



SDPI
Sustainable Development Policy Institute

Impact Report 2025



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Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri

Executive Director

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

2025 was not defined by a single crisis, but by the convergence of many.

Across Pakistan and the wider region, climate shocks, fiscal constraints, technological disruption and governance pressures unfolded alongside a world marked by conflict and uncertainty. These pressures were not theoretical. We felt them in our work, through our partners, and in the communities we serve, at the household and even individual level every day. In such a year, the challenge was not only what to do, but how to respond in ways that were responsible, evidence-driven and genuinely useful. At SDPI, we approached this moment with a simple conviction: that evidence must do more than inform: it must enable action.

Our '2025 Impact Report' reflects a year in which we moved deliberately from knowledge generation to systems influence. Our work increasingly connected research to real decisions: from supporting the Government of Pakistan in shaping a National Industrial Policy, EV Policy among others to strengthening how public spending on education is audited and understood. These are milestones we are proud of not only for their scale, but for what they represent: a shift from analysis to implementation from within policy corridors.

Yet, the story of 2025 is not only written in national policies or institutional reforms. It is also found in quieter, often less visible changes: an auditor applying a new tool to assess outcomes rather than compliance; a young intern gaining the confidence to understand public policy; a regulator accessing real-time data to act more effectively; a salon or brick kiln worker better informed about health risks in their workplace. These moments matter. They are where systems begin to shift from within.

Throughout the year, we also strengthened our role as a convener bringing together government, private sector, civil society, and development partners to tackle difficult trade-offs. In a time of fragmentation, cooperation became not just valuable, but essential. Dialogue, when grounded in evidence, can move dissent to direction.

We recognise, however, that influence is rarely immediate, and progress is seldom linear. Many of the outcomes we seek, stronger institutions, more inclusive growth, greater resilience, extend beyond a single year. What matters is whether the pathways are clearer, the tools more usable, and the commitment to learning more deeply embedded.

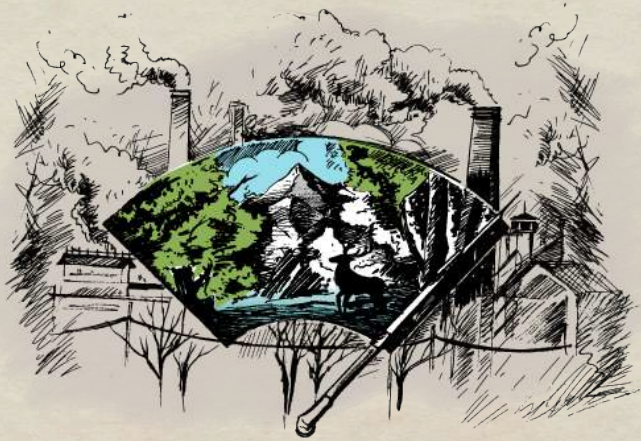
Most important of all, nothing we have achieved this year has been done alone. I am deeply grateful to the SDPI team not only for their hard work and dedication, but for the openness with which they engage, question, and often disagree. This culture of honest feedback and internal dialogue continues to strengthen our leadership and has, personally, been a source of motivation and learning for me.

I am equally thankful to our partners across the public and private sectors, academia, grassroots organisations, and international collaborators. In a year marked by fiscal constraints and uncertainty, their continued trust, flexibility, and commitment kept us focused, responsive and on our toes ensuring that our work remained both relevant and grounded in real-world challenges.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains the same: to translate complexity into choices, and choices into action while ensuring that the benefits of development reach those who need them most.

Because ultimately, progress is not only measured in policies adopted, but in lives improved.

SDPI's Theory of Change



The Development Context: Pakistan and the Region

2025 was defined less by a single crisis than by the convergence of many: climate volatility alongside fiscal constraint; rapid technological change alongside uneven human development; shifting trade regimes alongside persistent governance and delivery gaps. For Pakistan and South Asia, this convergence was not a conceptual 'polycrisis': it was lived reality. Shocks repeatedly tested household resilience, public systems, and markets, while the room for long-term investment narrowed precisely when it was most needed.

In this environment, development choices became harder and more consequential. The 2025 monsoon season brought above average rainfall, leading to widespread flooding across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh,

Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK). Temperatures soared to 48.5°C in areas like Bunji (GB), exacerbating glacier melt. Heatwaves led to school closures in Punjab and Sindh, with reports of health issues among students due to extreme classroom temperatures. A notable Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Gupis formed a 7 km lake, necessitating the rescue of 200 people and raising concerns for downstream communities. These climate events not only damaged infrastructure; they disrupted livelihoods, pushed up food prices, strained health systems, and widened inequalities. While the Government of

Pakistan (GoP) initiated a 300-day national climate preparedness and resilience plan to enhance coordination between federal and provincial authorities, fiscal pressures limited the ability to respond with scale, while demands for accountability and transparency grew sharper.

Three arenas captured the year's central tensions:



Energy: Affordability, Reliability and the Transition Paradox



Pakistan's energy challenge in 2025 was not only about generation; it was about system viability. The pressure to reduce losses and manage debt collided with the imperative to keep energy affordable for households and productive sectors. At the same time, the transition accelerated in uneven ways: distributed solutions expanded because they were practical, while the national grid carried the burden of fixed costs, legacy inefficiencies, and contested reform pathways. The central question was not whether the energy system should modernise, but how to do so without pushing costs onto those least able to pay and without eroding competitiveness.

Food Security: Structural Vulnerability, Not Only Seasonal Stress



Approximately 11 million people in Pakistan's rural areas, about 22% of the analyzed population, experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), indicating large food gaps and high levels of acute malnutrition. The crisis was particularly severe in flood-affected districts across Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. While national inflation rates showed a declining trend in early 2025, food prices remained volatile. For instance, in November 2025, food inflation increased by 1.52% month-on-month, driven by the aftereffects of floods and border closures affecting food supplies. While food availability was impacted by

environmental factors, affordability and access emerged as critical issues, particularly for vulnerable populations in rural areas. Addressing this crisis requires comprehensive strategies that go beyond food supply, focusing on affordability, equitable access, and robust policy frameworks to build resilience against future shocks.

Trade: Competitiveness in an Era of Compliance



Trade competitiveness was increasingly shaped by standards and legitimacy: labour conditions, environmental performance, traceability, and evolving market access requirements. In 2025, the trade debate moved beyond tariff lines into the realities of compliance, carbon-linked measures, and reputational risk. For Pakistan, this meant that industrial strategy, energy reform,

and decent work were no longer separate agendas. They formed a single competitiveness question: how to build growth that can access markets, earn trust, and sustain livelihoods.

Across these domains, a common constraint remained: implementation capacity. Strategies exist. The challenge is whether institutions can translate choices into credible delivery at speed, at scale, and with fairness.

SDPI's Approach in 2025: Evidence to Systems Change

In 2025, SDPI approached sustainable development as a systems problem. The Institute's work treated knowledge not as a static product, but as an enabling infrastructure for decision-making under uncertainty. SDPI's pathway from evidence to convening, from convening to uptake, from uptake to capacity, and from capacity to

systems change, was designed to move beyond 'more activity' towards measurable influence.

Evidence: Making Complexity Usable

SDPI's research and analysis in 2025 aimed to turn complexity into decision-ready options: work that clarified trade-offs, identified bottlenecks, and offered implementable pathways.

- In **social protection and women's economic empowerment**, SDPI supported evidence generation and programme learning linked to scale, delivery constraints, and inclusion pathways particularly where digital and financial capability intersects with household resilience and climate risk.
- In **human development and rights-based social policy**, SDPI combined research with institutional strengthening, including work that addressed consumer and occupational health

risks and reinforced safeguarding systems linked with internationally recognised standards.

- In **governance and accountability**, SDPI provided technical inputs that strengthened oversight capability and contributed to evidence-informed policy formulation and evaluation practice.
- In **decent work and private sector engagement**, SDPI supported the evidence base around living wage as an economic and social stability issue shifting the conversation from compliance to competitiveness and coalition-based action.
- In **learning and future-ready capacity**, SDPI developed skills pathways that responded to emerging needs from data storytelling and emergency preparedness to responsible use of new technologies.

SDPI's approach in energy, food security, and trade followed the same evidence-to-decision logic:

- In **energy**, SDPI's contribution focused on the political economy of transition: how to modernise systems, support just transition choices, and manage the competitiveness implications of energy prices, grid performance, and reform sequencing.
- In **food security**, SDPI advanced policy-relevant thinking that linked fiscal choices, market functioning, and nutrition outcomes treating affordability and resilience as design requirements rather than downstream effects.
- In **trade**, SDPI worked at the intersection of tariff policy, industrial competitiveness, and compliance realities recognising that market access is increasingly shaped by standards, governance, and environmental performance.

Convening: Cooperation as a Delivery Function

In a year shaped by fragmentation,

Convening was not treated as an event in itself, but as a mechanism to bring evidence into shared agendas, translate disagreement into structured options, and connect policy to practical pathways. SDPI's flagship convening platforms, like the Sustainable Development Conference and Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE) created the conditions for cross-sector conversation, government, private sector, civil society, academia, media, and development partners, where trade-offs could be named and navigated.

Policy Uptake: Influencing What Decisions Get Made and How

SDPI framed policy influence as a sequence rather than a single milestone. Uptake often appeared first in signals: institutions adopting tools, decision-makers referencing evidence, programme models being

replicated, coalitions forming around reform, and public discourse shifting from 'what should happen' to 'how it can happen.'

In 2025, SDPI's work strengthened these influence pathways across sectors linking research and dialogue to the places where decisions were shaped: programme design, institutional practice, and the public narrative around reform.

Capacity: Strengthening the Implementation Layer

SDPI treated capability as a prerequisite for sustained results.

In 2025, capacity strengthening supported both internal readiness (safeguarding, ethical practice, safety protocols, learning culture) and external ecosystem capability (skills development, applied learning, evidence use).

This emphasis reflected a core reality: **good policy does not**

implement itself; it requires people and institutions able to adapt, manage risk, and remain accountable under pressure.

Systems Change: Shifting Rules and Incentives

The long-term objective is not a portfolio of projects; it is improved system performance. In energy, this means reform pathways that modernise the system while protecting equity and competitiveness. In food security, it means policy coherence that protects nutrition and affordability while strengthening markets. In trade, it means competitiveness strategies that are in sync with compliance realities and safeguard livelihoods. Across governance and social development, it means institutions that can learn, correct course, and deliver with legitimacy.

How SDPI Measured Influence and Learning in 2025

SDPI's approach to monitoring, evaluation, and learning in 2025 emphasised credibility: counting outputs while managing for outcomes and treating learning as part of accountability.

- **Delivery Metrics (what SDPI produced and reached):** Through 2025, SDPI tracked core delivery measures knowledge products, convenings, trainings, stakeholder engagement, and geographic reach to maintain transparency on institutional output and reach.
- **Influence Markers (how decision-making shifted):** Recognising that policy change is rarely linear, SDPI monitored interim signs that evidence was being used: adoption of tools and frameworks, replication of models, inclusion in policy drafts and public discourse, partnership commitments, and documented follow-up actions.

» **Outcomes and Systems Signals (what improved in practice):** Where data was available and attributable, SDPI tracked changes in institutional practice and system performance over time while acknowledging that many outcomes mature beyond a single reporting year and require follow-through, verification, and learning-oriented evaluation.

Across all three layers, SDPI applied a learning loop in 2025: **testing assumptions through research and evaluation; iterating with partners; documenting what changed and why; and sharing lessons so effective models could scale and weaker approaches could be corrected early.**

Our Work in 2025

Theme 1

Governance, Accountability and Institutional Reform



Why This Mattered in 2025?

In 2025, Pakistan faced a convergence of economic stabilisation pressures, climate and energy transition demands, and the need to accelerate job-creating growth. Provincial governments were increasingly expected to lead economic transformation agendas, but many lacked the institutional tools and governance systems required to do so effectively.

At the same time, development partners were shifting towards more targeted, results-focused, and adaptive programming, increasing the need for high-quality evaluation evidence and locally grounded policy analysis.

SDPI's work on governance, accountability and institutional reform was, therefore, timely in 6 ways:

1. Generated actionable learning at a critical decision point for future donor investments, informing the

design, sequencing, and targeting of next-generation governance programming.

2. Positioned SDPI to shape next-generation economic governance programming, linking governance reform directly to economic outcomes such as investment, competitiveness, and job creation.

3. Strengthened the evidence-to-policy interface, expanding the availability and use of high-quality evaluation and policy analysis to guide reform sequencing and programme design.

4. Supported stronger integration between planning and budgeting systems, helping link policy priorities, development planning, and resource allocation processes.

5. Strengthened economic governance capacity within public institutions, supporting the design and implementation of policies that enable investment, competitiveness, and sustainable growth.

6. Enhanced accountability and performance management systems, contributing to stronger monitoring, transparency, and results tracking across tiers of government.

In this context, SDPI's governance portfolio focused on strengthening audit capability, supporting national policy formulation, and generating evidence on democratic perceptions and programme performance.

What SDPI's Governance and Reforms Unit (GRU) Did?

1. **National Industrial Policy:** SDPI supported the Ministry of Industries and Production to diagnose structural issues and develop the draft 'National Industrial Policy' framed around productivity, sustainable industrialisation, and jobs.

2. SDG4 Audit Technical Support:

SDPI supported the Auditor General of Pakistan's Office through a long-run engagement co-developing an audit toolkit and applying it to SDG4 indicators, involving audit and accounts officers at federal and provincial levels.

3. Political Barometer Survey

(Pre-By-Election Perceptions): SDPI conducted a survey to gauge voter perceptions before by-elections in 13 constituencies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

4. Endline Evaluation of SNG-II

(OECD DAC criteria): SDPI undertook an endline evaluation of SNG-II to support accountability and future programme design, and to assess results and delivery modalities using OECD DAC criteria.

1. Development of Pakistan's National Industrial Policy, 2025

In 2025, SDPI provided technical and policy support to the Ministry

of Industries and Production to diagnose structural constraints facing Pakistan's industrial sector and translate this evidence into a draft National Industrial Policy. The work combined diagnostic research, policy design, and stakeholder consultation to support the Government of Pakistan (GoP) in advancing a more coherent, growth-oriented, and globally competitive industrial strategy.

Policy and Development Context

Pakistan's industrial sector has historically underperformed relative to its potential, characterised by low productivity growth, limited technological upgrading, high input cost volatility, and weak integration into global value chains. In 2025, these structural challenges became more urgent due to macroeconomic stabilisation pressures, energy transition requirements, export competitiveness challenges, and the need to generate large-scale, productive employment.

At the same time, global industrial

policy trends including reshoring, green industrialisation, and technology-driven productivity gains, were reshaping international competitiveness. For Pakistan, the absence of a modern, integrated industrial policy framework created fragmentation across sectors, weak coordination between federal and provincial actors, and limited integration between industrial growth, trade strategy, and innovation policy.

Against this backdrop, the development of a National Industrial Policy became a priority for the government.

Policy-Relevant Contribution

SDPI's support extended across the full policy development cycle:

1. **Structural Industrial Diagnostics:** SDPI conducted analytical work to identify binding constraints to industrial growth, including productivity bottlenecks, regulatory distortions, infrastructure and energy constraints, financing

barriers for MSMEs, and technology adoption gaps. The diagnostics also assessed sector-specific competitiveness and cross-cutting constraints affecting industrial diversification.

2. Evidence-Based Policy Design:

Building on the diagnostics, SDPI supported the Ministry in translating analysis into actionable policy architecture. This included framing policy pillars around productivity enhancement, technology upgrading, export competitiveness, MSME development, and sustainable industrial transition.

3. Institutional and Governance

Coherence: SDPI contributed to strengthening policy coherence by supporting industrial policy objectives and broader economic governance priorities, including investment facilitation, regulatory simplification, and public-private coordination mechanisms.

4. Stakeholder Consultation and Policy Ownership: SDPI supported

structured consultations with industry stakeholders, government entities, and development partners to ensure the draft policy reflected operational realities and strengthened implementation feasibility.

Impact in Action

The successful support to drafting the National Industrial Policy represented a major policy milestone for SDPI in 2025. The assignment demonstrated SDPI's ability to move beyond analytical research into direct policy design and national level reform support.

The work strengthened SDPI's positioning as a trusted policy partner to federal economic ministries, reinforced its credibility in economic governance and industrial transformation policy, and expanded its influence in shaping long-term structural reform agendas. By supporting the Government in developing a modern industrial policy framework, SDPI contributed

directly to strengthening Pakistan's economic governance architecture and long-term growth strategy.

The draft National Industrial Policy is expected to support:

- Higher industrial productivity and technological upgrading
- Stronger MSME participation in industrial value chains
- Increased export competitiveness and diversification
- Greater private sector investment in priority industrial sectors
- Stronger convergence between industrial growth and employment generation
- Improved coordination across federal and provincial industrial development efforts

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

This work also directly contributed to:



SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Particularly through strengthening sustainable industrialisation pathways, promoting technology upgrading, and supporting innovation ecosystem development.



SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: Through policy emphasis on productivity-led growth, job creation, MSME development, and improving the quality and sustainability of industrial employment.



2. Public Financial Management, Accountability & SDG4

In 2025, SDPI provided targeted technical support to the Office of the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) to strengthen public sector audit capacity for assessing progress against Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education). The work focused on operationalising SDG-focused performance auditing through practical tools, institutional capacity strengthening, and application of the SDG 4 audit toolkit across federal and provincial audit functions.

Policy and Governance Context

In 2025, Pakistan faced increasing pressure to demonstrate measurable progress on SDG commitments while operating under fiscal consolidation constraints. This placed greater emphasis on value-for-money public spending, results-based monitoring, and

stronger accountability mechanisms across social sectors, particularly education.

At the same time, Supreme Audit Institutions globally were expanding their role from traditional compliance auditing towards performance and SDG-linked audits. For Pakistan, however, operational tools and methodologies for auditing SDG outcomes especially sector-specific targets such as education access, quality, and learning outcomes, remained underdeveloped.

This created a critical governance gap: while SDG targets were embedded in national and provincial development frameworks, audit systems were not yet fully equipped to assess whether public spending was effectively translating into SDG results.

Technical Contribution

In 2025, SDPI's support focused on translating earlier conceptual work into applied institutional practice:

- 1. Operationalisation of the SDG 4 Audit Toolkit:** SDPI supported refinement and practical application of the SDG 4 audit toolkit, ensuring linkage with Pakistan's public sector audit procedures, education sector data systems, and national SDG monitoring frameworks. The toolkit enabled auditors to move beyond financial compliance checks towards assessing education sector performance, service delivery effectiveness, and outcome level progress.
- 2. Federal and Provincial Capacity Strengthening:** SDPI worked directly with audit and accounts officers at both federal and provincial levels to build technical capacity for SDG-linked performance auditing. This helped institutionalise a common audit approach across tiers of government and strengthened consistency in how SDG 4 progress is assessed.
- 3. Integration of SDG Auditing into Routine Audit Practice:** A key

2025 achievement was supporting the transition of SDG auditing from a pilot concept into applied audit practice. This strengthened the AGP's ability to generate audit findings that are directly relevant to education policy, budget prioritisation, and service delivery improvement.

4. Strengthening Evidence for Education Sector Governance:

Through the application of the toolkit, SDPI contributed to improving the quality of audit evidence available to policymakers, enabling stronger oversight of education spending effectiveness and programme implementation.

Impact in Action

The 2025 SDG 4 audit technical support work reinforced SDPI's position as a leading national institution working at the intersection of public financial management, accountability, and development outcomes. The work demonstrated SDPI's ability to:

- Translate global SDG accountability frameworks into operational national tools
- Work directly with constitutional accountability institutions
- Bridge development policy and public sector audit practice
- Support institutional reform through technically grounded, implementable solutions
- The engagement also strengthened SDPI's credibility in results-based governance, outcome-oriented public spending, and SDG-linked accountability systems.
- Improved coherence between education budgets and SDG 4 outcomes
- Increased transparency in education sector performance reporting
- Stronger feedback loops between audit findings and education policy reform
- Improved targeting and effectiveness of public education investments

Policy Significance and Governance Outcomes

This work with the AGP will lead to:

- Stronger parliamentary and public oversight of education sector spending



Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

This work also directly contributed to:



SDG 4 – Quality Education: By strengthening accountability for education spending effectiveness, service delivery performance, and learning outcome progress.



SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Through strengthening public accountability systems, audit transparency, and institutional oversight capacity.



3. Political Barometer Survey (Pre-By-Election Perceptions)

In 2025, SDPI conducted a Political Barometer Survey to assess voter perceptions ahead of by-elections in 13 constituencies across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The survey generated real-time evidence on voter priorities, confidence in democratic processes, and perceptions of governance performance, contributing to a stronger evidence base for democratic accountability and electoral governance analysis.

Governance and Policy Context

In 2025, Pakistan's political and governance environment continued to evolve in the context of economic reform pressures, public demand for improved service delivery, and increasing scrutiny of democratic institutions. By-elections in multiple constituencies created an important opportunity to understand how

citizens were assessing governance performance, representation quality, and electoral credibility at the constituency level.

However, policy and governance actors often rely on post-election analysis or national level polling, which can miss constituency level variations in voter sentiment, local governance concerns, and trust in public institutions. This created a need for timely, localised, methodologically robust public opinion data that could inform governance discourse, democratic accountability discussions, and evidence-based policy engagement.

Technical Contribution

1. Evidence Generation on Voter Priorities and Governance Perceptions: SDPI designed and implemented a structured survey capturing voter attitudes towards governance performance, service delivery, political representation, and electoral process credibility. The survey generated constituency level insights, allowing for more granular

analysis than national polling data.

