a prosperous and resilient society.

Community Resilience Research Network is a network of researchers and academics based in the Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, who seek to advance knowledge on how to build community resilience to counter violent extremism.

One of the measures for countering violent extremism is holding dialogue in the form of both theory and practice followed by research.

Objectives

To strengthen research activities and build sustainable networks of researchers and thought leaders focused on building community resilience to Violent Extremism (VE) in Pakistan.

Network Structure

The network has three bodies, i.e. Project Advisory Board (PAB), Senior Research Council (SRC) and three Local Chapters (LCs), one each in Islamabad/Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh. The PAB oversees the project implementation strategy, SRC develops guidelines and ensures the strategic development of activities besides acting as academic supervisors, peer-reviewers, and mentors for the members of their chapters. Chapters comprise the academics and researchers to participate in CVE discussions.

Focal Person: Dr Shafqat Munir (shafqat@sdpi.org)

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Finance Unit

Finance, in any organization, has its unique place and significance. It is the backbone of any organization, as it helps the organization provide a continuous stream of cash flows, which are necessary for organizational operations. At SDPI, Finance Unit is responsible for ensuring financial sustainability of the organization by putting in place efficient strategies in line with the mission and vision of the organization. Moreover, safeguarding of assets and compliance with applicable laws and regulations is also an important part of the financial management. The unit undertakes the following tasks.

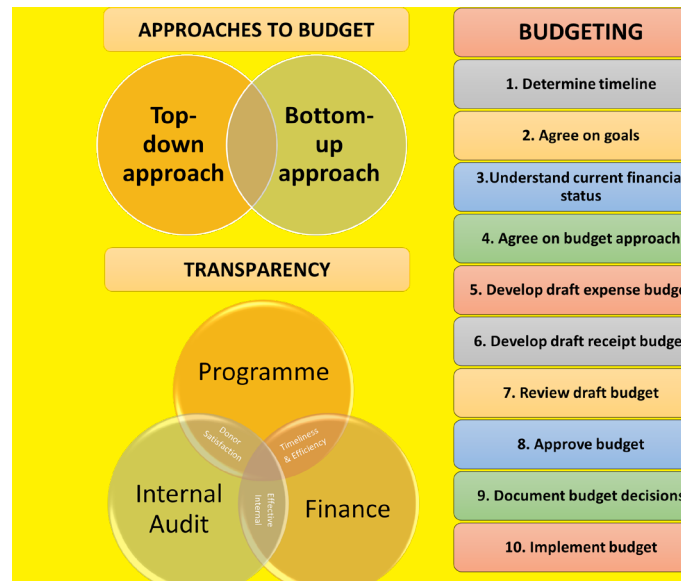
- Budget Making
- Resource Planning
- Variance Analysis
- Financial Accounting
- Statutory Reporting
- Donor specific Reporting
- External Reporting
- Internal Financial Management Reporting

Internal Audit

Internal Audit and Compliance Unit is entrusted with internal audit of the organization along with planning and conducting operational, financial and compliance audits and reviews creating synergies among the units. It also covers the strategic, operational, financial and compliance risks to evaluate the effectiveness of internal controls and ensure compliance with legal laws and requirements. Others include ensuring in place the internal control and continuous monitoring of them for efficiencies and effectiveness. It performs functional reporting to the Board of Governors' Finance and Audit Committee and administrative reporting to the Executive Director. It gives value-added evidence-based recommendations to senior management using Computer-Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs).

