



Online Kathmandu Democracy Forum (KMDF) 2020

Pakistan Monitoring Report – National

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Abbreviations & Acronyms

ADA	Asia Development Alliance
AGNA	Affinity Group of National Associations
A J & K	Azad Jammu & Kashmir
ANR	Afghan National Registration
APSD	Asia CSOs Partnership for Sustainable Development
A4SD	Action for Sustainable Development
AwazCDS	Awaz Centre for Development Services
BCG	Bacille Calmette-Guerin
BHUs	Basic Health Units
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLFSA	Comprehensive Food Security and Livelihood Assessment
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRTI	Coalition of Right to Information
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CNICs	Computerized National Identity Cards
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease of 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECC	Economic Coordination Committee
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FBR	Federal Board of Revenue
FIA	Federal Investigation Authority
FY	For Year
GB	Gilgit Baltistan
GCAP	Global Call to Action against Poverty
GDP	Gross domestic product
HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
EmONC	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IHC	Islamabad High Court
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labor Organization
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
KMDF	Kathmandu Democracy Forum
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MERS-CoV	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus
MoHR	Ministry of Human Rights
MoUs	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
NAB	National Accountability Bureau
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority

NAP	National Action Plan
NCHR	National Commission for Human Rights
NCOC	National Command and Operation Center
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NJPMC	National Judicial Policy Making Committee
NMDs	Newly Merged Districts
NoCs	Non Objection Certificates
NSC	National Security Committee
OGP	Open Government Partnership
OPD	Out Patient Department
PBA	Pakistan Banks Association
PCHR	Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights
PDA	Pakistan Development Alliance
PECA	Prevention of Electronic Crime Act
PHEIC	Public Health Emergency of International Concern
PKRs	Pakistani Rupees
PM	Prime Minister
PoEs	Privately owned Enterprises
PoR	Proof of Registration
PPEs	Personal Protection Equipment
PRG	Parliamentary Research Group
PWSN	Persons with Specific Needs
PWDs	Person With Disability
RHCs	Rural Health Centers
RTI	Right to Information
SARS-CoV	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus
SBP	State Bank of Pakistan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEDA	Social & Economic Development Association
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRH	Sexual & Reproductive Health
TAP	Transparency Accountability and Partnerships
TB	Tuberculosis
TGs	Transgenders
TV	Television
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UN	United Nation's
UN ECOSOC	United Nation's Economic & Social Council
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USD	United States Dollar
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHO	World Health Organization

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Executive Summary

Pakistan is a Muslim majority country situated at an important geo-strategic location between China, Iran, Afghanistan and India in South Asian region. It remained under military dictatorship for almost 35 years during several times since its independence in 1947, whereas rest of the period the people witnessed hybrid democratic regimes. Today, Pakistan is the fifth most populated country in the world, with projected population of 216.6 million in 2019 (Population Reference Bureau). The country's high population growth rate, which stood at 2.4 % for the period 1998 – 2017, has been impacting the rate of urbanization and migration and almost all aspects of socio-economic life in the country. The total fertility rate is at 3.6 children per woman, with significant differentials among income groups. About two thirds of the population is under the age of 30, with a median age of 22. The large share of young people offers an opportunity to accelerate development known as the demographic dividend. But it largely depends on prioritizing investments in young people's health, education, employment, participation and social security.

Even though Pakistan attained middle-income status and the per capita GDP of Pakistan in 2018 constituted \$1,565, social and health indicators are comparable to those of least developed countries. The spectra of gender inequality is large. According to World Economic Forum, Pakistan Gender Inequality Index ranks 148 out of 149 countries (2018). 32 per cent of ever-married women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence; 29 % of women were married before 18 years of age. Pakistan stands at 6th place with 1,909,000 child brides.

According to the UNDP's Human Development Index 2020 Pakistan is ranked 150th where 22.80 million children are out of schools. Pakistan is among two countries of the world which are not polio free yet including Nigeria. Local government system is non-functional therefore the citizens' participation is very low and Pakistan is rated Partly Free in the recent Global Freedom House Report whereas it is INACTIVE in the Open Government Partnership. Pakistan is also placed in the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for the last three years. Civic spaces are shrinking and CIVICUS Monitor has ranked Pakistan in REPRESSED countries whereas Civil Society Index 2018 ranked Pakistan in EVOLVING category. Freedom of expression and speech, right to information are constitutional rights under Article 19 and 19A respectively but laws and policies of state authorities related to these constitutional rights are derogatory.

Pakistan is signatory of almost all major global commitments including CEDAW, CRPD, CRC, ICCPR etc. and has very recently adopted agenda 2030 for social transformation in September 2015. Pakistan has already presented its VNR report on SDGs during HLPF2019 and committed for second VNR report in the forthcoming HLPF 2021. Pakistan has presented last UPR in 2017 however it progress on follow up of recommendations is very slow.