2. Strengthening Evidence-Based Democratic Governance Discourse: By generating credible, non-partisan evidence, SDPI contributed to more informed public and policy conversations around electoral participation, governance expectations, and institutional trust.

3. Methodological Rigor and Neutral Data Positioning: The survey applied structured sampling and data validation approaches to ensure credibility and neutrality, reinforcing SDPI's reputation as a trusted evidence provider in politically sensitive policy spaces.

4. Supporting Data Availability for Governance and Policy Stakeholders: The survey created a valuable dataset for policymakers, governance analysts, and development partners working on democratic governance, political economy, and citizen engagement.

Impact in Action

The 2025 Political Barometer Survey

strengthened SDPI's institutional positioning in governance and political economy research by demonstrating its ability to operate credibly in politically sensitive environments while maintaining methodological rigor and neutrality.

The work reinforced SDPI's comparative advantage in combining policy research with real-time governance diagnostics, expanding its portfolio in democratic governance evidence generation and

strengthening its role as a trusted source of independent policy-relevant data.

Policy and Governance Significance

The 2025 survey will contribute to:

- Improved understanding of citizen governance priorities at constituency level
- Stronger evidence base

for democratic governance programming

- More informed public debate on governance performance and representation
- Enhanced understanding of drivers of voter participation and institutional trust
- Better integration of citizen voice evidence into governance and political economy analysis.



Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

This work also directly contributed to:



SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Through strengthening evidence for inclusive, accountable, and participatory decision-making and democratic processes.



SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: By generating data that supports development partner programming and evidence-based governance dialogue.



4. Evaluation and Development Effectiveness

Pakistan's sub-national governance systems continue to face structural constraints that limit effective development planning, public financial management, and service delivery. In 2025, these constraints were compounded by fiscal tightening, rising citizen demand for service delivery, and increasing pressure on provincial governments to translate national reform commitments into operational, local level outcomes.

Key systemic challenges included weak integration between planning and budgeting processes, limited use of evidence in decision-making, fragmented accountability systems across tiers of government, and capacity gaps in economic governance functions such as investment facilitation, sector policy design, and results-based monitoring. These weaknesses

reduced the effectiveness of public spending and slowed implementation of reform and development priorities.

The six-year Sub-National Governance Programme II (SNG-II), funded by FCDO, was designed to strengthen core governance systems including planning, public financial management, and institutional performance, particularly in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In 2025, the programme's endline evaluation generated critical evidence on what worked, what did not, and how governance reforms should be sequenced in future programming.

The evaluation also strengthened SDPI's technical credibility and delivery track record with FCDO. As a result, FCDO awarded SDPI a follow-on project, the SEED Accountable Grant (SEED-AG), creating an opportunity for SDPI to undertake high-impact, policy-relevant work in economic governance, with a stronger focus on growth, competitiveness, and sustainable

economic transformation.

Key Stakeholders Engaged and Supported

The Governance and Reforms Unit's work supported a wide range of stakeholders who rely on effective governance systems to deliver development and economic outcomes.

- Provincial and local governments, who gained access to evidence, tools, and policy support to strengthen planning, budgeting, and economic policy design.
- Citizens, particularly in underserved areas, who benefit when public resources are allocated more effectively and services are delivered more efficiently.
- Economic actors, including small and medium enterprises and investors, who benefit from more predictable policy environments and stronger economic governance frameworks.

- Development partners, who gained robust evidence and learning to inform the design of future governance and economic development programmes.

2026 and Beyond

Building on these shifts, SDPI will focus on deepening the transition from compliance-driven systems towards learning-oriented governance across policy, audit, and programme design. Over 2026–2027, the GRU aims to support wider institutional uptake of results-based auditing, strengthen evidence-informed industrial and economic policy reform, and expand the use of adaptive, learning-led programme approaches within development partner and government systems. Through this, SDPI will continue to position itself as a trusted partner supporting more responsive, accountable, and outcome-focused governance in Pakistan.



FROM COMPLIANCE TO LEARNING

“
‘Before this, our work was mainly about checking whether procedures were followed. Now, we are asking whether programmes are actually delivering results for people. That change has made our audits more meaningful not just for reporting, but for improving how government programmes are designed and implemented.’
”

- A Provincial Audit Officer, Pakistan (2025)

“

The evaluation evidence helped us move away from defending programmes towards improving them. Instead of treating findings as compliance requirements, we started using them to understand what was working, what was not, and what needed to change in the next phase.

~ A Civil Servant involved in Governance Reform Programming (2025)

”

Theme 2

Inclusive Development & Social Protection

i. Human Development, Health, and Rights-Based Social Policy



Why This Mattered in 2025?

In 2025, Pakistan's human development agenda was shaped by a tight fiscal environment and widening expectations for measurable progress on social indicators. Within this context, rights-based social policy became increasingly linked to 2 practical questions:

1. who is protected?
2. how do public resources translate into improved outcomes for children, adolescents, youth and women?

SDPI's Centre of Health Policy and Innovation (CHPI) responded through a portfolio that combined:

- i.* regulatory and environmental health work,
- ii.* social sector financing and equity-focused advocacy, and
- iii.* institutional safeguarding and protection systems treating human development as an accountability

issue as much as a service delivery issue.

This approach was grounded in Pakistan's demographic reality: children (under 18) and youth constitute a large share of the population and in the recognition that gender disparity, climate vulnerability, and rapid digital change are reshaping risks and opportunities for human capital.

What SDPI's Centre of Health Policy and Innovation (CHPI) Did?

In 2025, CHPI's work was a mix of advocacy, policy engagement, and applied research in health and social policy.

Across this portfolio, SDPI's work focused on 3 mutually reinforcing pathways:

1. Protecting health through regulation and safer environments (environmental health and consumer protection).

2. Advancing equity in social sector financing and policy prioritisation (child- and gender-responsive investments; social protection).

3. Strengthening rights-based institutional safeguards (Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)/Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) systems as enabling conditions for human development work.

Environmental Health and Consumer Protection

Assisting Implementation and Enforcement of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Pakistan (Phase II)

Policy and Development Context

Pakistan is a party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, including obligations relevant to mercury-added cosmetics. In 2025, CHPI's work addressed the gap between formal commitments and practical enforcement particularly where consumer products and informal

workplaces intersect with public health risk, environmental harm, and gendered social norms.

Policy-Relevant Contribution

In 2025, SDPI supported policy and enforcement priorities by convening and engaging key actors across the regulatory and market ecosystem including government entities, manufacturers, regulatory authorities, health practitioners, and beauticians to advance compliance and improve awareness of public health and environmental harms. The work also explicitly addressed the occupational exposure dimension in beauty salons and linked product safety to safer workplace practices and standards.

Impact and Implications

SDPI strengthened national technical readiness for mercury detection by building in-house capacity on the use of mercury detection equipment, including specialised Lumex training. This enhanced the Institute's ability to independently generate credible, laboratory-grade evidence to

support regulatory enforcement and market surveillance efforts.

The practical implications are multi-layered:

- First, SDPI is now positioned to conduct spot testing of cosmetic and skincare products in local markets, reducing reliance on external laboratories and accelerating evidence generation for regulators.
- Second, strengthened technical capacity enables the provision of real-time data to government agencies, environmental authorities, and consumer protection bodies directly supporting compliance monitoring under public health and environmental standards.
- Third and most importantly, the work extends beyond technical readiness into broader public engagement and behavioural change efforts. Advocacy was amplified through social and print media outreach, expanding public awareness of mercury-related

health and environmental risks.

- Direct engagement with beauty salon workers further translated product safety concerns into occupational safety dialogue, promoting safer workplace practices and awareness of exposure risks in informal and semi-regulated settings.
- Stakeholder engagement was intentionally multi-sectoral spanning government entities, academia, manufacturers, health practitioners, the beauty industry, and regulatory authorities. This cross-ecosystem convening is a critical precondition for regulatory change in consumer markets, where enforcement depends on linkages between producers, regulators, and end-users. By bridging these actors, SDPI helped create the enabling environment necessary for improved compliance and longer-term market transformation.

Institutionally, the initiative positions SDPI not only as a policy advocate but as a technically credible and publicly engaged actor capable of linking scientific verification, regulatory dialogue, and community-level awareness strengthening both enforcement pathways and public health outcomes.

Youth, Adolescents, and Human Capital

Bridging Evidence and Policy Practice

CHPI's 2025 portfolio also focused on youth engagement and applied research, treating young people not only as beneficiaries, but as participants in evidence and policy learning.



Public Policy Learning Programme (2025)

In 2025, SDPI engaged 7 interns from across provinces through the 'Public Policy Learning Program (July-August 2025)'; designed to help bridge the gap between academia and policymaking: an institutional approach that strengthens the long-run pipeline for policy literacy and public sector problem-solving.

The geographic reach of this youth engagement went beyond core cities to multiple regions across Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, Bannu, Quetta, Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan, Peshawar, and Lower Dir.

Qualitative Studies and Emerging Risk Analysis

CHPI's 2025 evidence agenda also included qualitative research to capture lived experience and behavioural dynamics that conventional indicators may miss such as the qualitative study 'Breathing through the Smog' and ongoing work on adolescents' interaction with misinformation.

Social Sector Financing, Equity, and Child-Centred Policy

Policy and Development Context

CHPI's 2025 work treated human development as a distributional and governance challenge: limited fiscal space and federal-provincial misalignments can shift budgets towards visible infrastructure while under-investing in outcomes for health, education, and social protection especially for children and youth. Children (under 18) constitute 47%, and the youth make up about 2/3rd of the total population.

Policy-Relevant Contribution



With multiple challenges such as gender disparity, climate vulnerability

and incompatibility with the digital evolution, this project's core focus in 2025 was to strengthen inclusive development and social policy advocacy for sectoral child-centric policies and human capital



development targeting transparent and equitable resource allocation across the social sector, and linking this to emerging policy needs such as mapping the green skills ecosystem for the youth bulge.

This positioning is also consistent with CHPI's stated evidence-of-influence pathway: the work contributed to budget/financing decisions and shifting public or elite discourse: two key pathways through which rights-based social policy gains traction.

Rights-Based Institutional Reform and Safeguarding

Internal PSEAH Institutionalisation

In 2025, SDPI advanced rights-based institutional reform by moving from informal practice towards a formal safeguarding architecture in line with United Nations (UN) protocols. This shift was enabled through a UNICEF-organised Training of Trainers (ToT) on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) in humanitarian and development work, which CHPI leveraged to support the drafting of an organisation-wide policy and operational tools. Before 2025, SDPI did not have a formal PSEAH policy sync with UN protocols.

Policy-Relevant Contribution

The CHPI team played a direct role in drafting and institutionalising the PSEAH policy, facilitating structured review and validation by internal governance stakeholders, including HR and senior leadership. Beyond policy formulation, the intervention ensured full operationalisation through the development and circulation of practical implementation tools

including an incident reporting form, referral pathway guidance, a survivor assistance guide, and a revised code of conduct, thereby translating normative principles into actionable organisational procedures.

While the reform addressed an internal governance gap at SDPI, its relevance extends beyond a single institution. The safeguarding policy and accompanying operational toolkit provide a replicable model, research institutes, and civil society organisations operating in humanitarian and development contexts that lack UN-linked safeguarding architectures. The documentation developed through this process can serve as adaptable templates for peer organisations seeking to institutionalise PSEAH compliance without extensive legal or technical resources.

Wider Impact

The initiative demonstrates how research institutions can embed survivor-centred, UN-certified safeguarding systems into their governance structures.

Internal Milestone for SDPI

The institutionalisation of the PSEAH framework marked a significant internal governance milestone for SDPI. The seriousness and



credibility of the new safeguarding system were reinforced through structured orientation and training sessions for SDPI staff, as well as for academic partners under the MoU with AIU, ensuring both internal and external compliance coherence. It strengthened staff awareness, clarified behavioural standards,

and embedded safeguarding responsibilities across operational levels.

Importantly, the process translated policy into practice by establishing clear reporting channels, designated organisational focal points, and standardised incident documentation procedures. This has enhanced institutional accountability, risk mitigation, and survivor-centred response capacity.

The 2025 reform therefore represents a substantive internal governance upgrade, positioning SDPI in line with international safeguarding standards.

Partnerships and Institutional Interface

CHPI's 2025 work relied on deliberate coalition-building across technical, regulatory, and development constituencies.

- For mercury and product safety, key collaborators included the European Environmental Bureau/

Zero Mercury Working Group and a broad set of national regulators, manufacturers and professional bodies.

- For inclusive development and social policy advocacy, CHPI engaged UNICEF and a wide network spanning government programmes (including BISP), education and skills bodies (including NAVTTC), and international and national research and health institutions.

This partnership architecture mattered because it enabled SDPI to operate across the full policy chain from evidence and advocacy to regulatory conversations and budget-cycle engagement.

Outputs and Evidence-Building

CHPI's publication pipeline and engagement outputs in 2025 reflected a deliberate strategy: combine public-facing policy communication (briefs, media) with

deeper analytical products (working papers, reports) that can inform financing debates and programme choices.

Working Papers & Briefs

1. **Fiscal Trends in Provincial Sector:** Prioritization After The 18th Constitutional Amendment (Forthcoming)
2. **Pakistan in 2047:** Challenges and Opportunities for Present-Age Adolescents (Forthcoming)
3. Federal Budget Brief (Social Sector Allocations) (Forthcoming)
4. HPV Vaccination in Pakistan – Are We Ready to Save our Daughters? (Forthcoming)
5. Exploring Alternative Financing in Social Sector Investments for Children in Pakistan (Forthcoming)

Reports

1. **Minamata Convention Compliance in Pakistan-** Role of Dermatologists and Regulatory

Authorities

2. **Strengthening Fiscal Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development:** Advancing Child and Gender-Responsive Public Investments
3. **Social (Health) Protection and the Household Economy:** Benefits and Costs of the Sehat Sahulat Card for Poor Households in Pakistan
4. **Rethinking Fiscal Space:** Exploring Alternative Financing for Social Sector Investments in Pakistan (Forthcoming)
5. Qualitative Study Findings of 'Breathing through the Smog' (Forthcoming)
6. Qualitative Study Findings of 'Understanding Adolescents' Interaction with Misinformation in Pakistan' (Forthcoming)
7. Alternative Finance Strategy – Closing the Fiscal Gap for Sustainable Development (Forthcoming)
8. The Economy of Green Skills

in Pakistan – Building a Future-Ready Workforce (Forthcoming)

9. Proposed Green Skills and Implementation Plan (Forthcoming)
10. Lumex Report on Mercury Detection in Beauty Salons' (Forthcoming)
11. The Business of Aesthetic Industry - Case of Beauty Salons: An overview of Taxes, Barriers, Social Implications, Environmental Risks, and Recommendations for a Friendly Salon Environment (Forthcoming)

The Issues Addressed

In 2025, CHPI's work tackled 2 linked systemic problems:

1. **Regulatory enforcement gaps affecting health and environmental safety:** particularly the need to strengthen implementation of Minamata Convention commitments and tighten enforcement against mercury-containing cosmetics



beyond narrow thresholds.

2. **Under-prioritisation of human development in budget choices and programme design:** including the need to shift attention from infrastructure-heavy approaches towards child- and gender-responsive investments and equitable social sector allocations especially where federal-provincial coordination challenges persist.

Who Benefitted & What Changed?

CHPI's equity lens centred on Children, Adolescents, Youth, and Women as primary beneficiaries, with reach spanning major urban centres and connected rural arteries through project activities and broader geographic engagement.

In 2025, CHPI's work generated identifiable shifts across institutional

practice, public discourse, and capacity:

1. **Institutional safeguarding strengthened:** UNICEF-enabled capacity building translated into a renewed PSEAH policy, a code of conduct, clearer reporting channels, and defined focal points moving safeguarding from informal norms to actionable organisational systems.
2. **Technical capability strengthened for regulatory work:** staff training on mercury detection tools supported applied enforcement-oriented learning rather than one-off awareness activity.
3. **Policy and budget discourse strengthened:** CHPI's evidence-of-influence reporting points to contribution to budget/financing decisions and shaping public or elite discourse—consistent with its outputs on fiscal space, social sector allocations, and child- and gender-responsive investments.

CHPI's Work and the SDGs

CHPI's 2025 work contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by translating international commitments and social policy priorities into practical policy engagement and institutional strengthening in Pakistan.

Through the project 'Assisting in the Implementation and Enforcement of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Pakistan (Phase II)', SDPI advanced SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by addressing public health risks associated with mercury-containing skin-whitening products and occupational exposure in beauty salons. The project convened regulators, manufacturers, health practitioners, and the beauty industry to promote compliance with the mercury ban while strengthening technical readiness for enforcement through Lumex-based mercury detection capacity. By combining regulatory dialogue, scientific evidence generation, and public

awareness through social and print media, the initiative has helped bridge the gap between international environmental commitments and domestic enforcement practices. The multi-stakeholder engagement model also strengthened collaboration across government, industry, and civil society, supporting SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) as a key mechanism for improving compliance in consumer product markets.

CHPI's second major stream of work, 'Strengthening Inclusive Development, Policy Advocacy and Research,' supported progress across SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 13 by generating evidence and policy advocacy on equitable social sector financing, child- and gender-responsive budgeting, and youth skills development. Through research outputs, policy briefs, and stakeholder engagement with ministries, development partners, and institutions such as BISP and NAVTTC, the programme contributed to policy discussions on improving

resource allocation for health, education, and social protection, particularly for children, adolescents, youth, and women.

Complementary initiatives, including the 'Public Policy Learning Programme' for youth, qualitative studies on environmental health and misinformation risks, and institutional safeguarding reforms in sync with UN PSEAH standards—helped strengthen the policy ecosystem for human capital development and accountable social policy implementation.

2026 and Beyond

CHPI plans to consolidate its 2025 gains by shifting from capacity-building and agenda-setting toward implementation depth and policy uptake, particularly in a constrained fiscal environment.

Building on strengthened technical readiness (e.g., mercury detection) and multi-stakeholder coalitions, the programme will prioritise

regulatory follow-through and compliance ecosystems supporting provincial and federal actors to translate standards into routine enforcement, market surveillance, and occupational safety practices. This implies a more structured engagement with regulators, industry bodies, and local governments to institutionalise data-sharing, compliance monitoring, and behavioural change in high-risk sectors such as cosmetics and informal workplaces.

At the same time, CHPI is positioned to deepen its role as a bridge between evidence and national budget planning to influence FY26-27 cycles calling for a sharper focus on protecting child- and gender-responsive expenditures under fiscal stress and pushing for investments towards emerging risks such as climate-health linkages and health misinformation.development.



ii. The Living Wage Imperative



Why This Mattered in 2025?

Pakistan continues to face widening gaps between statutory minimum wages and the actual cost of living for workers and their families. In an environment of persistent inflation and economic uncertainty, this gap reduces household purchasing power, constrains domestic demand, and limits investments in human capital.

At the same time, fragmented wage governance and weak enforcement mechanisms create challenges for labour standards compliance, including those linked to international trade arrangements such as GSP+. Addressing wage adequacy therefore emerged not only as a social issue, but also as an economic and policy priority.

In 2025, the Centre for Private Sector Engagement (CPSE) at SDPI advanced an important policy dialogue on wage adequacy and labour standards in Pakistan.

Through research, advocacy, and multi-stakeholder engagement, the Centre worked to reposition the concept of a living wage from a narrow compliance issue to an economic imperative linked to productivity, competitiveness, and sustainable development.

What CPSE Did?

Policy-Relevant Contribution

Recognising these systemic challenges, CPSE implemented the ‘Strategic Framework for Living Wage Implementation in Pakistan: Economic Rationale and Policy Pathways’ initiative in partnership with Unilever and supported by the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

Central to the initiative was SDPI’s role as a neutral policy convener capable of bridging dialogue between stakeholders that often operate in institutional silos. Through a series of multi-city engagements in Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore, the Centre brought together

representatives from government, the private sector, civil society, and academia to examine the economic and policy implications of living wage adoption. These consultations created a platform for evidence-based discussions on wage governance, labour productivity, and international compliance frameworks such as the European Union’s GSP+ trade preferences.

The initiative also contributed to strengthening the evidence base for wage policy reform. By linking firm-level research with national economic analysis, the Centre demonstrated how living wage approaches could contribute to improved workforce well-being while simultaneously supporting business performance and industrial competitiveness. Evidence from partner research highlighted measurable productivity gains associated with improved wage adequacy, helping to build a stronger economic case for reform.

Key Stakeholders Engaged and Supported

By the end of 2025, the initiative had engaged stakeholders across the three major economic centres of Pakistan, including business leaders, policymakers, academics, and civil society actors. Participation included strong representation of women and youth.

Importantly, SDPI's CPSE has facilitated the emergence of a cross-sector coalition advocating for living wage policy pathways, representing an important step towards linking labour standards with economic development priorities as well as strengthening collaboration between institutions that had previously operated in isolation.

2026 and Beyond

Looking ahead, CPSE's work has created a foundation for expanding living wage initiatives in Pakistan. Future efforts will focus on developing voluntary implementation

frameworks, sector-specific wage benchmarks, and partnerships with provincial labour departments to integrate living wage principles into broader decent work and economic growth strategies.