Integrated Approach Of Program, Finance & Internal Audits

Programme, Finance and Internal Audit Units together changed the approach to deliver timely projects in an efficient and effective manner by working together and creating synergies. All the three units work in close coordination with each other. Finance has standardized the budget making steps using top-down approach as well as bottom-up approach depending on the requirements of the project. Internal Audit Unit plays a vital role in programme by making compliance with donor requirements, therefore, resulting in donor satisfaction. In relation to Finance Unit, it periodically reviews internal controls in Finance Unit for greater transparency and highlighting the potential risks proactively so that proper strategy can be put in place to address those risks. The summary of changes can be observed in the diagram below:



Administration & Procurement Unit

Administration & Procurement Unit is entrusted with the task of day-to-day administration as well as resource planning. The smooth running of operations with efficiency is the prime objective and mission of this unit. It provides logistics for day-to-day functions, annual conferences and international events from alpha to mega. The unit is also responsible for providing a conducive environment to the staff not only in the office but also in the field. Provision of logistics to its staff within an organization is the basic responsibility of the unit. Besides, the unit ensures value for money by making purchases through best practices by planning and afterwards implementing various projects. The unit facilitates the research and other staff regarding procurement within and outside the country. The procurement process is guided and monitored by a Procurement Committee at the institute so as to keep the process clean and transparent

Nasir Khan- MIS IT Unit

Nasir Khan Management Information System (NK-MIS IT) is the backbone of SDPI. The Unit is dedicated to delivering crucial technical services and support to the staff on day-to-day basis. This involves addressing software and hardware challenges, inventory management, upgradation and maintenance of network infrastructure, ensuring robust cyber security, managing cloud storage solutions, and overseeing software installations. These comprehensive efforts aim at facilitating the smooth operation of all staff members. It not only helps the researchers enhance their output but also facilitates the staff with all the modern tools of working.

Post-pandemic, the IT unit faced the challenging task of aligning the organization with global standards and ensuring the seamless delivery of online services. Throughout this period, essential auxiliary support services, including the facilitation of online and hybrid meetings, management of seminars/webinars, and guidance on

research and survey tool usage, were implemented. After nearly a year in the online mode, the world transitioned to a hybrid model. Fast forward to 2023, a remarkably successful year for the NKMIS-IT as the unit executed all tasks and responsibilities seamlessly, free from any issues or glitches. The unit achievements are as follows:

Hybrid and Online Meetings

NKMIS-IT provides wide range of services, including cloud recording, archiving, reports generation and technical support to internal and external participants for successful conduction of Hybrid and Online Meetings using Zoom, Google Meet, and MS Teams. Some of the details are given below.

- More than 250+ Meetings online (on Zoom, Google Meet, and MS Teams, Webex, etc.)
- More than 200+ Hybrid meetings conducted in SDPI and on different venues all over Pakistan (on Zoom, Google Meet, and MS Teams, Webex etc.)

Hybrid Seminars /Online Webinars

During the era of lockdowns worldwide, hybrid events were introduced in which both the panelists and the audiences were present in person as well as online. Our main challenge was to coordinate, plan, initiate, test, and execute this mode of events. It was, however, successfully implemented and practiced in various cities across the country. This hybrid model gripped a big online and in-person audience. Fast Forward to 2023, hybrid events have become the new normal.

NKMIS-IT provides wide range of services in this regard including all relevant technical support including Live streaming on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, SDTV Facebook, SDTV YouTube, SDTV Website, recording on cloud, archiving, reports generation, photography and providing all relevant technical support to internal and external participants for successful conduction of Hybrid Seminars and Online Webinars using Zoom all over Pakistan. Some of the details are given below:

- 80+ Online Webinar conducted and live streamed on all major social media channels including Facebook, LinkedIn, X (previously known as Twitter), YouTube (SDTV Channel), SDTV Website successfully throughout the year 2023.
- 70+ Hybrid Seminars conducted and live streamed on all major social media platforms including Facebook, LinkedIn, X (previously known as Twitter), YouTube (SDTV Channel), SDTV Website successfully across all Big Cities of Pakistan throughout the year 2023.
- Some of the cities where we conducted Hybrid Seminars are Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Buner.