The current and yet another hybrid democratic regime of Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (Pakistan Justice Movement) came in to power as a result of general elections in July 2018. The new government had to face many socio-economic and political challenges in her early days

including COVID-19. The government immediately established National Command & Operation Centre (NCOC) to deal with this issue. Countrywide lock down was avoided by the government and partial and smart lock down strategy was adopted. Government also announced and delivered stimulus package of almost USD 8 billions to facilitate marginalized and poor community, construction / textile industry and other sectors during partial and smart lock downs. State Bank of Pakistan announced effective measures including almost 7% gradual decrease in interest rates to encourage investors. CSOs / NGOs / INGOs were also allowed to work without NOCs and MOUs during COVID lock downs. 10.2 million destitute, poor and women headed families, were given USD 75 for three months to meet their usual needs during COVID lockdowns. Millions of people lost their jobs and millions lost their businesses especially gig economy workers, small and medium businesses and labourers, transgender community, people living with disabilities and minorities suffered the most. Minorities were ignored by many charities of religio-political parties by saying that our charity and support is illegitimate for non-Muslims. Women headed families and PLWDs families were also left behind and deprived of support provided by both government and civil society. Violence against women and children increased significantly during the lock down period. Health Care Providers (HCPs) suffered a lot in the beginning and almost 500 died during this fight against pandemic. HCPs were provided with personal protection equipment upon their protest. Salute HCPs campaign was also run at state level by the government and HCPs dying of COVID 19 during duty were given the status of Martyr.

Pakistan is considered as a success story among the developing nations for addressing the COVID pandemic appropriately. There are some policy level and some structural reasons behind this success. At policy level avoidance of panic and countrywide lock down situation helped to control wide spread of COVID-19 from urban centers to rural areas. More than 65% of Pakistan's population lives in rural areas with no modern housing structures so they remained safe. Immediate announcement and timely delivery of economic stimulus package also worked and paid off in addressing COVID 19 impacts. Pakistan kept its economy open and also allowed the civil society to come forward for the support of government and people. At structural level Pakistan's 70% population is below the age of 30, whereas only less than 20% are elderly so this might have contributed in low mortality rate during COVID 19. Furthermore Pakistan is highly conservative culture where more than 48% population (women) have limited mobility or exposure so it also contributed in lower rate of COVID 19 spread in Pakistan.

Since the second wave of COVID-19 is expected in Pakistan and in the region therefore a robust sensitization campaign for public awareness may be launched through media and civil society based on the past learning & experience. Multi-stakeholder's consultative processes to understand impacts of COVID-19 on human development policies and structures at national and regional level to suggest appropriate and doable way forward

Main Section

Chapter 1: State Institutions and Democracy

Pakistan is a federal republic comprised of four provinces Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh as well as two semi-autonomous regions namely Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Pakistan is governed through a constitution and follow the parliamentary form of governance partially adopting the Westminster and American democratic models. Since the sovereignty lies with almighty ALLAH therefore the name of the country was changed from Dominion of Pakistan¹ to Islamic Republic of Pakistan (land of pure) in 1956 nearly 9 years later than August 14, 1947, the day of independence from British monarchy. The country's name was again changed as Republic of Pakistan in 1962 by a military government however the same government was compelled to return to Islamic Republic of Pakistan just in 1963. Ultimately the sovereignty of ALLAH bestowed to the people of Pakistan is transferred to the Parliament through elected representatives at Majlis-e-Shoora (national assembly/ lower house) and the Senate of Pakistan (upper house). Prime Minister is the Head of Government and President is the Head of State. Majority party in Parliament elects the Prime Minister whereas Prime Minister acts as the Chief Executive of the country that runs its affairs through Cabinet which is the highest executive body of the country. A non-Muslim cannot be elected at the position of President and or Prime Minister.

1.1 Federation of Pakistan:

All the four federating units are known as provinces and have their provincial Parliaments whereas the semi-autonomous regions also have their elected legislative assemblies. After 18th constitutional amendment in 2010² provinces have more executive and financial powers than the federal government concerning socio-economic uplift and political empowerment of the people as 27 federal ministries and divisions were devolved to provinces. Provinces have authority for more robust legislation except the matters related to defense, communication, railways, foreign affairs and internal security.

1.2 Judicial System:

Supreme Court of Pakistan is the apex constitutional court of the country followed by provincial high courts and district courts. Special courts like accountability courts and anti-terrorism courts³ are also functional side by side the constitutional judicial system. Military Courts⁴ remained active

¹ https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_of_Pakistan

² <http://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/amendments/18amendment.html>

³ <http://www.molaw.gov.pk/molaw/userfiles1/file/Anti-Terrorism%20Act.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/watchdog-pakistans-military-courts-disaster-human-rights>

until the mid-March of 2019 but not given further extension due to the resistance from formal judiciary and civil society. Most of the cases related to forced disappearance of people were being tried at military courts therefore the higher courts were handicapped in dealing with such petitions of the citizens.