152 Stakeholders Engaged



98 Female Participants

54 Male Participants

3 Cities Covered



1 Policy Publication

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 1 → Advancing living wage benchmarks to reduce in-work poverty



SDG 2 → Improving household purchasing power for food security



SDG 3 → Strengthening access to healthcare through adequate income



SDG 4 → Supporting households to sustain education expenditures



SDG 8 → Promoting wage adequacy, productivity, and labour standards



SDG 10 → Narrowing wage disparities among low-income workers



SDG 16 → Strengthening evidence-based labour governance

iii. Adaptive Social Protection, Women's Economic Empowerment & Care Economy



Investigating the Impact of Digital and Financial Literacy Training (DFLT) Programme on BISP Beneficiaries

In 2025, Pakistan continued to grapple with widening inequalities, low financial inclusion, and persistent gender gaps particularly among women in vulnerable households. As social protection systems expanded, ensuring that beneficiaries could effectively use financial services became critical. Digital and financial literacy emerged as a cornerstone for inclusive growth, climate resilience, and economic participation, especially for women navigating both poverty and increasing climate-related shocks.

SDPI's Center for Evidence Action Research (CEAR) and Center of Adaptive Social Protection & Economic Empowerment (CASPEE) conducted a rigorous randomised control trial (RCT) to evaluate the effectiveness of the DFLT

programme for BISP beneficiaries. Through baseline and endline surveys, continuous monitoring, and innovative video-based interventions, the study generated robust evidence on behavioural change. Findings demonstrated measurable improvements in savings habits, spending decisions, and uptake of financial tools. Importantly, the research identified barriers such as low literacy and limited digital infrastructure and highlighted adaptive delivery models to overcome them. Engagement included consultations, dissemination workshops, and technical dialogues to translate findings into policy-relevant insights.

The project provided one of the strongest evidence bases in Pakistan linking financial literacy interventions with women's economic empowerment. Its findings informed discussions on scaling digital financial literacy within national social protection programmes,

including BISP. From the preliminary pilot to Phase-I roll out, the initiative has demonstrated the notable success, acknowledged by the Finance Minister in the FY 2025–26 Budget Speech at the National Assembly of Pakistan. This governmental recognition signals a clear shift in institutional and policy priorities towards gender-inclusive programming integrating climate adaptation.

FEDERAL BUDGET SPEECH BY THE FINANCE MINISTER



FY 2025-2026

"To promote financial inclusion, 250,000 beneficiaries were provided with Financial Literacy Training throughout the year."

FY 2024-2025

"BISP is going to launch the Hybrid Social Protection Program to promote financial autonomy and economic independence."

“ Before this programme, I depended on others for even small financial decisions. Now, I can manage my own money, save regularly, and use digital tools with confidence. It has changed how I see myself.”

— Shazia, 34, BISP Beneficiary

“ I used to worry about emergencies and unexpected expenses. Today, I plan ahead, save for difficult times, and feel more secure about my family's future.”

— Parveen, 41, Informal Worker & Programme Participant



This progress was made possible through SDPI's credibility, long-term engagement with social protection institutions, and strong partnerships with federal and provincial stakeholders. Without SDPI's evidence-driven leadership, climate-responsive financial literacy would likely not have expanded to informal worker groups at this scale.

National Roll-out of DFLT Phase-2 & Climate-Adapted Livelihoods in Sindh

As climate shocks intensified across Pakistan, particularly in Sindh, there was growing recognition that social protection systems must evolve beyond income support to enable climate resilience. Women in agriculture and informal sectors remained disproportionately vulnerable. Integrating financial literacy with climate adaptation became essential to support sustainable livelihoods and reduce long-term vulnerability.

Building on Phase 1, SDPI scaled up DFLT nationally, expanding its reach to new beneficiary groups including MAMTA recipients, women agricultural workers, and urban informal workers. The programme combined financial literacy with climate awareness, disaster preparedness, and gender-sensitive training. It introduced digital wallets and piloted co-contributory savings schemes, equipping women with tools to manage risks and invest in resilient livelihoods.

DFLT Phase-2 is shaping the discourse around adaptive social protection in Pakistan. By embedding climate resilience within financial inclusion programmes, it is influencing policy thinking on integrating livelihood support with disaster preparedness. The initiative is also demonstrating scalable models for linking social protection with financial systems.

Scaling Up Adaptation through Social Protection in Sindh, Pakistan

Pakistan remains among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, yet investments in adaptive social protection (ASP) lag behind global best practices. Existing systems are largely reactive, focusing on short-term relief rather than long-term resilience. Bridging this gap has been critical for safeguarding livelihoods and reducing climate-induced poverty.

SDPI conducted in-depth research to explore how social protection systems could better integrate climate adaptation. It identified policy gaps, assessed existing programmes, and developed actionable frameworks for ASP. The research proposed targeted interventions to strengthen resilience, linking social protection with livelihood diversification and climate risk management.

The project informed national and provincial policy discussions on ASP, highlighting the need to transition from reactive to anticipatory systems. Its recommendations contributed to policy dialogues on climate financing, resilience-building, and integrating adaptation into social protection planning frameworks.

Advancing Economic and Social Rights through Care-Inclusive Social Protection

In Pakistan, unpaid care work is largely invisible in policy and economic planning, reinforcing gender inequality and limiting women's participation in the workforce. As the country moves towards a more inclusive growth model, recognising and redistributing care responsibilities is essential for both social justice and economic development.

CEAR and CASPEE teams generated evidence on the care economy

Bringing Care Out of the Shadows

In a context where very little research and evidence exists on care as a policy issue, the project made a meaningful contribution by bringing care into public and policy conversations.

It helped shift the narrative beyond the household, showing care as a shared social concern rather than something carried alone behind closed doors.

This work has fed into emerging discussions on labour rights, social protection, and gender equality, and has opened space for care to be more consistently considered in policy thinking.



“ Before, this work was just something we had to do at home, no one really talked about it. Now at least people are starting to see it and talk about it outside too.

– Nasreen, 42
Care Worker and Mother.



and its intersection with social protection systems. They advanced a policy framework that integrates care into governance structures, calling for recognition, reduction, redistribution, and representation of care work.

Transforming Care Systems in Pakistan: A Roadmap for Economic Growth and Social Equity

Pakistan's 'care deficit' constrains economic productivity and reinforces gender inequality. As global conversations on care gain momentum, there is a pressing need for a national framework to transform care systems.

In another project, the team developed a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen Pakistan's care systems. Through research, stakeholder engagement, and policy analysis, it identified gaps in infrastructure, financing,

and data. The project proposed actionable reforms to formalise care work, expand services, and integrate care into economic planning.

The roadmap provided a strategic foundation for national policy development on care systems. It informed high-level discussions on economic growth, gender equity, and social protection reform, positioning care as a critical driver of inclusive development.

KEY SUCCESS

From Roadmap to Policy Conversations

Shaping Care Systems in Pakistan

In a context where care has rarely been studied or planned for, the project developed a roadmap that set out practical steps for building stronger care systems in Pakistan.

The roadmap has provided a strategic foundation for national policy development, helping bring care into high-level discussions on economic growth, gender equity, and social protection reform.

It is now being referenced in government engagements, contributing to a more informed and coordinated approach to care in Pakistan's policy landscape.

THE ROADMAP
A Practical Guide for Stronger Care Systems

- Recognises care as essential for people and the economy
- Links care with labour rights, social protection, and gender equality
- Offers ideas for policy and institutional reform

STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION

ECONOMIC GROWTH | GENDER EQUITY | SOCIAL PROTECTION WORK

“It feels good knowing our work didn't just sit on a shelf. Now people in government are talking about care along with jobs, women's rights, and support systems. Maybe things will change for the better.”

— **Muhammad, 27**
Senior Board Care Provider

“

Now, no one can take our money without our permission.

— **Asiya, BISP beneficiary (UNICEF)**

”

“

Now, they can create a bank account on their mobile phone and manage transactions from home.

— **Aliza Ahmed, quoted on Healthy DEvelopments/BMZ**

”

“

The DFLT programme was developed after a thorough training needs assessment.

— **Muhammad Inam, quoted on Healthy DEvelopments/BMZ**

”

“

Across Pakistan, social protection systems are increasingly moving from cash-only delivery towards resilience and inclusion requiring not only payments, but the practical skills to access services safely. Federal planning documents record that a DFLT pilot for cash transfer beneficiaries achieved 4,000 successful trainees by January 2024, alongside the formal launch of a hybrid social protection approach in December 2023. Building on this foundation, partner and public narratives show DFLT expanding at scale: UNICEF describes ‘almost 250,000’ beneficiaries gaining digital and financial skills, while German development platforms describe Phase II in Sindh with an ambition of training approximately 300,000 women and integrating climate-resilience practices. Parliamentary discussions have also reinforced the importance of capability alongside digitisation, with a National Assembly committee recommending scale-up of digital and financial literacy training so beneficiaries can use digital wallets effectively and protect themselves from fraud.

SDPI’s contribution sits within this broader shift: supporting partners to turn digitised social protection into real access, confidence, and safer financial control for women and households.

”

SDG IMPACTS

Scaling Impact Through Social Protection, Climate Resilience & Care Systems (2025)



REDUCING POVERTY & BUILDING RESILIENCE

SDG 1: No Poverty



Strengthened income management and financial resilience among poor households.



Expanded economic resilience through financial inclusion.

PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

SDG 4: Quality Education



Promoted practical financial and digital literacy skills.



Delivered practical skills for financial and climate literacy.



Strengthened knowledge systems on resilience.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 5: Gender Equality



Enhanced women's agency as financial decision-makers.



Targeted women's empowerment across sectors.



Promoted recognition and redistribution of care work.

Addressed systemic gender imbalances in care work.

CLIMATE ACTION & ADAPTATION

SDG 13: Climate Action



Improved adaptive capacity through better financial planning
Integrated climate risk awareness and adaptation strategies.



Reduced vulnerability to climate-induced poverty.



Advanced adaptive approaches to climate risk and supported resilient livelihood strategies.

DECENT WORK & REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 8 & SDG 10



Supported women's labour force participation and promoted formalization and quality of care jobs.



Addressed structural gender disparities and reduced economic inequalities.

TOGETHER, THESE IMPACTS:

Build resilient households, empower women, strengthen systems, and create a more equal and sustainable future.



Scaling Impact Through Social Protection, Climate Resilience & Care Systems (2025)

Reaching Scale, Driving Change



250,000

Women trained
(DFLT Phase 1)



550,000

Women targeted
(DFLT Phase 2)



4 Provinces

Nationwide coverage

Expanding Inclusion

Who We Reached



BISP Beneficiaries



Mentor Beneficiaries



Women
Agricultural Workers



Women Informal
Workers

Strengthening Systems for Resilience



Financial Inclusion

- Digital wallets introduced
- Savings and budgeting skills



Climate Adaptation

- Climate risk awareness
- Adaptive livelihoods in Sindh



Social Protection Expansion

- Registry diversification
- Inclusion of informal sectors

Shaping Policy & Practice



Research



Policy



Scale



National rollout of
DFLT Phase 2



Integration of climate
into social protection



Care economy policy
frameworks advancing

Powered by Partnerships



Development Partners

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- UN Women
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)



Government

- BISP
- Government of Sindh
- Relevant Ministries



Implementing Partners

- SSPA
- SRSO
- RED

Driving Inclusive and Resilient Development



Economic Empowerment

Women gain control
over financial decisions.



Climate Resilience

Households better
prepared for shocks.



Gender Equality

Care and inclusion
embedded in policy.



Evidence to Policy. Policy to Impact.

Publications Portfolio



Book Chapter:
From Exclusion to Empowerment: Bridging the Gender Gap in Pakistan's Financial System



Capacity Building

Training Title	Type	Participants (Total)	Male	Female	Stateholders
SP17.1 Evidence	Executive Training/HR	16	9	9	0/0
SP17.1 Evidence	Executive Training/Punjab	15	6	9	0/2
SP17.1 Evidence	Executive Training/India	11	6	12	0/0
Training of the Trainers, SP17 National Roll-out	Advanced training to top & mid-tier of SDP, HQ/for DPL national roll-out	50	35	15	0/19
SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC Research	89	0	18	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of IE	Implementer National Rollout	30	0	30	0/19
SP17.2 Training of IE	Implementer National Rollout	85	38	9	0/19
SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC	25	0	25	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC	41	0	43	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC	64	18	46	0/2, SDP

SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC	84	18	46	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC	51	0	52	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC	18	18	0	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of IE	Tot of ASPC	11	0	9	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of IE	Tot of ASPC	100	0	100	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC	60	0	61	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC	25	0	25	0/2, SDP
SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC	100	0	100	0/2, SDP

SP17.2 Training of Trainers	Tot of ASPC
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC
SP17.2 Training of Trainers National Rollout	Tot of ASPC
Lesson Sharing and Capacity Building Workshop on Proven Working and Issues Assessment	Technical + SDP Skills

Key External Engagements

The CASPEE-CEAR team contributed to national discourse on gender-responsive fiscal policy through a featured segment on 'Women, Economy & Budget FY 2025-26 under the lens of Gender Budgeting'

aired on Public News and PTV World, highlighting critical gaps and opportunities in inclusive budgeting.



Strengthening evidence-to-policy linkages, the team lead also engaged with National Defence University through a session on 'Bridging the Gap: Evidence-Based Policies for Poverty Alleviation and Economic Reforms in Pakistan'; and with the Executive Leadership Course hosted by the Maritime Centre

of Excellence (MCE) focusing on economic resilience, cyber warfare, and maritime security.



SDPI also amplified its global footprint through high-level platforms, including participation in the Asian Development Bank's Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) Forum in Bangkok (March 2025). The CASPEE/CEAR team lead Dr Fareeha Armughan also contributed to global policy dialogue at the World Economic Forum Annual Global Future Council meetings in Dubai (October 2025).



At the national level, SDPI engaged with the Naval War College, delivering a session on 'Introduction to Basic Economics and the Link between Economic and National Security' reinforcing the intersection of economic resilience and policy planning.



By combining digital and financial literacy with climate risk awareness, the program enabled women to make informed household and livelihood decisions. Participants adopted budgeting and savings practices, used digital wallets confidently, and planned for climate-related shocks. Improved access to financial tools strengthened their ability to manage emergencies, invest in productive activities, and engage more effectively with social protection mechanisms, leading to better income stability and resilience.

2026 and Beyond


Looking ahead, CEAR and CASPEE's trajectory will be firmly anchored in translating evidence into systemic policy reform and scalable impact. Building on rigorous research and nationwide implementation experience, the next phase will prioritise institutionalizing inclusive economic frameworks particularly through the introduction of an SME Chapter and the formal recognition of the household economy. This

is a critical shift: moving from pilot-driven insights to embedding structural change within governance systems. By recognising unpaid and informal work especially that of marginalized women, SDPI aims to redefine economic participation itself, ensuring that those historically excluded from formal markets are not only visible but actively integrated into growth pathways. As demonstrated through DFLT and related initiatives,

strengthening financial behaviours and digital access has already shown measurable gains in resilience and agency, creating a strong foundation for policy scale-up .

At the same time, SDPI's forward strategy reflects a more interconnected development vision; one that bridges gender equality, social protection, care economy reform, climate adaptation, and just energy transition into a unified framework. The focus will be on

building alliances that cut across these domains, enabling more holistic and future-ready policy responses. Central to this is the development of sustainable financial inclusion models that extend beyond access to encompass long-term resilience through savings, insurance, labor market readiness, and asset-building pathways.



By linking these pillars with entrepreneurship and enterprise development, SDPI is positioning women not just as beneficiaries, but as economic actors driving inclusive growth. In a context of climate volatility and economic uncertainty, this integrated approach offers a pathway towards systems that are not only inclusive, but adaptive, durable, and transformative.

Theme 3

Energy and Just Transition



Our Work in Five Themes

In 2025, the Energy Team moved beyond research to actively shape Pakistan's energy transition landscape. Through a combination of evidence-based research, stakeholder engagement, and strategic advocacy, the team contributed to major policy breakthroughs, including the 'EV Policy 2025', carbon market framework, emerging coal transition pathways and even social protection. These efforts translated technical insights into real-world impact shifting national discourse, enabling market development, and positioning Pakistan within global climate conversations.



1. Advancing Clean Energy Transition Systems

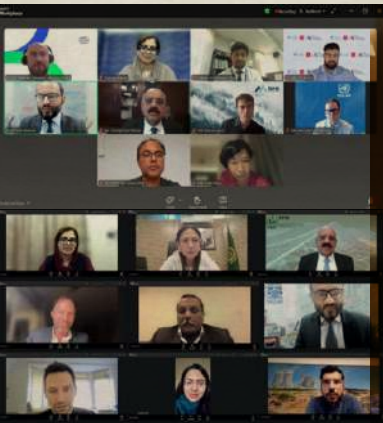
Pakistan's energy transition is not just a technical shift. It is a structural transformation shaped by policy, economics, and geopolitics. In 2025, SDPI's energy work focused on addressing one of the most complex challenges: transitioning away from fossil fuel dependency while ensuring energy security and economic stability.

Through rigorous economic modelling and policy engagement, the team developed evidence on the hidden costs and externalities of coal-based power generation. This helped bring a previously sensitive topic: coal phase-out into mainstream policy discourse. By engaging both Pakistani and Chinese stakeholders, the work created space for constructive dialogue on early retirement and repurposing of coal assets.

What this enabled:

1. Coal transition is now part of Pakistan's national policy conversations
2. Initial steps towards repurposing coal plants
3. Alignment of economic and environmental priorities





2. Unlocking Climate Markets and Green Finance

As global climate governance evolves, access to climate finance and carbon markets has become critical for developing economies like Pakistan. However, limited institutional capacity and weak market infrastructure had long constrained participation.

In response, SDPI's work in 2025 focused on bridging this gap and combining policy support with practical capacity building. The team contributed directly to the development of Pakistan's national carbon market framework while simultaneously working with private sector actors to translate policy signals into real, investable projects. Parallel efforts explored innovative financial instruments, particularly sustainable Panda Bonds, to unlock access to international capital markets and link financing with climate objectives.

What this enabled:

1. Carbon market policy approved
2. Pipeline of private-sector projects emerging
3. Climate finance integrated into national strategy





3. Accelerating Clean Technology Transitions

Technological transitions often fail not because of lack of solutions, but due to weak ecosystems. In Pakistan, both electric mobility and renewable energy adoption faced structural barriers ranging from regulatory gaps to market misalignment.

SDPI's work addressed these

bottlenecks through a combination of research, stakeholder engagement, and policy advocacy. In the case of electric vehicles, sustained engagement culminated in the development of 'Pakistan's New Energy Vehicle Policy 2025' providing a clearer roadmap for market growth and localisation.

At the same time, the team played a key role in reframing Pakistan's solar adoption into a globally recognised development model, showcased at COP30.

What this enabled:

1. EV ecosystem scaled and formalised
2. Solar transition recognised globally
3. Market and policy linkages improved





4. Strengthening Policy, Diplomacy and Systems Change

Sustainable energy transitions require more than technical solutions. They depend on institutional cooperation, international cooperation, and inclusive policy frameworks.

In 2025, the team played a catalytic role in strengthening these systems. This included contributing to Pakistan's NDC 3.0, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues, and deepening engagement with international partners.

The work emphasised inclusivity, bringing together government, private sector, academia, and civil society, to ensure that policy frameworks are grounded in real-world implementation.

What this enabled:

1. Stronger national climate policy frameworks
2. Improved global and regional

collaboration

3. Inclusive and participatory policy processes



5. Redefining Social Protection and Market Efficiency in Pakistan's Energy Sector

For decades, Pakistan's energy sector has been burdened by untargeted subsidies and inefficient distribution systems, creating significant fiscal pressure while failing to adequately protect the most vulnerable. Although the need for reform was widely recognised, progress remained constrained by political sensitivities and the absence of viable, tested alternatives.

In response, SDPI's work in 2025 focused on breaking this policy deadlock through the establishment of a Regulatory Sandbox: an evidence-driven platform designed to test innovative policy solutions and build consensus among key stakeholders. This approach enabled structured dialogue between government institutions, international partners, and power-sector actors, creating a safe space

to explore politically sensitive reforms.

Through this initiative, SDPI advanced a shift towards more targeted and sustainable social protection mechanisms.

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The transition from blanket subsidies to direct cash transfers for vulnerable consumers was championed through high-level consultations, including engagement with the IMF.

At the same time, the team introduced a decentralised solar energy model aimed at improving energy access for low-income households, positioning clean energy as both a social protection tool and a pathway to energy security.

The Regulatory Sandbox has successfully moved the needle from 'crisis management' to 'economic restructuring.' SDPI's contribution lies in aligning Pakistan's domestic

social contract with global economic standards.

What this enabled

1. Transition from untargeted subsidies to targeted social protection mechanisms
2. Integration of cash transfer approach into IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)
3. Solar energy positioned as a tool for equity and poverty alleviation
4. Policy dialogue initiated at provincial level for decentralised energy solution



How We Delivered Impact

Throughout the year, capacity-building efforts focused on advancing Pakistan's transition towards clean energy and carbon market readiness.

Capacity Building

1. Webinars: 11
2. Guest Lectures: 3
3. Policy Clinics, Dialogues & Consultations: 47
4. Total Trainings Conducted: 11

A total of 11 targeted trainings engaged over 500 participants from academia, industry, and the private sector.

1. Clean Energy & Energy Efficiency
2. Carbon Markets & Climate
3. Finance
4. Green Skills & Capacity Development

Special emphasis was placed on empowering industries with energy efficiency solutions and equipping

stakeholders with practical knowledge of carbon markets and climate finance.



Strengthened national capacity in clean energy, carbon markets, and sustainable development by equipping stakeholders with actionable knowledge and fostering cross-sector collaboration.