1st Hackathon in 2023

NKMIS-IT provided its services at the first-ever Innovation for “food security and Pakistan Afghanistan Trade in Agriculture hackathon” in Islamabad. There were a

total of 24 teams participating in this two-day event, 20 were present physically and four were present online. NKMIS-IT provided all relevant technical support to all the teams making sure that the event runs smoothly. Some of the details are given below:

- Opening session of the Hybrid Event using Zoom and live streamed on all major social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, X (previously known as Twitter) and SDTV Website)
- 2 Hybrid Training Sessions were conducted via Zoom.
- 22 In-person Mentoring Sessions technical facilitation.
- 4 online Mentoring sessions using MS Teams.
- 24 hybrid Judging sessions were conducted successfully via Zoom and MS Teams.
- Closing session of the Hybrid Event using Zoom and live streamed on all major social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, X (previously known as Twitter) and SDTV Website).

1st Sustainable Investment Expo in 2023

NKMIS-IT provided overall monitoring and technical support at Expo. Equipment Preparedness & updating, testing, deployment, internet, sound, SMDs display etc. Making sure everything runs smoothly in-terms of IT. Some of the details are as below:

- Successful Testing, deployment of hybrid setup, internet, content management for SMDs
- High Speed Internet deployment at the venue of Expo
- Fire Side Chats at Conference Room 2 Hybrid Setup installation and testing and live working Live Streaming of sessions on all social media platforms. Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, X (Twitter) and SDTV Website.
- Opening and closing ceremonies, 1 High Level Panel discussion, 7+ Fire side chat events conducted via Zoom and live streaming Live Streaming of sessions on all social media platforms. Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, X (Twitter) and SDTV Website

26th Sustainable Development Conference

SDPI organized its annual 26th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) from 21-23 November 2023 in Islamabad. NKMIS-IT visited the venue, did survey of all the locations (5 halls), deployed sound systems, OB systems, SMD screens, LED screens, integrated all these systems and tested for the smooth working of conference in terms of ensure more than 40 hybrid events. During this conference, all sessions were held hybrid via Zoom and live streamed through all major social media platforms, including Facebook, LinkedIn, X (previously known as Twitter), YouTube (SDTV Channel) and SDTV's Website.

Details of all sessions, events, plenaries during the 3-day conference are given below:

- 39 parallel hybrid sessions at 4 different locations.
- 8 hybrid Plenaries conducted at 2 different locations.
- 2 Side events conducted at 2 different locations.
- All sessions, events, plenaries were live streamed on all social media platforms.
- Troubleshooting panelists issues and running presentations.
- Online/remote support to the panelists joining online.
- Dedicated IT support in the four halls.