1.3 Local Governance:

Local governments are often non-functional during the democratic regimes whereas remained functional and active during the dictatorial regimes. This is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan remained under dictatorships for more than 36 years out of 73 years of its existence. Currently hybrid democracy is being practiced in the country yet the local governments are non-functional across the country. After the 18th constitutional amendment provinces are responsible for the affairs of local governments including allocation of financial resources at district level however none of the province has ever tried to announce the provincial finance commission for appropriate resource allocations to local governments or district governments. Devolution of power at the local level is stagnant after 2007 in the country.

1.4 Current Regime (2018-2023):

The current government led by Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (Pakistan Justice Movement) came in to power in the country after general elections in July 2018 following the slogan of corruption free society however all national and international surveys including Transparency International's Corruption Index⁵ and Citizens' Scorecard⁶ on SDGs 16.5 & 16.6 have revealed that instances of corruption in every sphere of life have gone up. There are more than 10 agencies functional in the country including Anti- Corruption Department, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against corruption however most of them are indulged in political victimization of opposition leaders and workers.

1.5 Global Commitments & Compliance Mechanisms:

Pakistan is signatory of almost all major global commitments including CEDAW, CRPD, CRC, ICCPR etc. and has very recently adopted agenda 2030 for social transformation in September 2015. In order to comply with its global commitments several measures including Parliamentary Task Forces on SDGs, Commissions on Status of Women, Child Rights Commissions, National Commission for Minorities, National Council for Rehabilitation of Disable Persons and Ombudspersons on Protection of Women at Work Place are functional at national and provincial levels. However National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is not functional since May 2019. The present government is failed to appoint commissioners despite several protests and demands by the civil society and concerned stakeholders. Right to Information Commissions are established at federal and provincial levels however their performance is regrettable.

⁵ <https://tradingeconomics.com/pakistan/corruption-rank>

⁶ <http://sdgscitizenscorecard.pda.net.pk/>

1.6 Citizens' Engagement in Governance Accountability:

In order to ensure greater participation of citizens' more openness and transparency in government function Pakistan had joined Open Government Partnership (OGP) in December 2016 however the federal government remained failed to submit mandatory plan of action towards the implementation of standard actions therefore Pakistan's status is INACTIVE⁷ since 2019. On the other hand the current government has launched Pakistan Citizens' Portal⁸, an integrated grievance redressal system connecting all the government departments and organizations both at federal and provincial level. A fairly positive response of citizens' have been witnessed during the last two and a half years.

⁷ <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/pakistan/>

⁸ <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.govpk.citizensportal&hl=en>

Chapter 2: State of Democracy and Civic Space in Pakistan

Pakistan is placed under “**hybrid regime or authoritarian regime**” with a score of 4.25 in the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index 2019⁹. In the year 2019, the average democracy index score fell from 5.48 in 2018 to 5.44 out of 10 scores across the world among 167 countries. Pakistan has been ranked 108th in 2019 and its position has got better than the previous year’s (2018) 4.17 points¹⁰. Pakistan’s score is an average of points on electoral process & pluralism measures 6.08, functioning of government 5.71, political participation 2.22, political culture 2.50 and civil liberties 4.71.

2.1 Freedom of Speech & Expression:

Pakistan is rated **PARTLY FREE** in the latest Freedom House Report 2020¹¹ whereas Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan¹² guarantees freedom of speech and expression to every citizen subject to any reasonable restriction imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam, or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relationships with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court or incitement of an offence. The lacunas in the Article 19 regarding the definition of what is pro and what is against the glory of Islam, integrity, security or defence of Pakistan, public order, morality, decency, contempt of court etc. are often been exploited by the state and conservatives/ religious orthodox to suppress the freedom of speech and expression of civil society and citizens’ at large. More often the religious minorities, journalist community and human rights activists are being exploited and persecuted under such lacunas through allegations related to blasphemies and national interest etc¹³.

In order to control cyber crimes government introduced various laws including Electronic Transaction Ordinance 2002¹⁴ and the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act (PECA)2016¹⁵ however they are being used for shutting down the voices of dissent and curbing freedom of speech and expression. Under section 37 of PECA law a government officer from federal investigation agency is empowered to determine what comes against glory of Islam, national

⁹ <https://www.eiu.com/topic/democracy-index>

¹⁰ <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/602673-economist-intelligence-unit-s-democracy-index-democracy-in-ppp-pml-n-eras-better-than-in-present-govt>

¹¹ <https://freedomhouse.org/country/pakistan/freedom-world/2020>

¹² <http://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/part2.ch1.html>

¹³ <https://think-asia.org/bitstream/handle/11540/6749/Freedom-of-Expression-in-Pakistan-a-myth-or-a-reality-W-159.pdf?sequence=1>

¹⁴ <http://www.pakistanlaw.com/eto.pdf>

¹⁵ http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1470910659_707.pdf

security, morality and public order. Unavailability of any kind of Protection of Data Act in the presence of PECA law is another challenge making the lives of journalists community and human rights actors more vulnerable. Print & electronic media as well as social media users are also facing all time threats of persecution. YouTube remained closed for three since the year 2013 and ban was lifted in January 2016¹⁶. Pakistan also imposed ban on TikTok on October 9, 2020¹⁷ considering indecent and immoral content under section 37 of the PECA law. Almost 33 journalist lost their lives in past six years¹⁸ whereas in general media is facing extreme fear and self censorship¹⁹. According to the SDGs Citizens' Scorecard²⁰ more than 67% people were not able to express their feelings and thoughts freely.