Impact Publications



In 2025, the team produced a diverse portfolio of 60 knowledge products, spanning rigorous research outputs, academic contributions, and high-impact public engagement pieces. A

strong emphasis was placed on translating technical insights into accessible formats, as reflected in the significant number of newspaper articles and policy briefs. This balanced approach ensured

both depth of analysis and broad dissemination of knowledge.

approach ensured that international knowledge exchange translated into

Publications Record 2025

Total Publications: 60



Reports

9



Policy Briefs

7



Journal Articles

7



Working Papers

3



Book Chapters

3



Newspaper Articles

31



SDGs This Work Contributed To



Geographic Footprint

The Energy team also strengthened its global presence through engagements across Asia and Africa, while simultaneously deepening its footprint across Pakistan. This dual

2026 and Beyond

Building on the momentum of ongoing initiatives, SDPI's future energy work will focus on deepening systemic reforms and scaling solutions that link climate action with economic resilience and social equity. The next phase will move from piloting and policy influence towards implementation, institutionalisation, and impact at scale.

A key priority will be advancing Pakistan's Climate Prosperity pathway, ensuring that inclusive development frameworks translate into actionable policies across sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green infrastructure, and climate finance. This will involve strengthening stakeholder engagement to ensure that the voices of vulnerable communities, private sector actors, and sub-national governments are embedded within national planning processes.

At the same time, the energy team will expand its work on sectoral decarbonisation, particularly through scaling clean cooking solutions, accelerating coal phase-down strategies, and supporting renewable energy integration across industrial and economic zones. These efforts will be complemented by continued research into global best practices and localised policy solutions, ensuring that transitions remain economically viable and socially just.

In parallel, the team will continue to strengthen its role in shaping sustainable investment frameworks, particularly in the context of international partnerships such as China's overseas investments. By aligning global capital flows with local sustainability priorities, SDPI aims to position Pakistan as a credible destination for climate-aligned investments.

Looking ahead, SDPI will also prioritise:

1. Scaling evidence-based policy pilots (e.g., Regulatory Sandbox approaches) into national level reforms
2. Expanding climate finance instruments and market mechanisms
3. Strengthening data-driven decision-making through advanced modelling and analytics
4. Deepening regional and global partnerships to enhance knowledge exchange and policy coherence

SDPI's work beyond 2026 will be defined by a shift from influencing policy to enabling transformation where evidence, partnerships, and innovation converge to deliver a low-carbon and inclusive development pathway for Pakistan.

Theme 4

Ecological Sustainability and Circular Economy



Why this Mattered in 2025?

Globally, circular economy transitions are reshaping trade, production, and environmental governance. For Pakistan, allying with these shifts is not only an environmental imperative but also an economic opportunity unlocking green jobs, improving resource efficiency, and strengthening resilience.

SDPI's Program on Ecological Sustainability and Circular Economy (PESACE)'s work in 2025 responded directly to these challenges by bridging global frameworks with local realities, ensuring Pakistan is not a passive recipient but an active shaper of sustainable development pathways.

With its PESACE team, SDPI advanced evidence-based policy, market engagement, skills development, and institutional reform through a dozen interlinked initiatives that advanced Pakistan's transition towards a climate-resilient and circular economy across policy, markets, and

local systems.

This included generating Pakistan's first nationwide evidence on textile circularity in collaboration with UNEP, later presented at UNEA-7, while embedding e-waste governance and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) within the National Circular Economy Policy.

At the sub-national level, District Adaptation Plans for Karak and Charsadda translated climate risk into actionable, costed strategies. Complementing these efforts, the Green Skills Bootcamp equipped young professionals with market-relevant sustainability competencies, while the launch of the Rethink Circular platform expanded access to knowledge and policy insights.

At the same time, the programme strengthened the enabling ecosystem for implementation. Research on linking microfinance with plastic recycling SMEs, alongside a high-level consultation with financial institutions and recyclers, brought finance into

circular economy discussions for the first time. National and regional dialogues on EPR, zero waste, and plastics treaty engagement elevated Pakistan's role in global processes, while contributions to the State of Environment Report and new research on marine circularity and circular construction broadened the policy and evidence base:

1. Mapping Pakistan's Used Textiles Circularity (UNEP Collaboration)
2. Developing District Adaptation Plans for Karak and Charsadda
3. Green Skills Bootcamp – Building Pakistan's Circular Economy Workforce
4. Embedding E-Waste in Pakistan's National Circular Economy Policy
5. Linking Microfinance with Plastic Recycling SMEs
6. High-Level Consultation on Plastic Recycling and SME Finance
7. Advancing EPR Awareness through National Circular Economy Dialogue

8. National State of Environment Report – Climate & Governance Contributions
9. Launching SDPI's Circular Economy Knowledge Platform: Rethink Circular
10. Regional Dialogue on Zero Waste and Plastics Treaty Engagement (South Asia)
11. Marine Circularity and Sustainable Ship Recycling Research
12. Circular Construction Blueprint for Pakistan's Built Environment

Positioning Pakistan as a Global Hub for Circular Used Textiles: Mapping the Value Chain

In 2025, PESACE in partnership with UNEP, undertook Pakistan's first nationwide mapping of the used textiles value chain. The study combined fieldwork, stakeholder consultations, and material flow analysis across major cities. It traced

how imported and domestic textile waste moves through networks of sorting, repair, reuse, recycling, and export, much of it driven by small enterprises and informal actors.

For the first time, this complex ecosystem was translated into structured, credible evidence, making visible a system that had long operated below the policy radar.

What Changed?

The findings fundamentally reshaped how Pakistan is understood in global textile waste discussions. The analysis revealed that Pakistan's system operates at nearly 99% circularity, with minimal residual waste demonstrating a highly efficient, market-driven model of mechanical recovery. This repositions the country from being perceived as a passive recipient of waste to a key global hub enabling circular textile flows.

The evidence was presented at UNEA-7 in Nairobi and strengthened Pakistan's voice in international dialogues on plastics and textiles, while informing emerging treaty discussions and shifting the global narrative towards recognising circular systems in the Global South.

The impact of this work is rooted in a combination of ground presence and global credibility. Deep field engagement enabled access to informal markets that are often difficult to document. This was matched by rigorous analysis and long-standing institutional trust, allowing the findings to carry weight both nationally and internationally. Collaboration with UNEP ensured that the evidence did not remain local but informed global policy conversations at the right moment. This experience underscores a clear lesson: circular economy leadership in the Global South must be demonstrated through evidence, not assumptions.

Developing District Adaptation Plans for Climate-Resilient Communities

Pakistan's climate vulnerability is increasingly felt at the local level through heatwaves, water stress, floods, and land degradation. Yet adaptation planning has often remained top-down, relying on secondary data and lacking meaningful engagement with the communities most at risk.

In 2025, there was a clear need to move from broad national commitments to practical, locally grounded action. Districts sit at the frontline of climate impacts, but without structured planning tools, they struggle to prioritise, finance, and implement effective responses. Strengthening district-level adaptation was therefore essential to making climate resilience real and deliverable.

Through its PESACE team, SDPI supported the development of

District Adaptation Plans (DAPs) for Karak and Charsadda: two areas facing distinct but intensifying climate risks.

The process combined climate risk and vulnerability assessments with extensive stakeholder consultations, ensuring that local knowledge and priorities shaped the outcomes. Rather than generic recommendations, the plans identified sector-specific, actionable interventions, including water management, climate-smart agriculture, rangeland restoration, public health, and disaster preparedness. Crucially, these were translated into time-bound and costed frameworks.

SDPI's Impact

The DAPs marked a shift from fragmented, reactive responses to structured and forward-looking adaptation planning at the district level.

For the first time, local institutions in Karak and Charsadda now have clear roadmaps to guide climate-resilient

development: prioritised, sequenced, and connected with available resources. This has strengthened institutional readiness and created a foundation for integrating adaptation into local development planning and budgeting processes.

Beyond the two districts, the work has also provided a replicable model for translating national climate goals into locally actionable strategies.

By anchoring the process in local institutions while maintaining technical rigour, SDPI ensured that the plans were not only credible but also owned by those responsible for implementation. Without this intervention, adaptation at the district level would likely have remained ad hoc, reactive, and weakly prioritised.

This experience reinforces a critical lesson: adaptation is most effective when it is locally grounded, participatory, and actionable. Looking ahead, the priority is to scale this approach across other

climate-vulnerable districts, while supporting the implementation of identified actions. There is also a need to link district plans more closely with provincial and national financing mechanisms—ensuring that planning translates into sustained investment. By doing so, district adaptation planning can evolve from isolated pilots into a core pillar of Pakistan's climate resilience strategy.

Pakistan's National Circular Economy Policy and E-Waste Governance

E-waste is one of the fastest-growing waste streams in Pakistan, yet its management has remained largely informal exposing workers to hazardous conditions while allowing valuable materials to be lost from the economy.

In 2025, the absence of clear policy direction posed a dual risk: environmental harm and missed

economic opportunity. Integrating e-waste into Pakistan's circular economy transition was therefore essential to move from fragmented practices to a system that is both regulated and economically productive.

PESACE played a key role in strengthening 'Pakistan's National Circular Economy Policy' by contributing technical input to its e-waste component.

The team developed policy language that introduced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), outlined collection and recycling systems, and defined institutional roles. It also ensured that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which dominate the sector, were integrated into formalisation pathways.

Through close engagement with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), SDPI supported iterative consultations, helping refine the draft and link it with national priorities.

E-waste is now recognised within national policy as a priority area within Pakistan's circular economy framework. The policy provides clearer direction on producer responsibility, outlines mechanisms for collection and recycling, and signals a shift towards formalising a previously fragmented sector. This creates a foundation for more accountable systems, improved environmental outcomes, and the recovery of valuable secondary materials.

SDPI's Impact

By engaging at the right moment in the policy cycle, SDPI was able to influence both the content and direction of the national framework.

Looking ahead, the priority is to move from policy to practice. This includes piloting EPR systems at the provincial level, developing licensed collection networks, and supporting SME-led recycling clusters for electronics and appliances.

Green Skills Bootcamp: Building Pakistan's Circular Economy Workforce

As Pakistan accelerates its transition towards a greener and more circular economy, a critical gap has emerged between policy ambition and workforce readiness. While awareness of climate change is rising, opportunities in green sectors remain out of reach for many young professionals due to a lack of practical, market-relevant skills.

In 2025, addressing this disconnect became essential not only to support emerging green industries, but also to ensure that the transition generates inclusive economic opportunities rather than deepening existing skills gaps.

PESACE designed and delivered the Green Skills for Green Careers Bootcamp, bringing together students, early-career professionals, and sustainability practitioners through a hybrid learning model.

The bootcamp translated complex concepts such as circular economy systems, climate policy, and green finance into practical, career-oriented learning. Through interactive sessions, case studies, and dialogue with experts, participants were able to connect theory with real-world applications and emerging job pathways.

Rather than a one-off training, the initiative created a learning-to-practice bridge, equipping participants with tools to engage in sustainability-focused roles across sectors; and has led to the foundation of a growing network of young professionals connected to SDPI's broader ecosystem laying the groundwork for continued engagement in Pakistan's green transition.

The success of the bootcamp was driven by its interactive design. Without such initiatives, many young professionals would remain disconnected from emerging green economy opportunities, with limited understanding of how to translate interest in sustainability into viable careers.

Linking Microfinance with Plastic Recycling SMEs

Plastic pollution continues to pose a growing environmental challenge in Pakistan, but efforts to address it have often focused narrowly on waste management overlooking the economic systems that enable recycling to scale.

At the same time, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which form the backbone of Pakistan's recycling sector, remain largely excluded from formal finance. In 2025, bridging this gap became critical: without access to capital, even viable recycling businesses struggle to grow, innovate, or formalise.

PESACE produced a policy brief examining how microfinance institutions (MFIs) can support plastic recycling SMEs. The research combined financial and market analysis to identify barriers to credit access and opportunities for integrating recycling enterprises into formal financial systems.

This study repositioned plastic recycling not simply as an environmental service but as a viable, finance-enabled sector with growth potential.

Plastic Recycling and SME Finance

While evidence on plastic recycling and SME finance is growing, translating insight into action remains a persistent challenge. The team convened a high-level consultation on enhancing plastic recycling through microfinance support for SMEs by bringing together microfinance institutions, policymakers, recycling enterprises, and technical experts in a focused, evidence-informed dialogue. Building on prior research, the consultation moved beyond analysis to explore practical pathways such as improving credit access, aligning with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, and strengthening market linkages.

By grounding discussions in evidence while prioritising actionable outcomes, the dialogue remained both credible and relevant. SDPI's cross-sector partnerships ensured participation from the right actors, creating space for meaningful exchange rather than symbolic engagement.

2026 and Beyond

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, PESACE will focus on translating its evidence and policy gains into operational systems at scale. This includes piloting EPR frameworks at the provincial level, particularly for plastics and e-waste, alongside developing national standards for traceability in textile circularity.

Building on its work linking microfinance with recycling SMEs, the programme will deepen engagement with financial institutions to unlock green credit and investment for circular enterprises. At the same time, efforts will be directed towards formalising recycling markets ensuring that informal systems in

plastics, e-waste, and textiles are integrated into structured, regulated, and economically viable value chains.

The programme will also expand its work on local resilience and human capital, scaling district adaptation planning to other climate-vulnerable regions and embedding these frameworks within local governance and budgeting processes. The Green Skills Bootcamp model will be extended to SMEs, civil servants, and youth, creating a workforce capable of supporting emerging circular markets. PESACE's larger vision is to position Pakistan as a regional leader in circular economy transitions leveraging its demonstrated strengths in textile circularity, advancing regional dialogue on plastics and zero waste, and actively contributing to global standards and trade discussions.

The overarching priority will be to move from policy to implementation, ensuring that systems are financed, institutionalised, and delivering measurable environmental and economic impact.

Sustainability and Resilience

Theme 5



In 2025, Pakistan remained on the frontlines of climate vulnerability, facing increasingly frequent floods, droughts, and extreme weather events. Traditional disaster response systems, largely reactive, have struggled to keep pace with the scale and predictability of these shocks.

There is growing global momentum towards anticipatory action: acting before disasters strike using early warning systems and risk forecasts.

For Pakistan, embedding this approach into national systems is critical not only for saving lives, but also for protecting fragile livelihoods, reducing fiscal strain, and strengthening long-term resilience.

Development of Pakistan's National Anticipatory Action Strategy

SDPI led the development of a comprehensive National Anticipatory Action Strategy, designed as a three-tier framework spanning

national, provincial, and local levels. The work translated global best practices into a nationally grounded strategy linked with Pakistan's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies. SDPI's Sustainability and Resilience Program (SRP) facilitated technical consultations, developed implementation pathways, and integrated early warning systems with pre-arranged financing mechanisms. The result is a practical and actionable framework that shifts disaster management from response to preparedness.

The strategy positioned anticipatory action within Pakistan's formal DRM architecture, directly informing policy discussions at federal and provincial levels. It strengthened linkages with existing DRR frameworks and contributed to institutionalising risk-informed planning. The process also enhanced coordination between government agencies and international partners, laying the groundwork for adoption and future operationalisation.

Fostering Anticipatory Action in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Region – Phase 1 & 2

Mountain communities in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region face compounding climate and socio-economic risks, yet adaptation responses often remain centralised and disconnected from local realities. In 2025, there was an urgent need to shift towards inclusive, locally driven adaptation models that recognise gender dynamics and empower communities to act ahead of crises. This project responded to that gap by promoting anticipatory, community-led resilience in one of the world's most climate-sensitive regions.

Building on earlier work, SDPI advanced a gender-responsive anticipatory adaptation framework rooted in local knowledge and priorities. The SRP team facilitated community engagement processes, generated evidence

on localised risks, and translated these insights into policy-relevant recommendations. It also supported structured dialogues between communities and government actors, ensuring that local voices informed planning and decision-making.

The project strengthened the integration of community-driven evidence into sub-national and national policy processes. It contributed to shifting policy discourse towards anticipatory and inclusive adaptation, while promoting gender-responsive planning. The work also supported locals governments in syncing local adaptation priorities with broader climate strategies.

Policy Advocacy for Climate-Resilient WASH

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems in Pakistan are increasingly vulnerable to climate change, with floods, droughts, and water scarcity undermining public health and development gains. Yet climate resilience has not been

systematically integrated into WASH planning or financing. In 2025, strengthening climate-resilient WASH became critical to safeguarding health, reducing inequalities, and ensuring sustainable water security.

SDPI led a policy advocacy initiative to embed climate-resilient WASH into federal and provincial planning frameworks. The unit generated evidence, facilitated policy dialogues, and built capacity among policymakers and practitioners. It also worked to bridge data gaps and promote risk-informed decision-making, while advocating for increased public financing for resilience-oriented WASH interventions.

The project influenced public sector planning and budgeting processes by elevating climate-resilient WASH as a policy priority. It strengthened cross-sectoral integration between WASH, climate change, and disaster risk management, and contributed to more informed and coordinated policy approaches linked with national climate commitments.

The Impact

SDPI's SR Programme made substantive contributions to national policy processes in 2025 by embedding evidence-based approaches into key government frameworks.

Notably, SRP's technical inputs supported the integration of the National Anticipatory Action Strategy into the broader Disaster Risk Management (DRM) architecture led by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). This marks a critical shift towards proactive, risk-informed planning in Pakistan's disaster governance landscape.

In parallel, SDPI played a convening and advisory role in advancing the development of Pakistan's National WASH Account. Working closely with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, climate change authorities, and the Ministry of Finance, the initiative establishes a data-driven framework for planning, financing, and monitoring climate-resilient WASH interventions.

Stakeholder Contributions

The development of Pakistan's National Anticipatory Action Strategy involved coordinated efforts at both federal and sub-national levels.

At the federal level, institutions such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) provided strategic leadership, policy guidance, and national coordination. Their involvement ensured synergy with national policies, facilitated inter-ministerial collaboration, and, after completion of the AA Strategy, they will help SDPI institutionalise anticipatory action within

existing governance and financing frameworks.

At the sub-national level, SDPI's SRP in coordination with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) actively engaged stakeholders through formal invitations and consultations.

Under the ICIMOD project, during the first phase (24 July 2025 – February 2026), local communities played a central role by providing first-hand insights into climate and socio-economic risks, sharing lived experiences, and identifying local vulnerabilities. This ensured that the policy development process was firmly grounded in community realities.

Community engagement was a core pillar of the project, reflecting a bottom-up approach in which local voices were systematically captured and conveyed to relevant sectoral ministries and departments. This



process supported the identification of policy gaps, priority intervention areas, and informed planning for future renewable energy and broader development initiatives.

Sectoral ministries and departments, including Planning, Finance, Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock, Power, Meteorological Services, Environmental Protection Agencies, Wildlife and Forestry Departments, and Rescue 1122, reviewed and validated community inputs, identified policy and implementation gaps, and contributed technical expertise to the design of sector-specific interventions and future development plans, particularly in the areas of renewable energy and climate resilience.

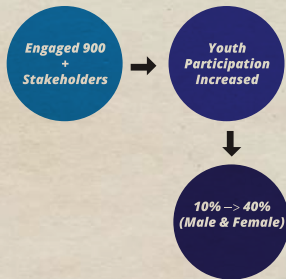
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-specific entities, such as PDMA-KP, the Forestry, Environment and Wildlife Department, PEDO, Population Welfare Department, Energy and Power Department, and Irrigation Department, provided localised knowledge, supported the integration of community

feedback into provincial planning processes, and offered guidance on operationalising anticipatory action strategies in line with regional needs and priorities.

In addition to facilitating government engagement on community-derived findings, the SRP also collected in-depth community insights on renewable energy and pastoralism. The evidence and findings from these two thematic areas will be systematically discussed and shared with relevant government departments to inform sectoral policies, planning, and future investments.

For the WaterAid WASH project, the SRP team has been involving key institutions like the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental

Coordination (MoCC&EC): PBS for technical expertise and statutory authority to develop a National WASH Account, while MoCC&EC for policy synergy, climate resilience, and sustainable development integration.



- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)* *Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA)*
The Next Generation Leaders (TNGL) *State Disaster Management Authority, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (SDMA-AJK)*
Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) *Wildlife and Forestry Departments (All Provinces/Regions)* *SADE Welfare Foundation*
Resilient Future International *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* *Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)*
Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) *World Food Programme (WFP)* *Provincial Disaster Management Authorities*
Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) *Power Departments (All Provinces)*
Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) *Planning & Development Departments (All Provinces)*
Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) *National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)*
Environmental Protection Agencies (Provincial EPAs) *National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)*
Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) *Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS)*
Finance Departments (All Provinces) *Forestry, Wildlife & Environment Departments (All Provinces)* *SDGs Academy Pakistan*
Pak Mission Society **Collaborations and Partnerships** *The Urban Unit*
CARE International *Emergency Services / Rescue 1122 (All Provinces)* *AHSAS* *Foundation for Rural Development, Peshawar*
Awaz Foundation *Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition* *CARE International* *Ago Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH)*
Community Research & Development Organization (CRDO) *Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC)* *ALIGHT*
HelpAge International / Foundation for Ageing and Inclusive Development (FAID) *Agriculture Departments (All Provinces)*
Dr. Sadiq Foundation *Akhter Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD / NCRD)*
Energy & Power Departments (All Provinces) *Development Communications Network (DEVCOM-Pakistan)* *Aurat Foundation*
Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD) *Livestock & Dairy Departments (All Provinces)* *Helping in Need*
Jhpiego *Irrigation Departments (All Provinces)* *International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)*

Geographical Outreach

Geographically, activities spanned national and subnational levels, including urban centres such as Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore, as well as climate-vulnerable regions such as Swat and Chitral. This broad engagement footprint enabled the SRP to bridge policy and practice, ensuring that diverse perspectives informed its research and policy advisory work.