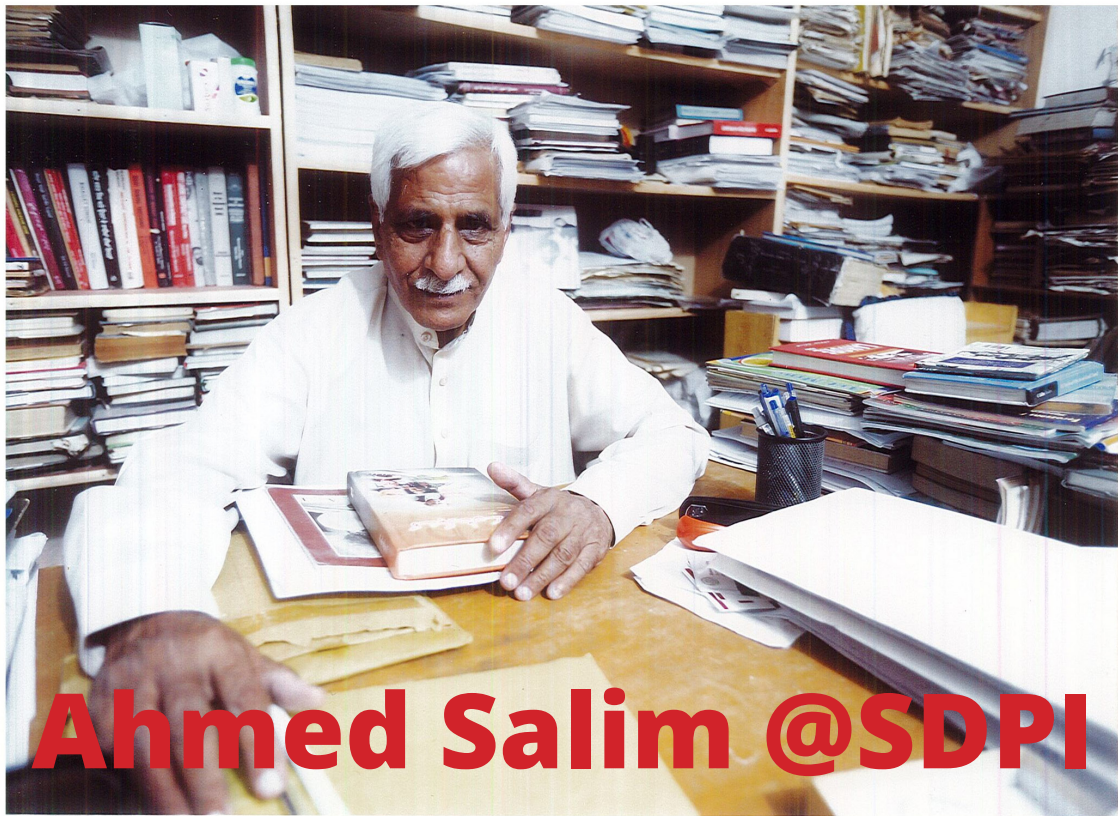
Focal Person: Adnan Hasan

Business Development Unit (BDU)

In 2010, it was realized that there should be a specialized unit to assist and support fund raising for the research programmes to make SDPI financially sustainable. Resultantly, a Programme Development Unit (PDU) was established to work with research units and develop proposals for fund raising. The unit, with full support from programme teams, finance, and senior management was able to raise institutional funding for undertaking research.

Because of the effectiveness of PDU, the management in 2018 upgraded and renamed the unit as Business Development Unit. The unit's mandate included not only to support research units in fundraising through proposal writing but also donor reporting, identification of partners for proposal development and implementation, and to oversee financial reporting, placement of personnel to deliver the quality output, and overseeing progress in line with agreed timelines.

Focal Person: Syed Qasim Shah (qasim@sdpi.org)



Ahmed Salim @SDPI

Ahmed Salim, the famous Urdu and Punjabi poet, playwright, archivist, researcher, and rights activist, died after protracted illness in Islamabad on 10 December 2023 and buried in Lahore at Miani Sahib graveyard. He joined SDPI in 1997 and remained associated with the Institute till his last breath. Before joining SDPI, most of his lifetime was spent in Lahore where he served in different journals and newspapers. After 1997, he stayed with the family of Dr Humaira Ishfaq, who looked after him like a real daughter. She says: "Salim sb was a giver, but never claimed it. He corrected history and literature which is his perpetual charity."

His death was mourned as a great loss to the literature and suppressed voices in the country and abroad. On his demise, literary and left-oriented circles in Pakistan and abroad paid glowing tributes to him and eulogized his revolutionary struggle and works. He left behind the largest individual archives and wanted to preserve this knowledge treasure as a national asset for future generations. His long-time colleagues at SDPI pay tributes to him in the following words.