2.2 Right to Information:

Article 19A of the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees that every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulations and reasonable restrictions imposed by law²¹. The Right to Information Commissions are established at national and provincial level however most of them are non functional and hardly serve the purpose of their establishment. Most of the people do not know that RTI prevails in their province or respective community or department however those who know hardly get back appropriate or timely response if they ever applied for information. Many government and judicial establishments are not bound to provide any information if sought under RTI. According to SDGs Citizens' Scorecard only 10.7% applicants are satisfied by the responses of RTI commissions²². The current government has moved Right of Access to Information (amendment) Act 2020 in the Senate of Pakistan to exclude Parliament from the definition of public body. The Coalition of Right to Information (CRTI) strongly condemned this move and declared this move malafide, unconstitutional and against the interest of people of Pakistan²³.

¹⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2016/01/18/pakistan-lifts-youtube-ban-after-three-years.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/9/pakistan-bans-tiktok-over-indecent-content>

¹⁸ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1514131>

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²⁰ <http://www.sdgcitizenscorecard.pda.net.pk/>

²¹ <http://www.pakistani.org/pakistan/constitution/part2.ch1.html>

²² <http://www.sdgcitizenscorecard.pda.net.pk/>

²³ <https://islamabadpost.com.pk/crti-opposes-efforts-to-weaken-federal-right-of-access-to-information-act-2017/>

2.3 Civil Society & Civic Spaces:

The overall civic space in Pakistan falls under **REPRESSED** category according to latest CIVICUS Monitor ²⁴. Pakistan had shut down 18 INGOs in December 2018 and asked the international staff to leave the country immediately²⁵. 2018 Asia Civil Society Index²⁶ released by USAID and FHI 360 (in November 2019) ranked civil society in Pakistan in **EVOLVING** category with score of 4.2. The graph shows that CSOs in Pakistan face severe sustainability challenges including challenges related to legal environment, financial viability and public image etc. This also shows that the organizations involved in the service provision are more comfortable over the advocacy centered CSOs.

OVERALL CSO SUSTAINABILITY: 4.2



Therefore, the civil society organizations in Pakistan are very much concerned about the policies of the subsequent governments where it has become impossible for NGOs to operate in an environment of mistrust and complicated procedures for getting approvals and signing of MoUs and obtaining NOCs with the several departments, divisions and commissions. Despite having registered with relevant government authorities and laws, new regulatory frameworks and sanctions have been imposed without any consultations with the NGO community. Such a situation has resulted in significant unemployment, reduction in development projects, and foreign remittances, which are badly affecting the already poor socio-economic conditions of our country.

In effect, all INGOs and NGOs receiving donations from abroad were required to re-register themselves with the interior ministry and the Economic Affairs Division of the finance ministry — a complicated, lengthy, expensive and inhospitable procedure. The process coincided with a smear campaign that cast doubts on the NGOs' loyalty to the country. NGO workers were harassed by repeated visits from the security apparatus. As a result, thousands of well-intentioned, functioning and delivering NGOs gradually closed operations, increasing

²⁴ <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/pakistan/>

²⁵ <https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/media-releases/3670-pakistan-shuts-down-and-kicks-out-18-international-ngos-with-20-others-facing-expulsion-2>

²⁶ <https://www.fhi360.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/resource-csosi-2018-report-asia.pdf>

unemployment and putting extra burden on the government particularly with regard to education and health.

The civil society organizations also do not like government illtreatment with them in the wake of FATF restrictions. Linking the clearance of NGOs with FATF is unjustified. In fact, the development sector is contributing to achieve the objectives of the FATF and government in curbing terrorist financing and money laundering through their projects such as good governance, safer charity practices etc. Importantly all donor money is channeled through proper banking system and the banks have their own check and balances where NGOs have to provide information about the purpose of funds received. Moreover donors have their own forms and requirements to be completed by implementing partners to make sure that the funds are allocated only for the purposes described in the proposals.

Chapter 3: Data and Trends about COVID-19 in Pakistan

3.1 Global Context:

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) office in China received a report of 29 pneumonia cases of unknown etiology in Wuhan city in Hubei province, central China. The virus was quickly identified as a novel beta-coronavirus and the genetic sequence was shared on 12 January 2020. The infection is now officially termed COVID-19 and the virus SARS-CoV-2.²⁷ Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, pregnant women, people living with disabilities and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness.²⁸ According to Centre for Disease control and prevention “Symptoms such as Fever, Cough, and Shortness of breath may appear 2-14 days after exposure (based on the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses).²⁹