Institutional Trust with Counterparts: Demonstrated Ownership

Relevant ministries and government departments supported development of Pakistan's National Anticipatory Action Strategy, reflecting the inherently coordinated, multi-sectoral, and multi-level nature of anticipatory action. As a public sector-led approach, anticipatory action integrates forecast-based, proactive measures into disaster risk management and development planning systems with the National DRR Policy, the National Disaster Management Authority frameworks, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



At the federal level, sustained engagement with the NDMA and the MoCC ensured leadership,

policy coherence, and national coordination, facilitating institutionalisation within existing governance and financing structures.

At the sub-national level, collaboration with PDMAs, GBDMA, and SDMAs enabled the contextualisation and operationalisation of anticipatory action across provincial and local levels, ensuring link with localised risk, hazard and vulnerability profiles. SDPI also engaged with community-based CSOs, local government representatives, youth and women's groups, and key provincial institutions to strengthen community-level outreach and implementation.

Sectoral ministries and departments, including Planning, Finance, Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock, Power, Meteorological Services, Environmental Protection Agencies, Wildlife and Forestry Departments, and Rescue 1122, together with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-specific entities such as PDMA-KP, the Forestry, Environment and Wildlife

Department, PEDO, Population Welfare, Energy and Power, and Irrigation Departments, contributed specialised technical expertise. Their engagement was critical in strengthening early warning systems, climate and risk forecasting, pre-arranged financing mechanisms, and sector-specific resilience measures across agriculture, water, energy, health, and ecosystem management.

Collectively, this whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach demonstrates a systems-based resilience model, in which cross-sectoral coordination, decentralised participation, and anticipatory planning converge to address climate and socio-economic risks. Its key strength lies in strong institutional integration coupled with effective community-level linkages, ensuring both technical coherence and locally responsive implementation.

Publications Snapshot

Two reports were also developed during the year on decision-making for climate adaptation, focusing on insights from expert consultations to integrate anticipatory adaptation into national and subnational planning processes; and gender-responsive and future-oriented frameworks, based on sub-national stakeholder

Complementing this work, the team's newspaper articles published in leading national newspapers reinforced a common message: Pakistan must move beyond reactive responses to embrace foresight-driven planning. Forthcoming policy briefs hope to a connected story of Pakistan's shift from strengthening climate governance and anticipatory



Ramsha Mehboob Khan, Saleha Ikram, Dr Shafqat Munir Ahmad, Muhammad Awais Umar and Ali Rehmat book chapter titled "Labour Rights, Environmental Compliance, and Climate Resilience: Reforming Pakistan's Brick Kiln Industry" highlights efforts to improve working conditions for kiln workers while addressing the sector's environmental footprint and vulnerability to climate change.

consultations to develop inclusive and generalisable guidelines for integrating a future lens approach.

adaptation in vulnerable regions like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to safeguarding livelihoods through sustainable mountain pastoralism in areas such as Chitral.

Thematic Policy Clinics

16 policy clinics, consultations and dialogues were convened across Pakistan, engaging stakeholders at national, provincial and sub-national levels to support inclusive and evidence-based policymaking on climate resilience, WASH and sustainable livelihoods.

A national consultation was held in Islamabad (7 October 2025), followed by provincial consultations in Sindh (Karachi, 13 October 2025), Balochistan (Quetta, 15 October 2025), Punjab (Lahore, 18 November 2025) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar, 27 November 2025). These engagements brought together government stakeholders, practitioners and experts to discuss policy priorities and implementation challenges across regions.

Sub-national consultations were organised in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Muzaffarabad, 24 December 2025) and Gilgit-Baltistan (Gilgit, 30 December 2025), ensuring that region-specific perspectives were incorporated

into policy discussions, particularly from climate-vulnerable and geographically remote areas.

A series of policy dialogues focused on climate-resilient WASH systems and financing mechanisms. These included discussions on sustainable financing (Islamabad, 20 February 2025), the role of the private sector (Karachi, 21 January 2025), establishing national WASH accounts (Islamabad, 1 November 2024), and pathways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through climate-resilient WASH (Lahore, 27 December 2024).

Several targeted engagements were conducted to address specific thematic areas. These included consultations with experts and policymakers in Peshawar (17–20 December 2025) to better understand decision-making processes for climate adaptation, and a workshop in Islamabad (8 December 2025) to co-develop a gender-responsive framework integrating a future-oriented lens into policy design.

Workshops were also held in Swat (26 December 2025) and Chitral (24 December 2025) to identify barriers and opportunities for scaling renewable energy-powered lift irrigation systems in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region. Additionally, a district-level consultation in Chitral (28 November 2025) explored participatory future scenarios for pastoralism.

Building Momentum for Climate-Resilient WASH Financing

What began as a focused effort to strengthen resource mobilisation for climate-resilient WASH quickly evolved into a growing platform for cross-sector learning and collaboration. 2 closely linked capacity-building workshops brought together a diverse group of practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and civil society actors each navigating the challenges of financing climate-resilient water and sanitation in Pakistan.

Across both trainings, nearly 50 participants engaged in practical discussions on how to unlock and link financial resources for WASH systems that can withstand climate shocks. The strong participation of youth particularly in the first training, where young professionals made up the majority signaled a promising shift towards more inclusive and forward-looking climate action.

Participants represented a rich ecosystem of institutions, from government-linked research bodies such as the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources and the Global Change Impact Studies Centre, to development organisations like UNDP and Aurat Foundation, as well as academic institutions including NUST and PIDE. This diversity enabled a dynamic exchange of perspectives, bridging policy, practice, and community-level insights.



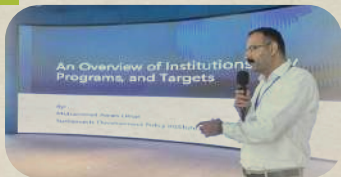
International Engagements

Across borders and landscapes, the SRP team continued to exchange knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and contribute to regional dialogue on sustainable development.

In December 2025, Dr Shafqat Munir, Dr Babar Shahbaz, and Ali Rehmat joined regional partners in Kathmandu for a two-day workshop held on 23–24 December. The gathering created a collaborative

space for sharing lessons, reflecting on field experiences, and strengthening collective approaches to regional challenges.

Earlier in the year, Muhammad Awais Umar represented SDPI at an international knowledge-sharing visit in Chongqing from 8–13 October 2025. Hosted by ICIMOD in collaboration with Chongqing Renewable Energy Society (CRES), the Mountains and Rural Energy Symposium brought together practitioners and experts to explore



on emergency response efforts, affecting the timing of planned consultations. At the same time, heavy rainfall, flash floods, and security considerations in Swat and Chitral limited field travel and necessitated

adjustments to planned activities, including the relocation and rescheduling of some engagements. In response, the SRP team adopted

a more inclusive and adaptive approach, for instance, expanding national consultations to include provincial leadership, particularly PDMA, which strengthened synergy between national and provincial priorities and led to greater ownership. This was reflected in the active role of PDMA in supporting outreach and participation during consultations.

2026 and Beyond

SRP aims to build on a growing recognition that effective responses to climate and socio-economic risks

innovations in renewable energy. The visit enabled cross-learning on sustainable energy solutions, offering insights into practices that can inform and strengthen local initiatives.

Challenges & Lessons Learnt

Widespread flooding in 2025 meant that many government counterparts and stakeholders were understandably focused



must be grounded in the priorities and lived realities of communities themselves.

Over the past year, extensive engagement with communities across vulnerable regions has generated critical insights into both the risks they face and the solutions they envision. These consultations have shaped a clear and practical way forward: one that bridges the gap between local experiences and decision-making processes at higher levels of governance. At its core, this approach elevates community voices, positioning them as central to shaping policies that directly affect their futures.

In the next phase, SRP will focus on moving beyond consultation towards deeper co-creation. Efforts will centre on developing locally driven, inclusive, and gender-responsive approaches that enable communities to anticipate and respond to risks proactively.

Strengthening community ownership remains a priority, ensuring that local

actors are not merely participants but leaders in adaptation and resilience-building processes.

At the same time, SRP seeks to deepen engagement with stakeholders across local, provincial, and national levels. Through evidence-based advocacy and sustained policy dialogue, the programme will work towards embedding community-generated knowledge into formal planning and policy frameworks. This includes fostering spaces for meaningful exchange, strengthening linkages between communities and policymakers, and translating local priorities into actionable strategies.

Looking ahead, SRP is also set to expand its contribution to regional efforts that promote anticipatory action as a key development approach. By engaging with partners across countries facing similar challenges, SRP will contribute to scaling locally grounded solutions, strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration, and advancing approaches that are equitable,

context-specific, and sustainable.

In parallel, SRP is committed to strengthening local institutions. Targeted efforts will support grassroots organisations in enhancing their institutional and technical capacities, enabling them to access resources, implement development initiatives, and sustain impact over time. Particular attention will be given to empowering local actors to take on more prominent and effective roles in future climate and development programming.

Together, these directions signal a broader shift: from reactive responses to anticipatory action, from top-down planning to community-led processes, and from short-term interventions to long-term, systemic transformation.

**From Research
to
Policy Impact**

Policy Solutions Lab



Why This Mattered in 2025?

In 2025, Pakistan's policy landscape was defined by overlapping pressures: fiscal strain, weak public service delivery, climate vulnerability, uneven provincial capacity, and growing demand for credible evidence in policymaking. Yet many institutions continued to operate with fragmented data, limited analytical capacity, and weak links between research and action.

This made the work of the Policy Solutions Lab (PSL) especially timely.

Whether the issue was debt governance, data systems, care work, or provincial budgeting, the underlying challenge was the same: public policy could not improve without stronger evidence, better institutions, and more informed public debate. The Lab's work helped move policy conversations beyond diagnosis towards practical reform.

The Lab also responded to a wider shift in development practice.

Governments and development partners are increasingly under pressure to show results, target resources effectively, and address inequality. In this context, the Lab positioned itself as a bridge between research, state institutions, and public discourse.

What the Policy Solutions Lab Did?

In 2025, the Policy Solutions Lab managed 4 active projects while also developing a pipeline of new proposals on intellectual property rights, climate adaptation and women's economic security, refugee administration, and healthy environments for children in South Asia.

Data for Development (D4D)

Its flagship Data for Development (D4D) work with UNFPA combined research, policy development, advocacy, and capacity building. The

Lab advanced Phase II of Pakistan's first national data portal, designed to provide more policy-relevant analysis than existing tools.

It also supported the notification of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Data Governance Framework: the first of its kind in the country and began work on an implementation action plan.

In Balochistan, the Lab initiated the establishment of the Balochistan Population & Economic Research Institute (B-PERI) and worked on a restructuring plan for the Bureau of Statistics, while also conducting functional gap assessments of provincial statistical systems.

The D4D programme also generated new research and field tools. The team developed concept notes, sampling frameworks, and survey instruments for 2 studies: one on displacement and gender inequalities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, and another on the needs of out-of-school adolescents and youth in Punjab and KP. It also

supervised 5 population-focused studies conducted by Provincial Population Research Centers and convened media coalition meetings on sexual and reproductive health and family planning in KP and Punjab.

Debt and Development

Alongside this, the Lab's Debt and Development work with FES tackled one of Pakistan's most pressing structural issues: weak debt literacy and limited legislative oversight of borrowing. It translated a technical subject into accessible public debate through publications such as *Debt and Development: A Layman's Guide* and *End the Debt Trap: Options for National Legislative Action*, while also building the knowledge base for more responsible public borrowing. A dedicated two-day training on the role of parliament in responsible public borrowing and debt management formed part of this effort.

Public Service Delivery

The Lab's World Bank-supported work on the Political Economy Analysis of Resource Allocation for Public Service Delivery examined why provincial spending so often fails to translate into local results. By focusing on actors, incentives, governance bottlenecks, and non-financial constraints, the research brought a more realistic understanding of public service delivery challenges. A forthcoming publication on political economy analysis of resource allocation for public service delivery: provinces in focus, together with a Punjab Public Expenditure Review (2010-2023), strengthened the evidence base for reform discussions.

Doing Good Index 2026

The Lab also contributed to the Doing Good Index 2026 process with Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS). It conducted an online survey of 61 social delivery organisations across Pakistan and

co-hosted an expert meeting to examine the readiness of Asia's social sectors to thrive. This work connected Pakistan's policy questions to wider regional debates on philanthropy, civic space, and social sector enabling environments.

Care Economy and Decent Work

A fifth strand of work 'Investing in the Care Economy: Decent Work and Health Systems in Pakistan' remained in progress during 2025. It focused on chronic underinvestment in care systems, poor labour protections, occupational safety gaps, and gender inequities in the health workforce, laying the groundwork for future policy engagement in a neglected but high-impact area.

Policy Impact

The Lab's strongest policy achievement in 2025 was helping secure formal notification of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Data Governance Framework. This was more than a technical output: it marked an institutional shift towards more structured, rules-based, and evidence-oriented public data systems

The Lab also moved from framework design to implementation planning, increasing the likelihood of longer-term uptake.

Its influence also extended beyond Pakistan. The PSL's work on debt justice was recognised at the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries in Manila. Its research on debt resolution from Pakistan was included in the formal dossier presented by FES Washington to the Financing for Development conference, and the team lead was appointed to the Debt Justice Advisory Committee.

The Lab was also invited to join the

Global South Finance Policy Call launched by the Global Economic Governance Initiative at Boston University's Global Development Policy Center.

These are strong signals that the Policy Solution Lab's work is shaping international conversations, not only national ones. At country level, the Lab contributed to policy processes in quieter but equally important ways.

Its work informed government-facing discussions with the Planning Commission, provincial Planning and Development Departments, bureaus of statistics, population welfare departments, and parliamentary actors. The public service delivery work brought sharper political economy analysis into budget and governance debates, while D4D strengthened the infrastructure and institutional relationships needed for better evidence use.

The PSL also helped shift public and elite discourse. Through seminars, media commentary, newspaper

articles, and televised appearances, it made complex issues, including tariffs, economic transformation, debt, budgets, and governance, more accessible and policy-relevant.

This matters in a context where reform often stalls not because evidence is absent, but because it is poorly communicated.

From Impact to Action

Across the year, PSL's output was substantial.



The team also ran technical trainings including a five-day course on data visualization using Power BI, a

five-day training on demographic analysis using AI-based R, and a parliamentary training on debt oversight. These reached 75 people trained with broader project engagement covering 3,000 stakeholders in D4D alone and work extending across all four provinces and the Federal Capital.

The Lab remained visible in public debate as well. It organised Monday Seminars on themes such as policy coherence for economic transformation and the implications of tariff changes for Pakistan, contributed news articles/quotes, appeared in economic talk shows, and produced an annual budget brochure to help connect economic policy to public understanding.

Stakeholders Engaged & Supported

The PSL team worked across an unusually broad stakeholder landscape, combining government-facing technical support with

Key 2025 Publications



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» Home » Chapter 4

Chapter 4: Monetary policy and inequality: conceptual framework and preliminary evidence PDF GENERATED

Edited by Masim Ali and Zafar Hameed

In Islamic Finance in the Digital Age

Category: Finance ISBN: 9781032122124

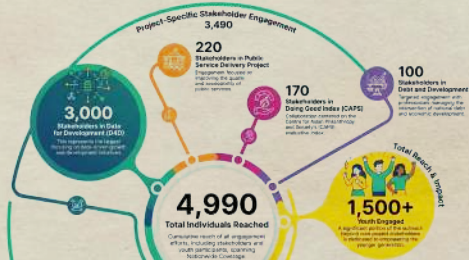
Published: 20 Nov 2024 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10804019.2024.2024124>

Page Range: 21-37 Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing

Keywords: Central banking, monetary policy, inequality, financial development, M2, M2/GDP

engagement across donors, parliament, academia, civil society, and the media. This breadth gave its research traction. Its main institutional partners included UNFPA, the World Bank, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, CAPS, Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy, and ILO Pakistan. Government engagement spanned the Planning Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, provincial Planning and Development Departments, provincial bureaus of statistics, population welfare departments, youth departments, district administration, and ministries linked to climate, health, education, and local government.

The Lab also engaged parliamentarians, Provincial Population Research Centers, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Office, the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees, universities, NGOs, NPOs, and social delivery organisations. In the Doing Good Index work alone, it directly surveyed 61 organisations nationwide.



2026 and Beyond

The Policy Solutions Lab enters the next phase with stronger institutional positioning and clearer strategic direction. Lessons from 2025, including bureaucratic turnover, shifting provincial priorities, and reliance on external expertise, highlight the need for more adaptive programming and stronger in-house capacity.

Looking ahead, the Lab aims to scale the National Data Portal into a fully functional decision-support system and deepen provincial engagement on data governance. It will continue to

strengthen work on debt oversight and fiscal governance, while expanding into emerging areas. There is also a renewed focus on translating research into actionable policy tools so that evidence not only informs debate but drives real change.

Evidence, Systems and Policy Transformation



Why This Mattered in 2025?

In 2025, SDPI's Monitoring, Learning & Governance (MLG) team worked at the intersection of evidence, systems, and policy to address some of Pakistan's most pressing development challenges ranging from learning poverty and food insecurity to gender inequality in political systems. Across diverse sectors, the unifying thread was a commitment to strengthening how decisions are made: by generating credible evidence, fostering inclusive dialogue, and translating insights into actionable policy reform.

From building real-time data systems to improve learning outcomes for marginalised children, to advancing regional collaboration on food systems and nutrition through fiscal and trade policy, to pushing legislative reforms for women's meaningful political participation, the unit demonstrated how rigorous research and sustained engagement can shape both systems and outcomes. Together, these initiatives

reflect a shift from isolated interventions towards integrated, evidence-driven governance where data informs action, partnerships enable scale, and policy change delivers lasting impact.

ILMpact Programme – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

Pakistan continued to face a deep learning crisis in 2025, with millions of children, especially girls, children with disabilities, and marginalized groups, either out of school or unable to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy. Weak data systems and fragmented monitoring approaches further limited the effectiveness of education reforms.

Against this backdrop, the ILMpact programme under the FCDO-British Council Consortium addressed a critical gap: the need for real-time, reliable evidence to guide inclusive education policies and interventions. By strengthening monitoring and learning systems, the programme

ensured that education investments translated into measurable improvements in access, equity, and learning outcomes.

As MEL lead, SDPI designed and operationalised a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation, and learning system across a large multi-partner consortium.

Key contributions included:

1. Co-developing the MEL framework, indicators, and tools for programme-wide use
2. Conducting a large-scale baseline survey covering 4,800 households across 13 districts
3. Establishing a real-time digital dashboard for tracking enrolment, learning outcomes, and inclusion indicators
4. Implementing continuous performance monitoring, including field visits, spot checks, and third-party verification
5. Strengthening partner capacity through trainings on SOPs, reporting protocols, and MEL tools

ILMpact Dashboard

Increased access to education for girls and marginalised children

Output 1: Access and Learning

Workstream A: Community outreach ensuring timely enrolment, Enrolment and Learning



Catch-up Program



ECCE



Grade-1



Grade-2

Inclusive provincial education systems delivering quality education

Output 2: Remedial Learning

Workstream B: Support to Safe welcoming and inclusive school ecosystems enabling access & learning



Remedial Learning



Inclusive Education

Programme Progress

School Profile and Program Baseline Data

Foundational Data



School Profile



Program Baseline

IMCs

Assessment Validation

IEP

Improved teaching quality and learning outcomes

Output 3: Personal Agency

Workstream C: Strengthening students' voice, agency and self-efficacy to proactively plan and act towards future healthy life styles



STEAM Club



Girls Club

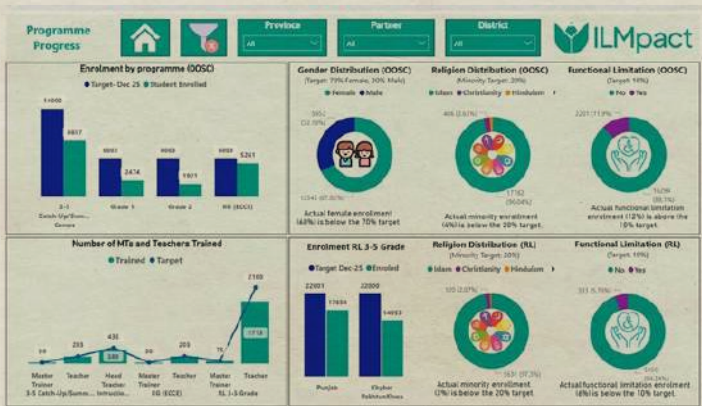
Inclusive provincial education systems delivering quality education

Output 3: Prevention and Awareness Raising

Workstream D: Wide social sensitisation campaigns for girls' education, agency and empowerment



Awareness Campaign



This work enabled systematic tracking of 160,000 students, including 64,000 out-of-school children, while ensuring data-driven decision-making across all programme levels.

Policy Impact

SDPI's MEL leadership contributed to embedding evidence-based decision-making within provincial education systems.

1. Strengthened collaboration with key institutions including School Education Departments in Punjab and KP, DCTE, DPD, and PECTAA
2. Supported institutionalisation of monitoring systems within government structures
3. Enabled policymakers to access real-time insights on enrolment, gender parity, and learning outcomes
4. Positioned MEL systems as a core component of education reform and accountability

From Research to Impact



Stakeholders Engaged

Engagement focused on strengthening ownership, improving data use, and ensuring sustainability.