Ahmed Salim, a soul with deep personal humility

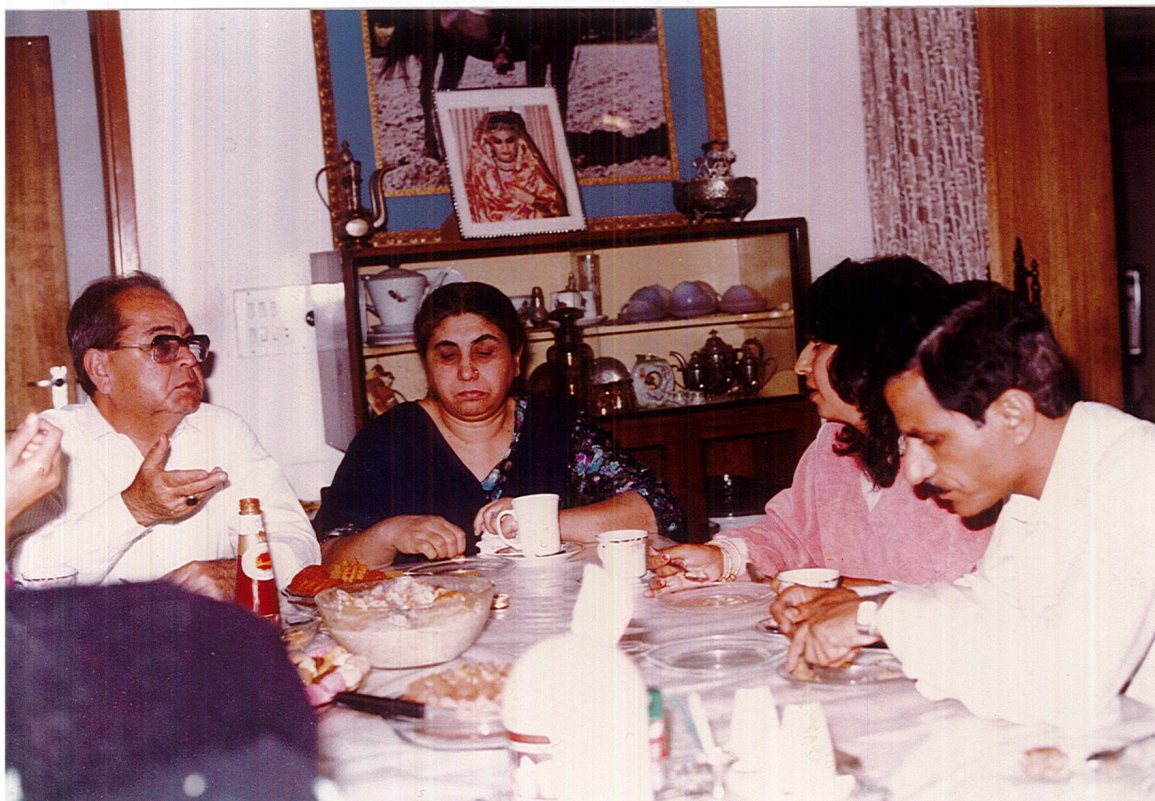
Brigadier Mohammad Yasin (Retired)

It was a chilly morning of December 1997, when I first met Ahmed Salim in the monthly Staff Council meeting of SDPI. When the Chair announced that those members who recently joined the Institute to please introduce themselves, Ahmed Salim stood up and said: "I read and write, that is what I have been doing.

I was out of regular work for quite some time and now I am a member of SDPI. Here I will continue the same work". The introduction was brief but comprehensive. I could see that he was a simple, and honest gentleman.

Since then, he had been a close colleague. My association with the late Ahmed Salim spanned over 26 years. He was a thoroughly humble and sober person with deep personal humility and extensive professional skills I found him a principled, thorough intellectual, with unquestionable integrity, knowledge, and an upright person who minded his own work but was always willing to help colleagues in intellectual pursuits.

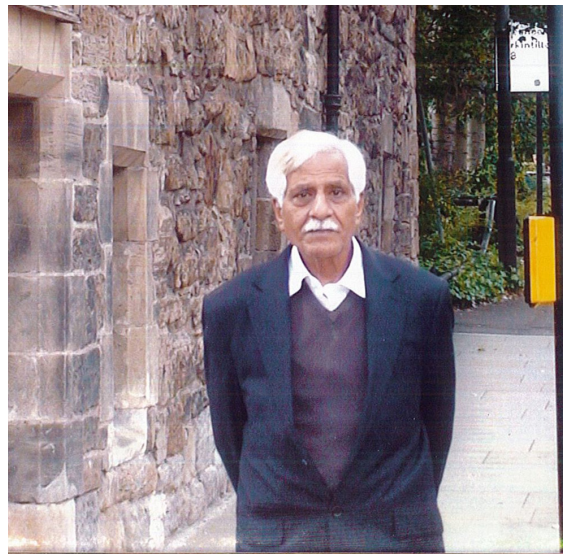
He extensively wrote on philosophy, literature, Lok Virsa, politics, and sociology. He was the author of more than 175 books. Because of his standing and his work as a scholar, and authoring several Urdu publications in SDPI, SDPI's Resource Centre was named as Ahmed Salim Resource Centre in 2013. During his tenure in SDPI, he was awarded the President's Pride of Performance Award in 2010 in recognition of his contributions to the field of literature, which he well-deserved.