In the meanwhile, World Health Organization (WHO) urged all countries to prepare for the potential arrival of COVID-19 by readying emergency response systems; increasing capacity to detect and care for patients; ensuring hospitals have the space, supplies and necessary personnel; and developing life-saving medical interventions. WHO had declared Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) a Pandemic on March 11, 2020. Furthermore, the Government of Pakistan had declared a National Health Emergency of Public Concern in regard to the same on 13th of March 2020.³⁰

3.2 Regional Context:

Pakistan shares borders with Afghanistan, India, China and Iran, one being the epicenter and other has seen exponential increase in number of cases during early 30 days, respectively. Pressure mounted in Pakistan when four Pakistani students in Wuhan, China were tested positive on January 29, 2020 and hundreds of students and their families in Pakistan wanted government to bring them back home. Hundreds of *Shia*³¹ pilgrims from Pakistan who were ready to come back home from Iran were also quarantined at Iran Pakistan border. However, this is said that COVID 19 was spread in Pakistan due to mismanagement of overseas Pakistanis who were not ready to stay in quarantines closer to their airports and land borders. Therefore, on February 23rd 2020 Pakistan had banned travel and trade with the world and closed all its borders until April 30th 2020.

3.3 National Response:

In Pakistan capacity of public healthcare system to contain or manage this crisis was extremely limited and was getting increasingly overwhelmed. Public diagnostics facilities had limited facilities to undertake tests of suspected cases which were significantly rising.

²⁷ <https://academic.oup.com/trstmh/advance-article/doi/10.1093/trstmh/traa025/5810733>

²⁸ https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1

²⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

³⁰ <http://www.ndma.gov.pk/>

³¹ <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/uncategorized/who-are-the-shia-shia-holy-cities/1735/>

Pakistan's National Security Committee (NSC) meeting was held to discuss the looming healthcare crisis and have taken key decision about the formation of National Command & Operation Centre (NCOC)³² for COVID-19, giving leading role to NDMA, closing education institutes, boarders sealing, restrictions on international traveling, banning all types of gatherings, reaching out Islamic scholars, suspension of courts proceedings, and comprehensive food security planning.³³

On 23rd March, Pakistan Government had announced complete lockdown and decided to deploy army troops nationwide to reinforce measures against coronavirus. According to a notification by the Interior Ministry, the troops will work with provincial governments to ensure a lockdown in the country. During the lockdown, citizens were allowed to step out of their homes for buying grocery and hospital visits.³⁴

On 27th of March 2020 Prime Minister of Pakistan launched [Ehsaas Program](#) to provide emergency cash grants of PKRs 12000 (USD 75) for 12 million households across the country. The cash grants distributions was completed through banks by August 2020. Further to this on March 31st 2020 PM also announced PKRs 1.2 trillion (USD 8 billion) [Prime Minister Corona Response Package](#) to support affected people and industry. Moreover, a special fund was also created to encourage philanthropist especially Pakistani diaspora to contribute in [Prime Minister's Relief Fund for COVID-19](#). Other than this the Prime Minister had also created the [Corona Relief Tiger Force](#) on April 7th 2020 and more than [one million youth](#) have been registered online to support government in this corona emergency situation. One of the major purpose of the Corona Relief Tiger Force was to make sure the food supply at the doorsteps amid lockdown period.

A detailed **Chronology of Events in Pakistan** since the COVID19 regime is seen as **Annexure (a)**

3.4 National Data & Trends about COVID19:

According to [Pakistan COVID-19 Dashboard](#) updated by Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination - Government of Pakistan by October 15, cases of COVID-19 have reached up to 321,218. So far, there are 6614 deaths 305,395 recovered person, 533 critical cases are being reported across Pakistan.³⁵ The below table and graph derived from the Worldometer³⁶ also shares fortnightly trend about cases and deaths until October 15, 2020

³² <https://ncoc.gov.pk/>

³³ <https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/10-steps-pakistan-is-taking-to-contain-coronavirus-1.70403640>