1. Provincial education departments → system integration and policy compatibility.
2. Consortium partners (12 organisations) coordinated implementation
3. Local governments and schools → field-level engagement
4. NADRA → data verification support
5. Teachers and school management committees capacity building
6. Communities and parents inclusion and awareness

By linking programme data with policy processes, SDPI helped shift education governance towards results-based planning.

South Asian Coalition for Improved Nutrition (SACIN): Transforming Food Systems through Fiscal and Trade Policy Reforms

South Asia faces a worsening nutrition crisis, with rising food insecurity, persistent undernutrition, and growing obesity rates. In Pakistan alone, 60% of the population remains unable to afford a healthy diet, while malnutrition is costing the economy an estimated 3% of GDP annually.

Despite this, fiscal and trade policies remain underutilised tools in addressing nutrition outcomes. The South Asian Coalition for Improved Nutrition (SACIN) responded to this gap by generating evidence on how economic policies can reshape food systems and improve diet affordability across the region.

MLG's Role

SDPI led a multi-country initiative across Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to connect economic policy with nutrition outcomes.

Key actions included:

1. Coordinating regional research on fiscal and trade policy impacts on food systems
2. Convening a high-level session at the SDPI Annual Sustainable Development Conference. Four country studies presented during the SDC session examined context-specific fiscal and trade measures for food system transformation, with recommendations connected to each country's healthy food basket. These country insights will feed into a Regional Synthesis Report to be launched at a regional forum early next year
3. Supporting national engagement through the Pakistan Alliance for Food Systems Transformation
4. Publishing op-eds to raise public

and policy awareness

5. Facilitating collaboration among regional research and policy institutions

Policy Impact

1. SACIN significantly influenced policy discourse by introducing fiscal and trade tools into nutrition policymaking:
2. Equipped policymakers with actionable recommendations on taxes, subsidies, and trade measures
3. Strengthened regional policy-practice networks across South Asia
4. Elevated nutrition as a cross-sectoral policy issue beyond health and agriculture
5. Contributed to a forthcoming Regional Synthesis Report.

The initiative also catalysed interest in a second phase, signalling strong policy uptake, continuity and relevance.

Stakeholders Engagement for Cross-Sector & Cross-Country Collaboration



'So leveraging these approaches for broader impact requires coordination across multiple food system components, and it requires a mobilization of coalitions of actors from across different environments, working across sectors and scales to develop a shared vision for food systems transformation.'

~ Madiha Ahmed (IDRC), Opening Remarks, SACIN Session, Sustainable Development Conference 2025



South Asian Coalition for Improved Nutrition (SACIN): Transforming Food Systems through Fiscal and Trade Policies Reforms Session, 28th SDC

SACIN as a network has been effective due to the credibility of SDPI as a trusted policy think tank and its ability to generate rigorous, policy-relevant evidence. The timing was critical, as rising food insecurity and the triple burden of malnutrition created strong demand for actionable policy solutions. Strong partnerships with regional research institutions, government ministries, and organisations such as FAO and GAIN enabled coordinated action and cross-country learning, while media outreach helped extend the conversation beyond policy circles. SDPI's long-term engagement in food systems and nutrition policy has ensured sustained dialogue and follow-through.

Raising Her Voice – Women in Political Decision-Making

Despite constitutional guarantees, women's political participation in Pakistan remains largely symbolic. While women made up nearly half the population, their representation in legislatures and ministerial roles remains limited and their influence within political parties even more constrained.

With electoral reforms under discussion, 2025 presented a critical opportunity to address structural barriers within party systems and move towards meaningful political inclusion.

SDPI's MLG implemented a research-to-policy initiative targeting intra-party governance structures. Key activities included:

1. Conducting a Political Economy Analysis to identify structural barriers
2. Publishing a discussion paper

with legal and institutional mapping

3. Organising stakeholder consultations with political parties and parliamentarians
4. Leading a public advocacy campaign including:
 - * 6 op-eds
 - * 7 TV engagements
 - * 1 documentary
 - * Workshops with parliamentarians and development partners

Policy Impact: Shift from Advocacy to Concrete Institutional Reform

The initiative achieved a major milestone by translating research into legislative action.

Proposed amendments to Chapter XI of the Elections Act (2017) focusing on Sections 202, 206, 207, and 208 formally submitted as a Private Member's Bill in Parliament with bipartisan support in January 2026

- Provisions for:
 - * 33% women's representation in party bodies
 - * Increased representation in office-bearer roles
 - * Proportionate representation linked with population share





Stakeholder Engagement Landscape



From Research to Impact



2026 and Beyond

Building on strong momentum in 2025, SDPI's work on women in political decision-making will shift decisively from legislative advocacy to institutional transformation. The immediate priority is to support the passage, refinement, and implementation of the Elections Amendment Bill, while ensuring that reforms are not only adopted but embedded within party systems. This will involve strengthening enforcement mechanisms, supporting oversight by parliamentary bodies, and aligning public advocacy with key legislative milestones. At the same time, SDPI will invest in building durable coalitions across political parties, civil society, and development partners to sustain reform momentum and ensure that women's participation translates into meaningful influence within political decision-making structures.

In the education sector, the next phase will focus on embedding MEL systems as a permanent feature of governance rather than a project-based function. SDPI will work closely with provincial governments to integrate digital dashboards into official education data systems, enabling real-time, evidence-driven decision-making at scale. Expanding longitudinal tracking of learners will allow policymakers to better understand learning trajectories and outcomes over time, while strengthened adaptive learning cycles will support continuous programme improvement. A renewed focus on inclusion, particularly for children with disabilities and other marginalised groups, will ensure that data systems not only measure access but drive equity-focused reforms across the education system.

At the regional level, SACIN will move from agenda-setting to policy uptake and institutionalisation. The launch of the Regional Synthesis Report will serve as a springboard for deeper

engagement with governments to operationalise fiscal and trade policy reforms for improved nutrition outcomes. SDPI will support countries in translating evidence into actionable policy instruments, while strengthening regional platforms to enable coordinated responses to shared food system challenges. Future work will also expand into climate-resilient and nutrition-sensitive food systems, positioning economic policy as a central lever for addressing food insecurity. A second phase of the programme will aim to consolidate gains, scale impact across countries, and anchor food systems transformation within regional policy frameworks.



Advocacy & Outreach



In 2025, the Policy Advocacy and Outreach Unit of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) advanced an ambitious portfolio of policy campaigns aimed at strengthening Pakistan's development trajectory through evidence-based policymaking, institutional capacity building, and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Across 14 major campaigns, SDPI worked with federal and provincial governments, parliamentarians, international organisations, development partners, civil society actors, and private sector stakeholders to translate research into actionable policy reforms. These initiatives addressed some of Pakistan's most pressing challenges ranging from energy transition and climate finance to data governance, democratic inclusion, fiscal oversight, and disaster preparedness.

Accelerating Pakistan's Energy Transition

Building the Policy Runway for Electric Mobility

Pakistan's transition towards electric mobility represents both an environmental imperative and an industrial opportunity. Between January and June 2025, SDPI led a campaign to support the development of an evidence-based policy ecosystem for electric vehicles (EVs).

The initiative brought together the Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP), relevant federal ministries and line departments, private sector electric vehicle manufacturers and assemblers, and domestic and international EV supply-chain actors. Engagements were also linked with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Resilience and Sustainability Facility, ensuring that the electric mobility transition remains

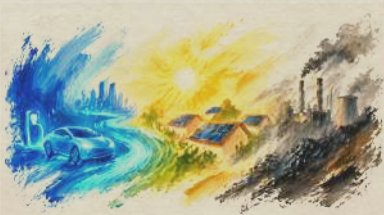
integrated with Pakistan's broader macroeconomic reform agenda.

Through policy consultations, research dissemination, and stakeholder dialogue, the campaign helped expand the policy space for accelerating Pakistan's EV transition.

From Rooftops to the Global Stage: Pakistan's Solar Story

Pakistan's rapid adoption of rooftop solar has emerged as a powerful example of citizen-led energy transformation. Building on momentum generated since 2022, SDPI continued its advocacy campaign in 2025 to position Pakistan's decentralised solar expansion as a global development and climate model.

The initiative engaged federal and provincial government counterparts, parliamentarians, diplomatic missions, development partners, and civil society organisations through the Pakistan Renewable



Energy Coalition (PREC). International collaboration included engagement with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), alongside global renewable energy alliances.

Efforts during 2025 focused on elevating Pakistan's solar transition onto the global stage, with the aim of showcasing the country's experience at the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30).

Reframing the Coal Transition Debate

Between 2024 and 2025, SDPI worked to shift Pakistan's energy discourse by opening policy dialogue on coal repurposing and early retirement of coal-based power plants—a subject that had long remained politically sensitive.

By presenting evidence on the economic, financial, and environmental implications of continued coal dependence, the campaign engaged federal

policy makers, regulators, power sector institutions, Chinese investors and power companies, Chinese think tanks, civil society organisations, media outlets, and energy experts.

Collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) helped strengthen the analytical foundation of these discussions. By 2025, the campaign had begun to generate tangible policy traction towards exploring viable coal transition pathways.

Reforming Energy Subsidies for Social Protection

Energy reforms remain central to Pakistan's fiscal sustainability. During 2025, SDPI supported policy dialogue aimed at replacing untargeted energy subsidies with direct social protection mechanisms.

The initiative engaged federal energy and finance policymakers, the International Monetary Fund (IMF),

the Government of Punjab, power sector regulators and utilities, social protection institutions, and civil society stakeholders. It also explored how decentralised solar solutions can provide affordable energy access for vulnerable households while reducing fiscal pressure on the national budget.

Mobilising Climate Finance and Green Economic Transformation

Unlocking Pakistan's Carbon Markets

As global climate finance mechanisms expand, Pakistan's ability to engage effectively in carbon markets has become increasingly important. Between 2023 and 2025, SDPI played a central role in supporting the operationalisation of Pakistan's carbon market framework. Following the policy approval in

2024, the campaign focused on strengthening institutional readiness, supporting monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems, and developing a pipeline of private-sector climate projects.

The initiative engaged the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC), federal and provincial government committees, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), project developers, international carbon market standards bodies such as Verra, development partners, and academia.

By expanding technical capacity and market readiness, the campaign laid important groundwork for Pakistan's participation in global carbon trading systems.

Advancing Sustainable Finance through Panda Bonds

SDPI also supported efforts to expand Pakistan's access

to innovative climate finance instruments. In 2025, SDPI continued to assist policy dialogue around Pakistan's first Panda Bond issuance—a Chinese Renminbi-denominated sovereign bond issued in China's domestic bond market.

The campaign aims to ensure that the issuance functions as a green and climate-synced financial instrument, embedding climate earmarking, credit enhancement mechanisms from multilateral development banks (MDBs), and strong sustainability standards.

Stakeholders include the Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan, Chinese regulatory authorities, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Chinese financial institutions, development partners, and diplomatic missions. The bond issuance is targeted for early 2026.

Advancing Circular Economy Policy

Pakistan's development model must transition away from linear 'take-make-dispose' production systems. To support this shift, SDPI initiated work on a National Circular Economy Policy for Pakistan between January and November 2025.

The project is implemented in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Ministry of Climate Change, alongside national and provincial line departments. The policy framework aims to promote closed-loop production systems, minimise waste, and maximise environmental and economic benefits.



Strengthening Data Systems for Evidence-Based Governance

Developing a National Data Governance Framework

Reliable data systems are essential for effective policymaking. In 2025, SDPI worked with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and provincial bureaus of statistics to develop a Data Governance Framework aimed at strengthening Pakistan's national statistical system.

Running from March to December 2025, the initiative worked on developing an Integrated Data System capable of improving coordination, interoperability, and data quality across federal and provincial institutions.

Building Analytical Capacity through Statistical Training

Complementing the governance framework, SDPI conducted specialised capacity-building programmes in statistical analysis and data communication.

Between March and December 2025, officials from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, provincial bureaus of statistics, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, provincial Planning and Development Departments, federal and provincial Commissionerates of Afghan Refugees, population research centres, and population welfare departments participated in two intensive five-day training programmes:

- Data Visualisation and Storytelling
- Demographic Analysis Using the R programming language

Expanding Public Access through Data Portals

To further promote transparency and evidence-based policymaking, SDPI developed two digital data platforms between March 2024 and December 2025: D4D National

- Data Portal
- Sindh Data Portal

These platforms provide accessible datasets and analytical tools for government institutions, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), development practitioners, and academic researchers, contributing to improved monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Strengthening Democratic Governance and Fiscal Oversight

Enhancing Parliamentary Capacity on Debt and Development

Effective oversight of fiscal policy is critical for sustainable development. In 2025, SDPI conducted targeted training programmes for members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue.

Through two-day workshops held between March and November 2025, parliamentarians' capacity was strengthened to review debt-related policies, analyse fiscal risks, and contribute more effectively to national development planning.

Raising Her Voice: Women in Political Decision-Making

Through the 'Raising Her Voice' initiative, implemented between November 2024 and October 2025, SDPI worked to strengthen women's participation in political decision-making processes.

The campaign engaged major political parties including the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F). Additional stakeholders included the Women Parliamentary Caucus, the Election Commission of Pakistan, the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Southern Voice, and civil society organisations.

The initiative advocates for amendments to the Political Parties Order 2002 and the Election Act 2017, proposing mandatory representation quotas for women in central decision-making bodies of political parties.

Building Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

Advancing the National Adaptation Plan

In March 2025, SDPI contributed to Pakistan's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) implementation by conducting Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CR&VAs) and developing Climate Adaptation Plans (CAPs) for the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The project was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change, provincial line departments, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Outputs included climate risk assessments, adaptation plans, training needs assessments, and policy briefs aimed at strengthening provincial climate resilience.

Developing a National Strategy on Anticipatory Action

Looking ahead, SDPI has begun supporting development of Pakistan's National Strategy on Anticipatory Action (AA). The strategy aims to integrate anticipatory action into Pakistan's disaster risk management system, ensuring that early warning information triggers timely interventions before disasters escalate.

The initiative is implemented with the World Food Programme (WFP) and key disaster management institutions, including the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), and the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).

Media Visibility

In 2025, the Unit significantly expanded its media engagement efforts to ensure that research-driven policy insights reached policymakers, journalists, and the wider public. By strategically combining conventional media outreach with high-profile public events, SDPI strengthened the visibility of its advocacy campaigns and helped shape national conversations around sustainable development, economic reform, climate action, and governance.

More than 113 press releases were issued, highlighting key research findings, policy recommendations, and advocacy initiatives emerging from the Institute's campaigns.

Broadcast Engagements

SDPI experts were frequently invited to contribute to broadcast media discussions, ensuring that evidence-based perspectives informed national discourse.

These appearances helped translate technical research into accessible insights for policymakers, journalists, and the broader public.

Media Partnerships

SDPI strengthened partnerships with some of Pakistan's most influential media outlets, including Dawn News, Geo TV, The News, Business Recorder, The Express Tribune, Dunya News, and Radio Pakistan.\

Beyond institutional partnerships, the Institute also built strong working relationships with leading journalists specializing in climate change, economic policy, education, and public health. These collaborations enabled SDPI's research and policy recommendations to reach wider audiences while fostering informed reporting on critical development issues.

Platforms for Dialogue

Public engagement remained a cornerstone of SDPI's advocacy strategy. During the year, the

Institute organized over 113 events, creating spaces where policymakers, academics, development practitioners, and civil society actors could engage in informed policy dialogue.

Each event served as a platform to present research findings, stimulate debate on pressing policy challenges, and build consensus around practical reform pathways.

Diverse Participation

Across these engagements, events attracted an average of 35 participants, representing a diverse cross-section of stakeholders including government officials, parliamentarians, researchers, development partners, and civil society organizations.



SDPI Outreach & Public Engagement

Year in Review | 2025



25
Monday Seminars



3
Press Conferences



14
Public Dialogues



7
National Seminars



113+
Press Releases



87+
Appearances on
Leading News Channels



9+
Radio Programmes



300+
News Reports



Impact Matrix

Energy Transition and Climate Policy

Policy Area	Impact
Electric Mobility Transition	Accelerated evidence-based reforms supporting Pakistan's national electric vehicle transition.
Decentralized Solar Expansion	Positioned Pakistan's rooftop solar model within national policy and global climate discourse.
Coal Transition Dialogue	Advanced national discussions on coal repurposing and early retirement pathways.
Carbon Market Development	Strengthened regulatory and institutional readiness for Pakistan's carbon market.
Green Panda Bonds	Embedded climate-aligned standards in Pakistan-China sovereign bond cooperation.
Energy Subsidy Reform	Promoted targeted subsidies and decentralized solar access for vulnerable households.

Energy Transition and Climate Policy

Policy Area	Impact
Nat. Data Governance Framework	Established an integrated framework strengthening Pakistan's statistical institutions.
Data & Demographic Analytics	Strengthened federal and provincial capacity in demographic analysis and data management.
Public Data Portals	Launched national and provincial portals supporting transparency and SDG monitoring.

Democratic Governance and Fiscal Oversight

Policy Area	Impact
Parliamentary Oversight on Debt	Strengthened capacity of parliamentary committees to scrutinize debt and fiscal policies.
Women's Political Representation	Advocated mandatory representation of women in political party leadership structures.

Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development

Policy Area	Impact
Circular Economy Policy	Advanced policy dialogue on transitioning Pakistan toward circular economic systems.
Climate Adaptation Planning	Integrated provincial climate risk assessments into national adaptation planning.
Anticipatory Disaster Response	Institutionalized anticipatory action mechanisms within disaster risk management systems.

Convening & Influence



28th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC)

Sustainable Development in the Emerging World Dis|Order



Why the 28th SDC Mattered in 2025?

In 2025, policy space narrowed under accelerating climate risk, technological disruption, and eroding global stability. In such conditions, countries not only need 'more projects'; they need shared direction, credible evidence, and coalitions capable of converting urgency into implementable pathways.

From 4-7 November 2025, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), organized its annual Sustainable Development Conference (SDC) at the Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad.

The SDC's relevance was strengthened by deliberate linkages with three agenda-shaping forums in the same cycle: SDPI's 3rd Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE), UNESCO's 9th South and South-West Asia Forum on Sustainable Development, and the 18th South Asia Economic Summit, linking policy discourse, SDG implementation pathways, and investment-facing solutions.

The 28th SDC positioned disorder not as paralysis, but as a policy moment calling for resilience, adaptation, and regional cooperation over fragmented responses.

What the 28th SDC Did?

Convened a High-Density Regional Platform at Scale: Under the SDC, SDPI convened **51 sessions (12 plenaries, 32 panels, 7 fireside chats)** and a Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE) with 30 stalls, enabling sustained exchange across policy, practice, and market actors.

Elevated Policy Dialogue as a Structured Intervention (Not an Add-On): Of the 51 sessions, 9 were designed specifically as Policy Dialogues/Roundtables, concentrating decision-facing discussion on fiscal, industrial, technological, trade, and social strategies for climate-resilient and socially just prosperity in Pakistan specifically and the global South.

Positioned the Region for Global Moments (Pre-COP30 Messaging): The SDC provided a strategic platform for the Government of Pakistan (GoP) to convene pre-COP30 consultations ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Belém, Brazil. The Conference brought together federal and provincial policymakers, climate negotiators, development partners and civil society representatives to link national priorities and articulate regionally informed positions in advance of the negotiations.

Through these consultations, the Government refined its negotiating stance on climate finance, loss and damage, and adaptation support. The process also facilitated coordination with South Asian partners, enabling the consolidation of common regional messages and the development of actionable policy recommendations for presentation during COP30 deliberations.

The SDC strengthened Pakistan's preparedness for COP30 by enhancing intergovernmental coordination, clarifying advocacy priorities on equitable access to climate finance, and advancing implementation with national adaptation and resilience objectives.

From day one, national and regional leaders framed the conference agenda with uncommon clarity: the world is in disorder, but transformative change demands action at scale and that scale requires collaboration across borders and sectors.

The 28th SDC created a public space where policy trade-offs were named plainly, and where climate resilience, fiscal planning, and implementation pathways were discussed in one continuum rather than in separate rooms.

1. From Fragmented Debate to a Consolidated Regional Narrative: Before the SDC, sustainable development discussions were described as fragmented with limited regional coordination. This annual Conference has repositioned the narrative towards integrated, anticipatory policy bridging climate action, economic resilience, and governance reform across silos.

2. From 'Session Dialogue' to Actionable, Documented Recommendations: The Conference translated technical discussions into formally documented policy recommendations and action-oriented notes. A structured post-Conference process has been established and fine-tuned (over the past several years) to validate, compile, and disseminate these outputs to ensure they inform institutional decision-making and follow-up processes.

3. Thematic policy recommendations and cross-cutting action notes were curated covering climate finance access,

locally led adaptation, nature-based solutions, gender-responsive climate policy, and sub-national implementation mechanisms, among others. These were disseminated to 45+ senior policymakers and technical officials across national ministries, development partners, and UN agencies through targeted policy briefs and bilateral follow-up meetings.

4. Partnership Outcomes Beyond the Venue: An MoU was signed with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) during the SDC: an outcome that signals institutional linkage beyond a one-off event cycle

5. Visibility Translated into Agenda-Setting Reach: The SDC cycle produced 106 news items and 42 press releases, with extensive electronic coverage including live broadcasts by multiple electronic channels and platforms expanding the policy conversation beyond participants to national and international audiences.



61 International Delegates



23 Countries



339 Speakers



2,574 Participants



49 Volunteers & Rapporteurs



10 Ministries / Government Bodies







Mohamed Yahya | UN Resident Coordinator, Pakistan

"The era of small projects is over; we need transformative pathways and nationwide change."



Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb | Minister of Finance, Government of Pakistan

"We need to get the narrative away from being a 'special needs situation'. Instead, we must focus on bankable, industry-led projects that can be structured, monitored, and dovetailed into national standards."



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana | Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific

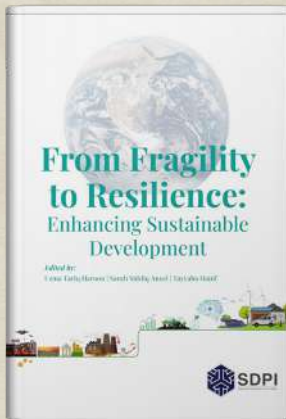
"In today's world, environmental risks are rising, and inequalities are deepening. The question for us is: How do we bring these solutions to scale, leaving no one behind, and address the emerging challenges?"

"I used to think governance happened in 'events'. A panel ends, a photo is taken, and we move on. But noting down recommendations in real time forced me to follow the thread: who commits, what language survives debate, and what gets deferred. That's when governance stopped being a moment and became a process I could actually see."

*Ahmed | 21 | SDC 2025
Rapporteur & Volunteer |
SZABIST University*



As part of SDPI's annual tradition of recognising excellence and dedication among its internal teams, the Outstanding Research Publication Award 2025 was conferred upon the Sustainable Development Conference Team. This recognition celebrates their exceptional contribution to advancing scholarly research, particularly through the successful implementation of the Open Journal System (OJS). Their collective efforts have enhanced the research publication process of the Journal of Development Policy, Research and Practice (JoDPRP) reinforcing SDPI's commitment to knowledge creation and dissemination.



SDPI's Flagship Publication

From Fragility to Resilience:

Enhancing Sustainable Development



INSTABILITY
INEQUALITY
CLIMATE RISK

BASIC HEALTH UNIT

CLEAN
WATER
HEALTHY
FUTURE

Somewhere between the language of policy and the silence of lived reality, this book found its pulse.

We did not merely edit a collection; we stood witness to 28 voices of statesmen, ministers, architects of policy, and leaders of global institutions, each carrying the weight of decisions that shape not just Pakistan's discourse, but destinies. What you have offered is rare: not observation from a distance, but reflection from within the machinery itself.

There is a particular gravity in these pages. One senses it in the careful phrasing, in the restraint, in what is said and what is left unsaid. These are not abstract meditations on resilience. They are drawn from negotiating rooms, from moments where trade-offs are real and time is never enough. And yet, woven through this authority, there is something unexpectedly fragile: an honesty about limits, about uncertainty, about the unfinished work of building a more just future.

Each chapter is a reflection of how national and regional policies in South Asia are shaped, multilateral agendas steered, or the three bridged. They give the reader glimpses of the quiet spaces behind power: where doubt lingers, where conviction is tested, where the idea of resilience is no longer theoretical but deeply personal.

Editing this volume often felt like tuning into distant transmissions from Islamabad, New York, Geneva, different frequencies, yet part of the same signal. A shared recognition that fragility is not an anomaly, but a condition we must learn to transform.

In that tension, something enduring has been created.

BETTER
GOVERNANCE
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE

CLIMATE
ACTION



Sustainability Investment Expo 2025: Policy, Markets and Innovation



Held from 4-7 November 2025 at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, the Third Sustainability Investment Expo (SIE) formed a central pillar of SDPI's Twenty-Eighth Sustainable Development Conference. Designed as a platform to connect policy ambition with market execution, the Expo brought together government, private sector, development partners and civil society to accelerate Pakistan's transition towards a circular and climate-resilient economy.

More than 1,200 participants attended the wider conference, with over 350 directly engaged in seven high-level sessions led by SDPI's Ecological Sustainability and Circular Economy (ESCE) Unit. The Expo convened over 60 national and international speakers, including representatives from Japan, the European Union, UAE, and across South Asia, reflecting a growing global interest in Pakistan's sustainability transition pathways.

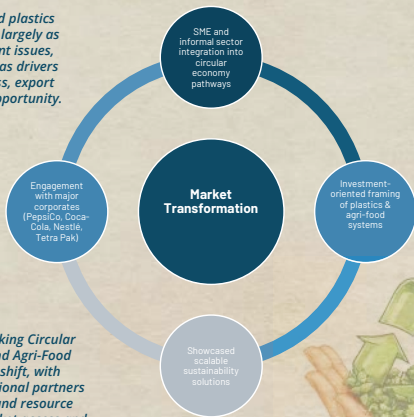
Convening Scale and Influence



Unlocking Private Sector Action: Waste Management → Investment Opportunity

In 2025, Pakistan's sustainability agenda continued to evolve in response to emerging global regulatory developments, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), while addressing persistent challenges such as plastic pollution and climate finance gaps. Against this backdrop, SIE played a critical role in shifting the national narrative.

Where circular economy and plastics had previously been treated largely as technical waste management issues, the Expo repositioned them as drivers of economic competitiveness, export resilience, and investment opportunity.



A flagship plenary on 'Unlocking Circular Opportunities in Plastics and Agri-Food Systems' exemplified this shift, with industry leaders and international partners highlighting how recycling and resource efficiency can strengthen market access and compliance with emerging global standards.



Turning Dialogue into Policy Direction

SIE distinguished itself by going beyond discussion to enable actionable outcomes. The ESCE-led sessions facilitated direct engagement between policymakers, investors, and businesses, contributing to over a dozen policy and market-oriented recommendations spanning circular economy roadmaps, plastics governance, and climate-smart finance frameworks.

Crucially, the Expo created space for public-private collaboration, bringing together key ministries like including Climate Change, Finance, and Planning with private sector leaders such as Coca-Cola, Nestlé, and Tetra Pak, alongside international organisations including IGES, UNEP-IETC, and UNESCAP. This convergence enabled practical conversations on financing mechanisms, SME-led recycling models, and informal sector integration which are areas

that often remain fragmented in traditional policy forums.

Without this platform, these cross-sector linkages, particularly around plastics transition, finance and climate investment pipelines would likely have remained siloed.

- » 12+ policy & market action points generated
- » Direct engagement with key federal ministries (Climate Change, Finance, Planning, Industries)
- » Contributions to:
 - ◊ Circular economy roadmaps
 - ◊ Plastics governance frameworks
 - ◊ Climate/transition finance models



Catalysing Collaboration Beyond SIE

The impact of SIE extended well beyond the event itself. Follow-up

engagements were initiated on several fronts, including SME-driven plastic recycling initiatives, private sector water stewardship pilots, and climate transition finance programming with global partners such as IGES, UNEP-IETC, UNESCAP, EU SWITCH-Asia.

Media coverage in leading national outlets such as Dawn, The News, and Business Recorder, alongside televised discussions and digital outreach, amplified the Expo's key

messages and broadened its policy influence.

Recognising Leadership in Sustainability

A highlight of the Expo was the SDPI Sustainability Awards 2025, which attracted submissions from across sectors. The awards recognised innovation and leadership across several categories, including renewable energy, circular economy, ESG integration, and gender equity.

- 50+ organisations participated
- 10 award categories across SDGs and climate priorities
- Nestlé Pakistan: Winner (Renewable Energy) + Best Pavilion

The strong representation in the Circular Economy category underscored growing momentum in this space, while the multi-stakeholder evaluation process ensured alignment with both national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Setting the Agenda for Green Competitiveness

By linking policy dialogue with market realities, SIE 2025 helped mainstream circular economy and climate finance as central pillars of Pakistan's development strategy. It demonstrated that sustainability is no longer a peripheral concern, but a core driver of economic resilience and global competitiveness.

In doing so, the Expo reinforced SDPI's role as a convener of high-impact platforms that translate research into action shaping both policy discourse and investment pathways for a sustainable future.



Knowledge and Policy Partnerships



In an increasingly interconnected policy landscape, partnerships are essential for translating research into meaningful development outcomes. In 2025, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) strengthened its commitment to collaborative knowledge generation and policy engagement by signing a series of strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with a diverse set of international organisations, universities, research institutions, and development partners. These agreements reflect SDPI's vision of fostering cross-border and cross-sectoral cooperation to address complex development challenges.

The MoUs signed during the year bring together a dynamic mix of global think tanks, academic institutions, humanitarian organisations, financial institutions, and policy research groups. This diversity underscores SDPI's recognition that sustainable development challenges from climate vulnerability to inclusive finance require multi-stakeholder

solutions that combine rigorous research, policy dialogue, and practical implementation.

Several of the partnerships strengthen SDPI's engagement with global and regional research networks. Collaboration with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) reinforces SDPI's work on climate justice and resilience for countries most exposed to climate risks. Similarly, partnerships with leading research institutions such as Soochow University Think Tank, China, the Beijing Greenovation Institute for Public Welfare Development and the Institute of Energy of Peking University, and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal expand opportunities for joint research on climate change, energy transitions, and sustainable mountain development. These partnerships are expected to facilitate comparative policy studies, co-authored publications, and knowledge exchanges that connect South Asia with broader global policy

debates.

Academic partnerships constitute another important pillar of SDPI's MoU portfolio. Agreements with Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Bahria University, Air University, and Al Ain University in the United Arab Emirates aim to strengthen the bridge between academia and policy research. Through these collaborations, SDPI and partner universities will pursue joint research projects, policy dialogues, academic seminars, and capacity-building initiatives. The partnerships will also support student engagement, internships, and collaborative publications that enable emerging scholars to contribute to policy-relevant research.

The MoUs also extend SDPI's partnerships with development and humanitarian actors. Collaboration with Islamic Relief (IR) focuses on linking humanitarian action with long-term development and resilience-building initiatives. Meanwhile, the agreement with Mobilink Microfinance Bank

Limited reflects growing interest in integrating financial inclusion with sustainable development goals, including support for small enterprises, digital finance, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

In addition, partnerships with organisations such as Path Finders expand SDPI's engagement in governance and peacebuilding dialogues, strengthening evidence-based policymaking in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

Across these collaborations, the MoUs are designed to serve as platforms for practical engagement rather than symbolic agreements. The partners have identified several key areas of cooperation, including joint research studies, collaborative publications, policy dialogues, conferences and seminars, and knowledge-sharing events. By pooling expertise and institutional networks, these partnerships aim to amplify the reach and impact of SDPI's research while contributing to evidence-based policy solutions at

national, regional, and global levels.

The breadth of SDPI's MoU portfolio in 2025 demonstrates a strong commitment to building bridges between academia and policy, between national and international institutions, and between research and action. As global development challenges grow more complex, such partnerships will remain central to SDPI's mission of generating knowledge that informs policy and promotes sustainable, inclusive development.

Partner Institution	Country/Region
Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)	Global
Soochow University Think Tank	China
Beijing Greenovation Institute & Institute of Energy, Peking University	China
ICIMOD	Nepal
Islamic Relief	International
Path Finders	Global
Ailama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)	Pakistan
Bahria University	Pakistan
Air University	Pakistan
Al Ain University	UAE
Mobilink Microfinance Bank Ltd.	Pakistan

SDPI Partnerships 2025

International Development Organizations

- » Climate Vulnerable Forum
- » ICIMOD
- » Islamic Relief
- » Path Finders

Private Sector

- » Mobilink Microfinance Bank



Universities

- » AIOU
- » Bahria University
- » Air University
- » Al Ain University

Think Tanks & Research Institutes

- » Soochow University Think Tank
- » Beijing Greenovation Institute / Peking University

**Knowledge
&
Capacity Building**

Centre for Learning & Development (CLD)

Building Skills for Informed Decision-Making



Why this Mattered in 2025?

Pakistani professionals often lack practical skills in climate analytics, data use, and risk-informed planning, while young graduates have limited exposure to real-world policy environments.

At the same time, the growing complexity of climate finance, energy transitions, and ethical governance requires a workforce that could move beyond theory to applied problem-solving. The absence of structured, demand-driven learning platforms risked slowing both policy implementation and institutional effectiveness.

Building on years of sustained engagement, in 2025 the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's Centre for Learning & Development (CLD) once again responded directly to this gap.

What the Centre Did?

In 2025, CLD delivered a comprehensive portfolio of 14 targeted capacity-building programmes, combining technical training, ethical grounding, and applied learning.

Key initiatives included:

- 1. SDC 2025 Capacity Building Hub:** Specialised trainings on carbon markets, energy modelling (LEAP), climate finance, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), and risk-informed planning during SDPI's 28th Sustainable Development Conference.
- 2. Summer Internship Programme (SIP) 2025:** Structured mentorship and hands-on exposure for over 100 students on the request of the Environment Protection and Climate Change Department (EPCCD), Government of Punjab, strengthening the policy talent pipeline.

- 3. In-house Trainings:** Capacity building in safeguarding (PSEA), data storytelling, emergency response, and ethical AI.

Strong multi-sector participation across academia, private sector & development partners

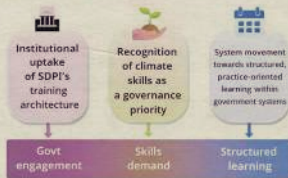
730+ Trained

400+ Youth Engaged

14 Programmes Delivered

CLD positioned itself not just as a training provider, but as a platform for continuous professional learning in line with national development priorities.

3 IMPORTANT SHIFTS



Policy Impact: Embedding Climate Skills in Provincial Governance

In 2025, CLD's capacity-building model translated into direct government engagement.

The Environment Protection and Climate Change Department (EPCCD), Government of Punjab formally approached SDPI to design and support its upcoming Climate Internship Program.

This marked a critical shift from delivering trainings to co-creating institutional learning systems. It also demonstrated growing trust in SDPI's ability to integrate climate knowledge, ethics, and applied policy into scalable government programmes.

Beyond this, CLD contributed to shaping discourse and practice around:

- Climate finance and carbon markets
- Ethical AI and responsible innovation
- Risk-informed development planning
- Safeguarding and institutional accountability

Stakeholders Trained & Supported



Study Group on IT & Telecommunications



Why the Study Group of ITT Mattered in 2025?

The evolution of Pakistan's IT and telecom landscape cannot be fully understood without recognising the early intellectual and policy contributions of the **Study Group on Information Technology and Telecommunications** at Sustainable Development Policy Institute.

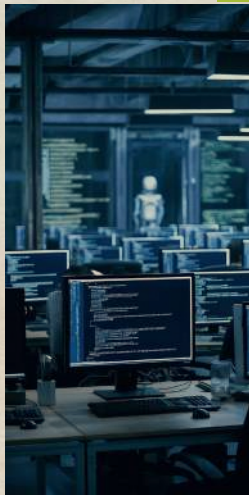
Looking back from 2025, the significance of these contributions is even clearer. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, digital transformation received little mainstream attention in Pakistan. Policy discussions were dominated by agriculture, manufacturing, and energy, while telecommunications was narrowly framed around voice connectivity, teledensity, and infrastructure rollout.

"AI policy is not only about algorithms: it is about the systems, data, and institutions that make those algorithms meaningful in real-world contexts."

In that context, the Study Group has played a critical role in reframing telecommunications and information technology as drivers of productivity, competitiveness, and long-term economic growth. It shifted thinking from infrastructure as an end goal to infrastructure as an enabler of broader development outcomes.

By 2025, this framing directly connected to Pakistan's development priorities. As the country faces climate pressures, economic restructuring, and digital competitiveness challenges, inclusive digital systems have become central to national progress.

Early policy discussions in Pakistan treated telecommunications as a technical sector focused on connectivity and coverage. The Study Group reframed this perspective, presenting digital infrastructure as a driver of productivity, competitiveness, and long-term growth.

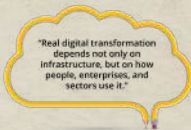


What the Study Group Did

The Study Group emerged as one of Pakistan's earliest platforms integrating development economics with digital infrastructure policy. At a time when telecom debates focused on licensing, market entry, and subscriber growth, the Group widened the conversation.

It introduced questions about how connectivity could improve governance, enable services exports, expand financial inclusion, and support rural economic participation.

A defining contribution has been its focus on demand-side digital development. While policy remained largely supply-driven, the Group argued that transformation would depend on enterprise digitalisation, SME adoption, and sector-specific applications.



While telecom expansion historically focused on supply: spectrum, licensing, and rollout, the Study Group consistently pointed to demand as the real driver of transformation. Enterprise digitalisation and sector-specific applications are now widely recognised as central to digital growth.

The Group also linked telecom expansion with e-governance, disaster resilience, climate monitoring, and export competitiveness, while drawing attention to human capital, device affordability, and innovation ecosystems.

Equally important was its role as a neutral platform for policy dialogue, bringing together regulators, private operators, academia, and development practitioners. These engagements strengthened evidence-based policymaking and reduced fragmentation.



Policy Impact

The Study Group's influence on Pakistan's policy landscape has been both direct and systemic. It has reshaped how policymakers understand digital connectivity moving it from a narrow technical domain to a cross-sector

development enabler.

Many ideas now embedded in national digital policy including digital inclusion, productivity linkages, and integration with broader economic strategy, reflect themes the Group introduced years earlier.



- Wider adoption of multi-stakeholder consultation processes
- Stronger links between telecom strategy and economic policy
- Increased recognition of demand-side drivers
- Greater focus on affordability, skills, and innovation ecosystems

2025 discussions on 5G reinforced these contributions.



The Group highlighted the need for phased rollout, realistic spectrum pricing, infrastructure resilience, and sector-based use cases across agriculture, manufacturing, health, and education.

Progress in 5G will depend on affordability, policy clarity, and real-world applications. The focus is shifting from rollout to impact linking deployment with economic sectors, workforce development and national priorities.

A Culture of Policy Dialogue

A defining strength of the ITT Study

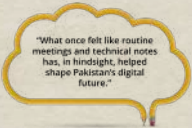
Group has been its ability to convene diverse stakeholders in a structured and trusted environment.

These include government ministries, regulators, private telecom operators, development partners, academia, and civil society organisations.

The Study Group created space for regulators, industry, academia, and development practitioners to engage in structured discussion. This contributed to a more collaborative and evidence-informed policy environment.

These interactions helped foster a culture where complex policy questions are addressed collectively rather than in isolation.

Over time, this approach has contributed to a broader institutional shift in Pakistan's digital policy ecosystem where structured dialogue, cross-sector coordination, and informed debate are increasingly



"What once felt like routine meetings and technical notes has, in hindsight, helped shape Pakistan's digital future."

standard practice.

As Pakistan deepens its digital transition, the next phase of policy attention is expected to focus on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI), data systems, and digital public infrastructure.

Building on earlier discussions initiated by the Study Group at SDPI, there is growing recognition that AI is not a standalone technology agenda. Its impact will depend on the strength of underlying systems: connectivity, data governance frameworks, institutional capacity, and public digital platforms.

The foundations for this shift have already been laid. Earlier work on demand-driven digital adoption, cross-sector applications, and data-

enabled governance provides a basis for thinking about AI in practical, development-oriented terms rather than as a purely technological frontier.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, several policy priorities are likely to be the focus of the Study Group's agenda:

- Strengthening digital public infrastructure to support interoperable, secure, and scalable services
- Developing data governance frameworks that balance innovation, privacy, and public value
- Building national capacity in AI skills, research, and applied innovation
- Supporting sector-specific AI use cases in agriculture, health, education, and climate resilience
- Ensuring affordability and inclusion so that AI-driven systems do not deepen existing inequalities.

The Study Group is well positioned to continue contributing to this evolving space by convening stakeholders, shaping policy dialogue, and grounding emerging technologies in Pakistan's development realities.

Pakistan's policy focus is gradually shifting from expanding access to enabling intelligent, data-driven systems. The next phase of digital transformation will depend on how effectively infrastructure, data, and institutions work together to support inclusive and accountable AI adoption.

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JODPRP

Journal of
Development Policy,
Research & Practice



Journal of Development Policy, Research & Practice

Volume 9 (2025)

2025 marked another significant milestone for SDPI.

SDPI's flagship *Journal of Development Policy, Research & Practice (JoDPRP)* continued to bridge research, policy, and practice across disciplines and geographies with the publication of Volume IX.

Rooted in the vision of advancing sustainable development discourse, this volume stands as a testament to collaboration beyond boundaries. From the academic corridors of the University of Lahore to the global perspective of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, and from the University of the Punjab to contributions connected with institutions across Europe and Asia, this edition showcases a truly international research footprint.

Each paper is not merely an academic exercise but a reflection of lived realities, policy challenges, and innovative thinking emerging from both developing and developed contexts.

Exploring Organisations, People, and Performance

The volume opens with the work of **Farhan Qadir, Muhammad Shahid (University of Lahore), and Gainiya Tazhina (Kazakhstan)**, who explore how feedback cultures shape adaptive performance in SMEs. Their research highlights how workplace uncertainty and entrepreneurial intent influence employee growth offering policymakers fresh perspectives on workforce spirit.

This theme of human behaviour and institutional dynamics continues through studies examining environmental awareness and organisational responsibility. **Sadia Farooq and Saira Ahmed (University of the Punjab)** investigate how attitudes towards organic food mediate environmental concern, connecting individual behaviour with broader sustainability outcomes.

Addressing Society, Peace and Information Dynamics

Beyond organisations, the journal expands into the social fabric of development.

Roomi S. Hayat sheds light on peacebuilding through rural support programmes in Tharparkar, emphasising grassroots mechanisms that foster interfaith harmony.

In parallel, **Zaheer Khan and Sohail Taj** examine the media's role in shaping climate change discourse in Pakistan, highlighting how narratives influence public perception and policy urgency.

The evolving digital landscape is critically addressed by **Syed Asad Ali Shah, Wang Shengli, and their co-authors**, who analyse fake news as a strategic propaganda tool against CPEC: an issue at the intersection of geopolitics, communication, and development.