He had been managing South Asia Resource Centre which is well stocked with books and newspapers. There is a wealth of information in this Centre. Almost all the important newspapers, books, reports, and documents published during the last two centuries are preserved in the Centre.

A few years back, he was not maintaining good health because of his liver problems. Since Ahmed Salim has led a contented life with no worldly avarice, he could not afford the cost of liver transplant. The Executive Director SDPI, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri and his team knocked at different doors and raised funds for the purpose. Allah be praised that the transplant was successful.

With his passing away, SDPI and country have lost an invaluable asset. His work will continue to inspire future generations of students, scholars, and researchers. An important question that comes to mind is what we will do with the intellectual work that he has left behind. The best way that we can pay him our homage is that his work must not only be preserved but made use of by the students, scholars, intellectuals, civil society organizations, and academia. His work should be made available online for those who would like to benefit from it. I am sure SDPI will establish Ahmed Salim corner where his books and other work will be displayed. Perhaps the Civil society organizations and universities can do the same.



I conclude by saying that Ahmed Salim was a gentleman with deep personal humility, but intense professional will to read, write, and continue his scholarly work even when he was seriously ill. Let us preserve and use his work which will remain an important national asset.

My teacher, and my mentor

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri (suleri@sdpi.org)

In my university days, I used to study progressive literature written by Ahmed Salim. Whenever, I read his book, it opened on me the new windows of knowledge and enlightenment. His teachings contributed a lot to my intellectual upbringing and progressive mindset..., so he was like a teacher and mentor for me. His romance with books was unique. He used to spend all his salary on books that were his total universe. The house where he had lived was like Urdu Bazar Lahore, where books can be seen from floors to the ceilings. Once he was offered by a foreign embassy to sell his resource center for a heavy amount, but he refused, saying: "It is an asset of the nation and this soil."

When the trial of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's murder case was initiated for the first time in PPP government, Ahmed Salim Resource Center provided the references in Bhutto's case to the lawyers. SDPI will keep his journey and struggle alive with the help of his fans and friends the world over.

Ahmed Salim never had any discrimination in his life against anyone. The government of Pakistan conferred on him the Pride of Performance for Arts and the President of Bangladesh awarded him Presidential Award for supporting Begali language. His name was a recognition to SDPI in the region. The institute gained huge respect in Bangladesh, India, and within the country be it Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh or Balochistan because of Ahmed Salim.

He took down on almost all the genre of literature from drama to fiction and prose to poetry. At the same time, his writing grip on politics and culture was so strong. His revolutionary books, including Roshan Khyali, Jis Dhaj Se Koi Maqatl Mein Gaya, Sara Mulk Mansoor, Tareekh Ka Ik Gumshuda Waraq, and others have the status of 'Red Book'. His last book, Meri Dharti, Meray Log, comprises his memoirs in which he wrote about his associations and experiences and disappeared like a cloud which had outwept its showers.



SDPI STAFF

STAFF MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 2022



Abdullah Khalid
Project Coordinator



Abid Rasheed
Library Assistant



Ahad Nazir
Program Manager



Ahmed Awais Khaver
Research Associate



Ali Aamer Javed
Associate Coordinator
AS Resource Centre



Ali Jabber Malik
Media Coordinator



Ali Rehmat
Project Assistant



Amina Ehsan Qazi
Project Coordinator



Inderyas Masih
Mate



Aqsa Naveed
Project Assistant



Asif Javed
Senior Research
Associate



Azka Tariq
Reporter/Producer



Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri
Executive Director



Dr Fareeha Armughan
Research Fellow



Dr Khalid Waleed
Research Fellow



Dr Razia Safdar
Advisor CHPI



Dr Sajid Amin Javed
Deputy Executive
Director (Research)