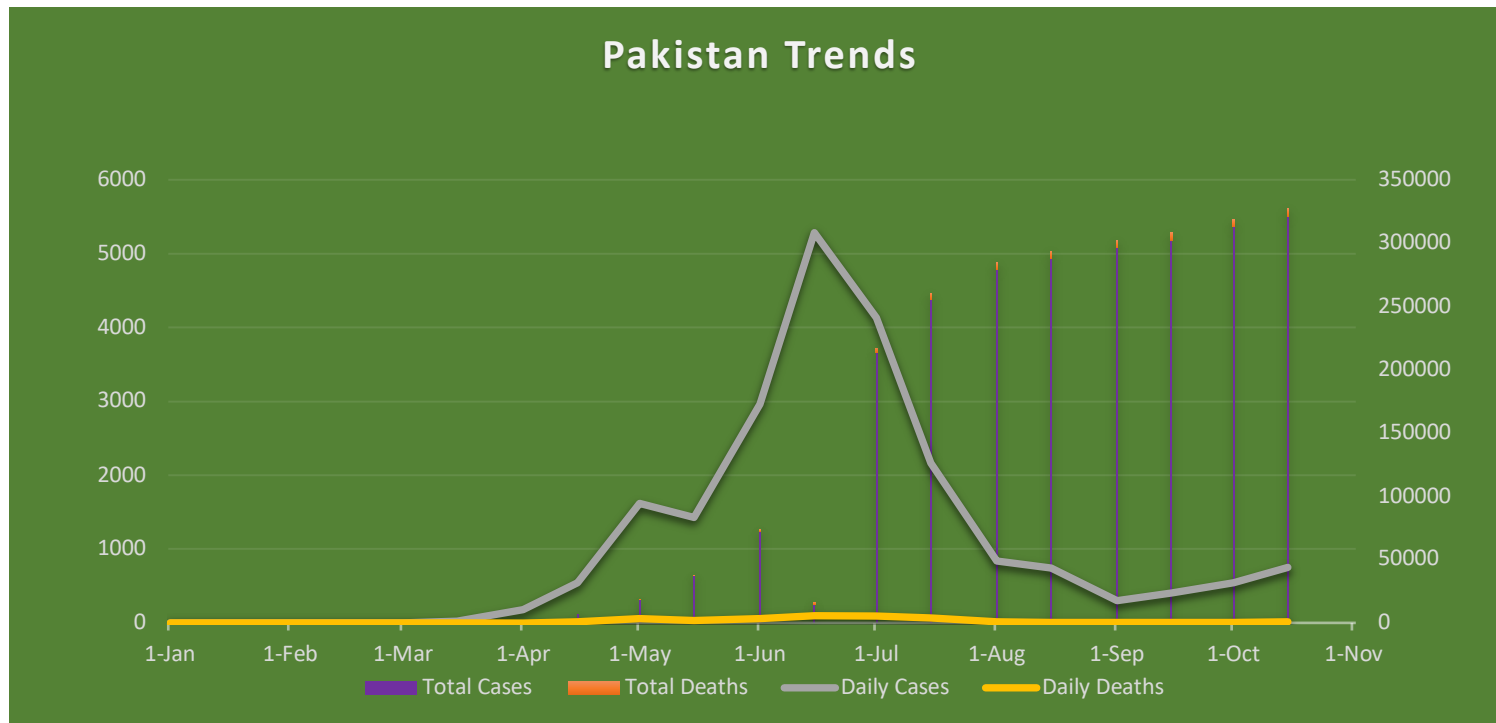
³⁴ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/pakistan-deploys-army-to-assist-in-covid-19-measures/1776226>

³⁵ <http://covid.gov.pk/>

³⁶ <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/pakistan/>

		Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		April		May		Jun.		July		Aug.		Sept.		Oct	
	Date	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15	1	15
Total No	Cases	0	0	0	0	4	53	2118	6383	18092	37218	72460	144478	213470	255769	279146	288047	296149	302424	312806	321218
	Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	111	417	803	1543	2729	4395	5386	5970	6162	6298	6389	6484	6614
Daily	Cases	0	0	0	0	0	20	180	546	1619	1430	2964	5248	4133	2165	841	747	300	404	543	755
	Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15	56	33	60	97	91	66	19	9	4	6	5	13

- Date of the first case : February 26, 2020 / Date of the first death : March 18, 2020
- State of Emergency : From March 13, 2020 to August 15, 2020
- Lockdown period: from April 01, 2020 to May 9, 2020 – Partial Lockdown: May 10, 2020 till July 31, 2020, and Educational Lockdown March 13, 2020 till September 14, 2020.



Chapter 4: COVID-19 & Pakistan's Healthcare System

In Pakistan, dealing with the localized epidemics such as Hepatitis C & Dengue Fever have always remained a hectic job for our healthcare sector. With ongoing crisis in full swing, it is obviously difficult to calculate the actual impact of Coronavirus that how long it drags us down³⁷

Pakistan has one of the lowest Public Health Expenditures as a percentage of GDP in the world, with less than 1% of the GDP for decades and only 0.6 beds per 1000 people. In 2019, 12,671 million rupees were allocated for development in the health sector. The health sector is facing tough challenges and is in dire need of enhancement of budget allocation. This is needed especially for development expenditure by federal and provincial governments for enhanced and better-quality health service availability across the country, with increased health coverage for the growing demands of the increasing population of Pakistan.

4.1 Summary statistics of Health care facilities and trained human resource in Pakistan:

Health facility and human resource for health	Figures/Indices
Public Sector Hospitals	1279
Basic Health Units	5527
Rural Health Centers	686
Dispensaries	5671
Registered Doctors	220,829
Registered Dentists	22,595
Registered Nurses	108,474
Population per doctor	963
Population per dentist	9,413
Population per nurse	1962
Population per bed	1,608

Pakistan, being signatory to the International Health Regulations(IHR) convention 2007, has not paid the due share of attention to point of entries in comparison to the pivotal role to prevent international spread of diseases. The lack of an effective quarantine facility at Taftan land crossing resulted in the importation of the virus in the country³⁸.