With Gratitude to Our Editorial & Advisory Board

Behind every issue of JoDPRP is a community of dedicated scholars who quietly shape its direction and uphold its standards. We are deeply grateful to our Editorial and Advisory Board members who, despite being spread across Canada, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Nepal, the United Kingdom, and beyond, come together each year with a shared sense of purpose.

Their commitment goes beyond formal roles. They bring thoughtful insight, careful review, and a genuine belief in the power of research to inform better policy and practice. It is through their continued support and guidance that JoDPRP remains grounded in academic rigour while embracing diverse, global perspectives.

Their contribution is not just institutional; it is personal, sustained, and invaluable.



Driving Sustainability and Economic Transformation

Economic sustainability and innovation remain central to this volume. **Syed Asim Ali Bukhari, Syeda Nazish Zahra Bukhari, Fathyah Hashim, and Azlan Amran** explore green banking adoption

through a stakeholder lens, bridging financial systems with environmental responsibility. Meanwhile, **Adnan Munir Rajput and Omer Chughtai** focus on circular economy solutions, presenting pathways for enhancing industrial competitiveness in Pakistan which is a crucial step towards sustainable industrialisation.

What distinguishes this volume is not just the diversity of topics, but the transdisciplinary approach that cuts across economics, environmental studies, governance, communication, and social development. The journal continues to serve as an open-access platform, ensuring that knowledge is freely available to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners worldwide.

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Year in Review | 2025



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Centre for Learning & Development (CLD) Training Portfolio 2025

-  How to Use Data and Data Storytelling
-  Fire Safety & Response, First Aid, Trauma Management, Environmental & Medical Emergencies, and Mock Drill
-  Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) - UNICEF
-  Summer Internship Program (SIP) 2025
-  Project Management Orientation
-  Introduction to Public-Private Partnership
-  Green Skills Program: Introduction to Carbon Markets
-  Green Skills Program: Energy Modeling through LEAP
-  Impact of Battery Storage Systems in Residential, Commercial, and Industrial Sectors of Pakistan
-  Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) @SDC 2025 Learning Hub
-  AKAH's Community-Based Hazard Assessment, Monitoring, and Early Warning Systems
-  Thinking Beyond Knowledge Dissemination in the Age of AI
-  Safeguarding the Future: Integrating Risk Thinking into Development Planning
-  Partnerships for Change: Financial Cooperation in the Climate and Energy Sector



Articles & Op-eds

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri

No.	Title of Article	Newspaper	Date of Publication
1.	What was Pakistan's 2025 story?	The News	12/31/2025
2.	A stable achievement	The News	12/28/2025
3.	Does the NFC know it's 2025?	The News	12/11/2025
4.	Belem and climate politics	The News	12/1/2025
5.	Falling short?	The News	11/16/2025
6.	The power versus equality dilemma	The News	10/26/2025
7.	The alchemy of ideas	The News	10/22/2025
8.	IMF deal marks stability, not recovery	The Express Tribune	10/20/2025
9.	Barricades can't build confidence	The News	10/14/2025
10.	When growth fails the people	The News	10/10/2025
11.	The real promise of the Saudi pact	The News	9/26/2025
12.	Rethinking flood finance	The News	9/14/2025
13.	Marching bands and market share	The News	8/14/2025
14.	Course-correcting the economy	The News	8/10/2025
15.	A summer we must not ignore	The News	7/23/2025
16.	After Bonn, all eyes on Belem	The News	7/5/2025
17.	Budget 2025-26: read the fine print?	The News	6/12/2025
18.	Budget FY26: Between IMF imperatives and national priorities	Geo News	6/6/2025
19.	The unbearable weight of plastic	The News	6/5/2025
20.	Ceasefire redraws strategic lines?	The News	5/14/2025

21.	Economy of conflict	The News	5/11/2025
22.	The Indus must flow	The News	4/26/2025
23.	Why the WTO matters now	The News	4/23/2025
24.	Protectionism as policy	The News	4/5/2025
25.	Our carbon bill is coming due	The News	3/24/2025
26.	Our carbon bill is coming due	Geo News	3/24/2025
27.	Defunding dilemma	The News	3/16/2025
28.	One year in: what did the PML-N deliver?	The News	2/23/2025
29.	The sum of all costs	The News	1/12/2025
30.	Welcome to 2025	The News	1/1/2025

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31.	Why gender laws need follow-up	The News	7/31/2025
32.	Power without devolution	Geo News	5/20/2025
33.	Governance on the brink	The News	4/24/2025
34.	Women & power	Dawn	1/24/2025

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35.	Why Article 140-A must evolve	The News	11/19/2025
36.	Women in parliament	The News	6/24/2025
37.	Women's unfinished revolution	The News	2/18/2025
38.	A constitutional moment	The News	9/16/2025

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39.	Rethinking the NFC Award	The News	6/6/2025
40.	Budget 2025-26: Between recovery and reality	Business Recorder	6/26/2025

41.	Decentralization deferred: The unfulfilled promise of 18th Amendment and local governance	Business Recorder	7/24/2025
42.	Carbon levy: climate measure or misplaced burden?	The News	6/23/2025
43.	Why Pakistan must act before CBAM expands	The News	5/12/2025
44.	Power beyond symbolism	The News	3/5/2025
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45.	Climate change: 'We are responsible for this chaos'	The Destination	12/30/2025
46.	Drowned once more in tears: Pakistan's endless cycle of floods	The Destination	8/28/2025
47.	پھر آنسوؤں میں ڈوبا پاکستان	The Destination	8/28/2025
48.	Pakistan's triumph in Operation Bunyanum Marsoos – A Victory beyond the battlefield	The Destination	5/17/2025
49.	The rafale debacle and Western media's partisan narrative	The Destination	5/9/2025
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50.	Closing the national wage gap	The News	12/21/2025
51.	The UAV opportunity	The News	6/1/2025
52.	Water deficit and infrastructure investment	The News	5/10/2025
53.	Wired for growth	The News	4/20/2025

54.	Pakistan's drone revolution	The News	4/6/2025
55.	Power reforms: Revisiting private power agreements	Energy Update Magazine	3/19/2025
56.	Revisiting private power agreements	The News	2/9/2025
57.	Ending policy stagnation	The News	1/19/2025
58.	Powering Pakistan: Bridging gaps in sustainability	Energy Update Magazine	1/12/2025
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59.	Diversifying exports	The News	3/2/2025
Ali Rehmat & Dr Shafqat Munir Ahmad			
60.	Financing WASH	The News	2/17/2025
61.	WASH and the private sector	The News	3/13/2025
62.	Climate-resilient Pakistan	The News	8/2/2025
Arfa Ijaz, Furqan Ali & Ayesha Naeem			
63.	Who gets to chase the sun?	The News	8/3/2025
64.	Stranded in transition	The News	6/16/2025
65.	Stranded in transition	The News	6/29/2025
66.	Kafkaesque debt spiral	The News	9/29/2025
67.	Architecture of belonging	The News	8/16/2025
68.	Carbon levy: A fail-safe?	The News	4/19/2025
69.	Budget 2025-26: Takes two to tango	The News	7/3/2025
70.	Green or gone? Our carbon challenge	The News	4/9/2025
71.	A solution to Balochistan's energy poverty	The News	1/5/2025
72.	Green or gone? Our carbon challenge	The News	4/9/2025

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73.	Power games	Dawn	11/12/2025
74.	Beyond budgets	Dawn	6/24/2025
75.	System fault	Dawn	6/4/2025
76.	It's all political	Dawn	2/8/2025
77.	A year of wins	Dawn	1/5/2025

Asif Javed

78.	Economic Downturn	South Asia Magazine	3/29/2025
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Brig. (Retd) Mohammad Yasin

79.	Will it be a dream to ride through fully autonomous vehicles?	Daily Times	1/28/2025
80.	27th Constitutional Amendment: Call for reforms in Armed Forces Command	ChatZyr	12/30/2025
81.	Jobs that may survive in the era of technological singularity	The Destination	11/17/2025
82.	Sustainable and secure data centre ecosystem	Daily Times	7/23/2025
83.	Should we revert to 6-day working week?	The Destination	6/18/2025
84.	Stealth, speed and surveillance: The trifecta of modern wars	The Destination	5/26/2025
85.	جدید جنگی حکمت عملی کے تین پہلو	The Destination	5/26/2025

Dr Kashif Salik & Yahya Gulraiz

86.	AI in the classroom	The News	10/7/2025
87.	Building tomorrow's classroom by using AI technology	Business Recorder	10/1/2025

88.	Fortified food — a big challenge ahead	Business Recorder	8/15/2025
Dr Khalid Waleed			
89.	When climate finance turns sour	The News	12/22/2025
90.	Mutirao: post-COP climate test	The News	12/4/2025
91.	Let's rewire the grid	The News	10/23/2025
92.	Creative destruction and NDC 3.0	The News	10/20/2025
93.	Let's not waste the carbon levy	The News	7/25/2025
94.	Energy transition worth its salt	The News	7/14/2025
95.	Recycling budget revenues	The News	6/19/2025
96.	The flawed economics of the IGCEP	The News	5/12/2025
97.	The winds of Thatta	The News	5/5/2025
98.	The sun rises on the power grid	The News	4/21/2025
99.	Pakistan's NDCs face several deficiencies	Energy Update Magazine	3/19/2025
100.	Power sector on the brink	Geo News	2/26/2025
101.	Power sector on the brink	The News	2/25/2025
102.	Lost in transmission	The News	2/24/2025
103.	Why power subsidies are a bad idea	The News	2/18/2025
104.	NDC lessons from the UAE and Brazil	The News	2/8/2025
105.	Leveraging NDCs	The News	1/27/2025
106.	The economics of Article 6	The News	1/26/2025
107.	Planning for power	The News	1/23/2025
108.	Planning for power	Geo News	1/23/2025
109.	Climate goals Pursuit of climate prosperity: Commitments for a sustainable future	Energy Update Magazine	1/12/2025

Dr Mohsin Ali Kazmi Mohsin Ali Kazmi

110.	Learning, a privilege	The News	12/14/2025
111.	Education without opportunity	The News	12/7/2025
112.	Invisible education system	The News	11/16/2025
113.	Invest in literacy, not privatisation	The News	10/19/2025

Dr Rafia Batool Khan

114.	Rising terror, rising fear	The News	12/2/2025
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Dr Razia Safdar

115.	Plugging the gaps	The News	12/14/2025
116.	Alternative financing for human capital	The News	9/21/2025
117.	Beyond the obstacle	The News	4/6/2025

Dr Sajid Amin Javed

118.	Monetary policy at a crossroads: Can the SBP sustain its credibility?	Dawn	10/31/2025
119.	'A stitch in time saves nine': Pakistan's economy needs an immediate governance overhaul	Dawn	4/11/2025
120.	Pakistan's economy needs a boost in 2025. Here's what we must do to achieve it	Dawn	1/8/2025

Dua Mobeen

121.	Sugar first, stability later	The News	12/25/2025
122.	Food privilege	The News	11/6/2025
123.	Pakistan's costly sugar obsession	The News	8/31/2025
124.	Can Pakistan leverage US food imports?	The News	6/2/2025

125.	The cost of poor nutrition	The News	3/21/2025
126.	A growing concern	The News	3/16/2025
Ebadat Ur Rehman Babar, Nameer Urfi, Sufyan Khan & Wahaj Ahmad			
127.	Plastic mountain?	The News	7/2/2025
128.	Rethinking Pakistan's water crisis through data-driven action	Business Recorder	6/18/2025
129.	Beyond coal: cementing a green future for Pakistan	Business Recorder	4/24/2025
130.	Cementing a green future	The News	4/21/2025
131.	Can we make COP30 count?	The News	11/25/2025
132.	A costly gamble	The News	8/30/2025
133.	Karak's riches, Karak's wounds	Business Recorder	9/25/2025
134.	how karak's resource wealth became a crisis for water, health, and climate	The Friday Times	9/15/2025
135.	COP30: Small fund, big stakes	Business Recorder	11/23/2025
136.	Fragmented climate funding in KP: A costly gamble	Business Recorder	8/21/2025
137.	The missing link in Pakistan's plastic regulation	Business Recorder	9/25/2025
Farhana Musarat Khan			
138.	Ending digital violence	The News	12/15/2025
139.	Digital Violence – A bigger threat after poverty, climate change	Chitral Today	12/11/2025
Hassan Murtaza Syed & Mariam Sakeena			
140.	Let them fly	The News	11/11/2025

141.	Are the children safe?	The News	12/3/2025
142.	Reforming public service	The News	8/11/2025
Hifza Kanwal & Radma Nouman Shah			
143.	Alarming normalisation of vaping in Pakistani youth	Business Recorder	8/11/2025
144.	Tobacco taxation and youth initiation	Business Recorder	7/23/2025
Radma Nouman Shah			
145.	Health system suffers as cigarette tax left untouched	Business Recorder	6/19/2025
146.	No smoking	The News	3/4/2025
147.	Zero tolerance	The News	3/2/2025
148.	پاکستان کے شہری مراکز میں خواتین کی حفاظت کیسے ممکن؟	World Echo News	1/11/2025
149.	Nicotine pouches: Health challenge?	Business Recorder	1/5/2025
Junaid Zahid			
150.	Perpetual response mode	The News	8/13/2025
151.	What is Pakistan's reform paradox?	The News	7/15/2025
152.	Pakistan ready for AI in governance?	The News	5/24/2025
153.	Our peri-urban crisis	The News	5/6/2025
Khadija Hasan			
154.	Budget FY26: Balancing social sector priorities amid fiscal constraints	Business Recorder	6/20/2025
155.	Towards healthier beauty	Daily Times	1/24/2025
Maheen Rehan			
156.	Transforming KP's business landscape	The News	9/21/2025

157.	Facilitating investment and industry	The News	7/27/2025
158.	Macro-economic stabilisation	The News	6/15/2025
159.	Strategic decarbonisation	The News	2/23/2025
Mahnoor Arshad			
160.	Promoting Pakistan-Bangladesh trade	The News	2/23/2025
Maryam Shabbir Abbasi			
161.	Looming threats	The News	4/27/2025
Mobeen Ali Khan			
162.	Unlocking sustainable eco-tourism	The News	4/6/2025
Muhammad Awais Umar & Ramsha Mehboob Khan			
163.	Foresight for sustainable mountains	The News	8/16/2025
164.	Transforming WASH	The News	1/16/2025
165.	Need for proactive resilience	The News	9/25/2025
Nelam Pari			
166.	How absence of exposure analysis fuels GLOF risks in G-B	Business Recorder	9/4/2025
Qasim Shah, Abdullah Khalid & Dua Mobeen			
167.	Food safety is a pre-requisite to achieving food security	The News	6/6/2025
168.	The unfinished revolution	The News	3/2/2025
169.	Pakistan's food crisis is structural	The News	6/28/2025
Raheel Yawar & Brig. (Retd) Mohammad Yasin			
170.	Will Artificial Intelligence replace teachers?	The Destination	6/3/2025
Rana Irfan Rafi			

171.	From Cadet to Field Marshal: The journey of General Asim Munir	LEAD Pakistan	5/22/2025
172.	From Cadet to Field Marshal: The journey of General Asim Munir	The Public Purview	5/22/2025
173.	Pakistan-China Relations: A journey of trust and cooperation (1951-2025)	The Public Purview	5/21/2025
174.	Eco-Anxiety in Pakistan: A Growing Concern	LEAD Pakistan	5/21/2025
175.	War is Not a Game: A Wake-Up Call for Pakistan and India	LEAD Pakistan	5/2/2025
176.	War is Not a Game: A Wake-Up Call for Pakistan and India	The Public Purview	5/2/2025
177.	Asia at the Edge: War or Peace?	The Public Purview	4/29/2025
178.	Asia at the Edge: War or Peace?	LEAD Pakistan	4/29/2025
179.	Healing from nature: Conservation and economic potential of medicinal plants in Pakistan	LEAD Pakistan	3/13/2025
180.	Healing from nature: Conservation and economic potential of medicinal plants in Pakistan	The Public Purview	3/13/2025
181.	Piezoelectric energy harvesting for Pakistan's electricity crisis	LEAD Pakistan	3/7/2025
182.	Rainwater harvesting: A solution for water scarcity	LEAD Pakistan	3/5/2025
Sadia Ishrat Satti			
183.	Unequal development	The News	11/9/2025

184.	Worsening gender inequalities	The News	4/27/2025
185.	Is our solar ready for climate extremes?	The News	4/24/2025
186.	Uplifting women for climate resilience	The News	2/28/2025
Dr Sajid Amin Javed & Dr Vaqar Ahmed			
187.	Rewarding size, not effort, has hurt Pakistan's fiscal health. Can the 11th NFC Award rewrite the script?	Dawn	11/17/2025
Saleha Qureshi			
188.	Another path to prosperity	The News	10/26/2025
189.	To keep climate ambition alive	The News	5/21/2025
Ambassador Shafqat Kakakhel			
190.	Future of the Indus Waters Treaty: Part-IV	The News	4/8/2025
191.	Future of the Indus Waters Treaty: Part-III	The News	4/7/2025
192.	Future of the Indus Waters Treaty: Part - II	The News	4/3/2025
193.	Future of the Indus Waters Treaty Part - I	The News	3/28/2025
Soha Nisar			
194.	Drowning in neglect	The News	7/26/2025
195.	Drowning in neglect	SABAH News	7/26/2025
196.	Flooded again, but still unprepared	Daily Times	7/19/2025
197.	Guardians of climate justice	The News	7/17/2025
198.	Vanishing biodiversity	The News	6/4/2025
199.	Reviving biodiversity	The News	6/1/2025
200.	A crisis in the making	The News	5/25/2025
201.	Before the last drop	The News	5/25/2025

202.	Pakistan's glacier crisis	Daily Times	4/24/2025
203.	Let's save the snow	The News	4/22/2025
204.	The plastic waste emergency	The News	3/30/2025
205.	Pakistan's plastic waste emergency	The News	3/28/2025
206.	Pakistan's plastic waste emergency	Daily Times	3/28/2025
207.	Pakistan's carbon market revolution	The News	2/23/2025
208.	Pivoting change	The News	2/16/2025
209.	Pakistan's carbon market revolution	Daily Times	2/7/2025
210.	A green vision for Pakistan's survival	The News	1/29/2025
211.	What is our climate vision for the NDCs?	The News	1/9/2025
212.	The food export paradox	The News	1/5/2025
Waseem Iftikhar & Syed Ali Wasif Naqvi			
213.	Assault on health	The News	11/28/2025
214.	The double burden of disease	The News	9/21/2025
215.	A public health milestone	Business Recorder	6/12/2025
216.	Tobacco control through deterrent taxes	The News	3/16/2025
217.	EU-Pakistan relations	Business Recorder	11/12/2025
218.	Tobacco industry distraction?	Business Recorder	5/24/2025
219.	Patterns in tobacco industry practices	The News	11/16/2025
Zainab Naeem			
220.	COP30 and the global climate disorder	The News	12/8/2025
221.	A COP30 agenda for Pakistan	The News	11/19/2025
222.	Climate change is a security threat	The News	10/29/2025

223.	Climate-smart investment	The News	9/1/2025
224.	A deluge of tragedy	The News	8/23/2025
225.	Lacking recycling technology	The News	8/17/2025
226.	Beyond the plastic debate	The News	8/16/2025
227.	Lacking recycling technology	The News	8/16/2025
228.	When the skies fall	The News	8/5/2025
229.	Budget 2025-26 from a climate lens	The News	6/14/2025
230.	Margins to mainstream	The News	3/8/2025
231.	Withdrawal From Paris Pact: Is climate finance in jeopardy?	Energy Update Magazine	2/9/2025
232.	Embrace climate risk insurance	The News	2/4/2025
233.	Is climate finance in jeopardy?	The News	1/27/2025

SDPI's Financial Audit Report

4

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022	
	(\$'000)		
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	6	87,748,461	92,792,452
Current assets			
Receivables against restricted grants	14	19,285,715	37,972,222
Receivables against consultancy projects	15	7,159,274	—
Financial income against non-restricted grants	16	102,937,208	228,287,249
Inventories, research, development and other intangibles	7	53,168,228	17,178,712
Short-term investments	8	37,249,291	—
Cash and bank balances	9	21,216,288	29,826,129
		811,247,261	329,285,732
TOTAL ASSETS		998,993,722	657,249,212
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES			
Bankruptcy fund	18	40,990,000	80,000,000
Revenue account		235,226,279	182,772,712
Non-current liabilities		484,424,274	342,275,712
Employee benefits fund	21	14,882,212	14,998,241
Other payables	22	465,889	2,298,121
Current liabilities		14,282,117	14,222,814
Guarantees, secured and other facilities	23	871,244,928	485,744,927
Restricted grants - recipient	24	90,585,238	703,409,217
Advance against consultancy projects	25	6,264,261	—
		683,849,624	584,559,212
TOTAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		968,039,722	669,249,712
CONTRIBUTORS AND DONORS	26		

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022	
	(\$'000)		
(INCOME)			
Restricted grants	14	121,194,217	276,782,671
Consultancy services	15	146,946,219	93,446,711
Tranche income	17	2,895,490	—
Other income	18	2,614,894	4,544,129
		363,650,819	374,773,511
Project expenditure	28	(69,833,384)	(275,154,221)
Administrative expenditures	29	(42,096,485)	(6,197,428)
Subsidy for the year		24,720,950	12,671,922
		216,441,900	27,093,784

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SDPI Family: Stronger Together



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