Dr. Shafqat Munir Ahmad
Research Fellow



Dr. Vaqar Ahmed
Joint Executive
Director



Faizan Basharat
Assistant Accounts
Officer



Farah Barkat
Manager Finance



Fatima Muzammil
Consultant



Ghulam Hassan
Driver



Hammad Nadir
Project Assistant



Hamza Baig
IT Officer



Hassan
Assistant Accounts
Officer



Huzaifa Rehman
Research Assistant



Ijlal Ashraf
Internal Auditor



Imran Khan
Admin Officer



Isam Din
Security Guard



**Kashif Majeed
Salik**
Research Fellow



Khansa Naeem
Research Associate



Khurram Shahzad
Manager HR



Laraib Kiani
Advocacy Officer



M Munir Khan
Security Guard



Mahnoor Arshad
Research Associate



Maheen Rehan
Project Assistant



Manzoor Ahmad
Web Coordinator



Maryum Waqar
Survey Coordinator



Misbah Najib
Project Associate



Moazzam Sharif Bhatti
Director Ad-



Mobeen Ali Khan
Project Associate



M Awais Umar
Research Associate



Muhammad Hamza
Internal Audit &
Compliance Officer



Muhammad Ismail Mira Khan
Front-End Developer



M Khurshid
Driver



Muhammad Riaz
Driver



M Saleem Khilji
Senior Editor



Muhammad Shaban
Director Finance



Muhammad Shakil Javed
NLE/Cameraman



Naimat Ullah Wazir
Project Assiatnt



Nisar Ahmed
Manager Administration



Rabia Tabassum
Senior Research



Ramsha Mehboob
Project Assistant



Rana Irfan Rafi
Project Assistant



Rana Nazir Mehmood
Project Director



Sadia Satti
Training Associate



Sahar David
Executive Secretary



Saima Mughal
Receptionist



Saima Qaiser
Mate



Salah Ud Din Yousaf
Project Assistant



Saleha Qureshi
Project Assistant



Sania Amin
HR Officer



Salman Danish
Research Associate



Shahid Rasul
Library Associate



Sohail Younis
Mate



Sonia Iftikhar
Mate



Syed Adnan Hassan
Senior Coordinator
NK MIS



Syed Ali Wasif Naqvi
Senior Research
Associate



Syed Asim Raza
Production
Executive



Syed Hassan Murtaza Research



Syed Qasim Ali Shah Deputy Executive



Syed Sohail Abbas
Digital Media &



Tahir Ahmed Dhindsa



Tasawar Hussain
Office Assistant



Tayyaba Hanif
Coordinator, SDC



Ubaid-Ur-Rehman
Research Associate



Umair Hassan
Graphic Designer



Umar Ayaz
Research Associate



Uzma T. Haroon
Director SDC



Yahya Gulraiz
Research Assistant



**Zainab Mumtaz
Baloch**
Project Assistant



Zainab Naeem
Associate Research



Zarina
Project Assistant



Zona Usmani
Research Assistant



Brig. Muhammad Yasin (Retired)
Advisor Emeritus



SDPI Staff pose for a group Photo on the occasion of 26th Sustainable Development Conference in November

ANNEXURE

Publications 2023

Books, Annual Reports

Title	Focal Person	Published Date
توانائی ، ماحول اور آلودگی: بدلتے منظر نامے	Abid Rasheed	11/10/2023
Annual Report 2023	SDPI	11/10/2023
Energy Conservation: Daylight Saving Time: Energy Saved is the Greenest Energy!	Khalid Waleed	06/28/2023
Annual Report 2022	SDPI	05/02/2023

Contributed Chapter Series

Global Climate Crisis: From Talk to Action at COP28	Saleha Qureshi	12/06/2023
From Debt Crisis to Solvency: Mid-Term Outlook for Pakistan (Main Analysis)	Vaqar Ahmed, Sajid Amin Javed	11/9/2023
The Way Out of Elite Capture	Abid Qaiyum Suleri	10/08/2023
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