While the Government had imposed a lock down across the country whereby all the hospitals and health facilities were closed except for emergency services. This measure was taken to reduce the spread of virus. However, its implication was lack of access to OPD, immunization, preventive health care, lifesaving EmONC Services, pre- and post-natal care etc. This will potentially result in increases in mortality, particularly maternal and child mortality. The impact of the COVID 19 outbreak on acute care services in Pakistan with under-resourced health system

³⁷ <https://www.anth.pk/covid-19-pakistans-healthcare-system/>

³⁸ <https://jglobalbiosecurity.com/articles/10.31646/gbio.63/>

was substantial. SRH service delivery had been severely impacted, contributing to a rise in maternal and newborn mortality, increased unmet need for contraception, and increased number of unsafe abortions and sexually transmitted infections. It is critical to ensure that all women have access to safe birth, antenatal care and post-natal care services³⁹.

³⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/globalhumanitresponseplancovid19-200510.v1.pdf>

Chapter 5: Impact of the COVID-19 – human rights and SDGs

5.1 Macro-economic effects

It has been reported that Pakistan has lost one-third of its revenue and exports dropped by 50% due to COVID-19 outbreak and lockdown. Economists warn of recession amid virus lockdowns in Pakistan. Similarly, the World Bank also warns that Pakistan might fall into a recession. Due to the ongoing crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan's real GDP growth in FY20 is expected to contract by 1.3% as national and global economic activity slowdowns abruptly during the last few months of the fiscal year. Further, in case the outbreak of COVID-19 deteriorates and continues longer than expected, Pakistan's real GDP growth for FY20 may contract by 2.2% before just recovering to 0.3% growth in FY21.

The lockdowns were having repercussions on the employment and, consequently, people's livelihoods. As such, it has implications on food production, the entire value chain including marketing, distribution and even the consumption due to lack of livelihoods opportunities and majority of the population having subsistence earnings. The lockdown and global economic shock has the potential to throw up to 125 million people in Pakistan below the poverty line. This will disproportionately impact the vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as women and children, daily-wage workers, small and medium enterprises, agriculture, and other the informal sectors. The immediate economic shock is further exacerbated by the human cost in terms of mental trauma of death of a relative and fear of encountering the virus, and isolation or loss of academic progress for students, etc.

5.2 Effects on livelihoods:

The lockdown and uncertainty during the corona regime was having the following implications on the livelihoods:

1. All the markets except the outlets from groceries/edible items were closed. The inter – city/district/province public transport had been banned thus affecting the ability of many people to access affordable markets. Only the goods transportation carrying food or medical emergency items are allowed with the condition of adopting protective/preventive measures.
2. Prospects for the economy and the quantity and quality of employment have also deteriorated rapidly. Initial ILO estimates point to a significant rise in unemployment and underemployment in the wake of the virus.
3. The decline in economic activity and constraints on people's movements has impacted both manufacturing and services coupled with declining labour supply because of quarantine measures and a fall in economic activity which resulted into significant increase in poverty.
4. Informal sector workers are most vulnerable and many of them lost their jobs due to the prevailing lockdown situation across the country.
5. In the case of the agriculture sector, farming activities are primarily carried out by the self-employed either on their own land or as sharecropper/ a contract cultivator or on

someone else's land. Although, the Government has announced that the lockdown is not applicable on transportation or sale of agricultural inputs, yet, these farming households are facing disruption in the supply chain of vital agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, etc.

6. Small entrepreneurs, shopkeepers and small factories owners and laborers who are directly dependent on income sources from daily trade and economic activities in rural and urban areas are also experiencing a sharp decrease in their earning.

5.3 Most Affected Population Groups:

Women and children from the disadvantaged households, homebased workers, domestic workers, daily wage earners (small shops, self-employed persons and families) and especially pregnant women, were among the most impacted during this pandemic.

Nearly half of households in the country rely on agriculture and livestock as their primary and/or secondary source of livelihood. Some 22% are dependent on daily wage labour (skilled/unskilled non-agricultural labor, forestry workers). Around 62% of households in the poorest wealth quintile rely on farm labor and daily wage as livelihood strategies (33% on farming - small/medium/large farming, livestock, fishing and agricultural labor) and 29% on wage labor (skilled and unskilled non-agricultural work).

5.3.1 People Living in NMDs:

The Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) are particularly vulnerable - according to the Comprehensive Food Security and Livelihood Assessment (CFSLA) Report 2019, a majority (65%) of the households are dependent on unsustainable livelihood strategies (daily wagers), while the remaining (35%) depend on somewhat sustainable sources.

5.3.2 Afghan Refugees in Pakistan:

Pakistan hosts approximately 1.4 million Afghan refugees who are registered in the Afghan National Registration (ANR) database managed by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and issued with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards. Since the majority of refugees reside in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (58%) and Baluchistan (23%), where the lowest living standards and the highest multidimensional poverty index are recorded, it is evident that most of the Afghan refugees are severely affected by the unprecedented events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHCR estimate that more than 70,000 Afghan refugees are Persons with Specific Needs (PWSN) and face additional challenges (children at risk, women at risk, single parents, older persons at risk, persons with serious medical conditions). Additionally, there are growing numbers of extremely vulnerable refugee families whose livelihoods have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly daily-wage earners that require urgent support.

5.3.3 Impact on at-risk Workers:

This analysis is based on data from the latest available round of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for 2017-18, as data from the more recent 2018-19 round of the LFS has not been released yet. According to Labour Force Survey 2017-18, there are 61.7 million employed workers in

Pakistan, of whom 23.8 million are agricultural workers and 37.9 million are non-agricultural workers. Of the country's 37.9 million non-agricultural workers, 27.3 million (72 per cent) work in the informal sector, while only 10.6 million (28 per cent) are employed in the formal sector. Out of the total of 61.71 million employed, 48.17 million are males while 13.54 million are females, 40.75 million are residing in rural areas while 20.96 million are residing in urban areas. The provincial disaggregation shows that 37.60 million are in Punjab, 14.44 million in Sindh, 7.17 million in KP and 2.51 million are in Balochistan. Youth aged 15-29 years makes up 23 million of the employed.

5.4 Impact of COVID-19 on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):

The biggest and most immediate impact of the lockdown was the halt in all type of business operations. Lockdown was first announced in Sindh province from March 23, 2020. Karachi—the capital city of Sindh province—is considered as the country's largest industrial zone accounted for 30% of total exports. Due to lockdown, out of 2700 factories in Karachi less than 50 were operating on the first working day.

After them, there is a class of micro-enterprises (also known as self-employed persons) such as small shop owners, household businesses, and street vendors, among others, who heavily rely on their micro business. These businesses are usually operated by family members in different industries ranging from agriculture to education. Further, these micro-enterprises are considered a part of the informal economy, and most of their activity is undocumented. Hence, the accurate number of these businesses is not known. According to the recently available statistics, the micro-enterprises or self-employed persons are accounted for 35.7% (2017–18) of the total national employment. Furthermore, 55.6% (2017–18) of these businesses are vulnerable, out of which, more than 87% of employment in *agriculture*, three-fourths of jobs in *wholesale and retail trade*, 50% of employment in *restaurants*, three-fifths of the job in *real estate and business*, and more than two-fifths of employment in *transport and communication* is vulnerable⁴⁰.

5.5 Marginalized communities in times of COVID19

5.5.1 Women:

Past outbreaks and humanitarian crises in Pakistan, have demonstrated that men and women are impacted differently. Women – especially women with disabilities and young women – and transgender persons suffer disproportionately due to the unequal gender and power relations that determine access to and control over resources.

In Pakistan, weak governance systems and a lack of enforcement of legal instruments undermine access to democratic rights. Though the extent and scope of the gender-differential impact of COVID-19 in Pakistan is not yet known, however it may be said that women and most marginalized communities have experienced disproportionate hardship. This reality means all

⁴⁰ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590051X20300071>

preparedness and response measures should incorporate a gender analysis⁴¹. According to the survey conducted by AwazCDS-Pakistan in 44 districts across Pakistan on situation of gender based violence during COVID 19 around 56.67% respondents observed that violence against women including physical, verbal, psychological and behavioral have been increased during COVID19⁴². According to a recent report released by Ministry of Human Right (MoHR), 73471 calls of human rights violations were received at MoHR's Helpline 1099 during January -June 2020⁴³ and most of them were related to violence against women and children.

5.5.2 Transgender Community:

Most of the transgender community people have been socio-economic and cultural discriminations in Pakistan. They are left further behind in case of natural and manmade calamities. During the COVID19 regime their usual business remained halted as most of them were working as dancers in the private marriage and birthday parties. Some of them also work as sex workers. They had to face many challenges including difficulties in paying their house rents and utilities. Transgender community was gravely, disproportionately affected, stigmatized and discriminated during the COVID19 regime in Pakistan. 59.25% respondents of survey on trends of violence and discrimination during COVID19 revealed that transgender community faced more verbal, psychological and physical violence during COVID19⁴⁴.

Most trans-community members are semi or poorly educated, therefore there are obvious and serious gaps in understanding written information and precautionary guidelines with regards to COVID-19. A community-based awareness mechanism should have been introduced to educate them on COVID-19 prevention and response. This should have been clubbed with the basic training on preparing cost-effective masks, disposing of masks and gloves, maintaining physical distance and keeping themselves safe in their personal spaces⁴⁵. Only 18.60% Transgenders observed in a national survey that their community people were given priority during governmental and non-governmental relief distributions⁴⁶.

5.5.3 Persons living with Disabilities(PWDs):

⁴¹ <https://www.ifes.org/publications/covid-19s-impact-pakistani-women>

⁴² <http://awazcnds.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Survey-findings-Leaving-no-one-behind-during-COVID-19.pdf>

⁴³ http://www.mohr.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/Progress%20Report_email%20ready.pdf

⁴⁴ <http://awazcnds.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Survey-findings-Leaving-no-one-behind-during-COVID-19.pdf>

⁴⁵ <https://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/stories/social-inclusion-of-vulnerable-transgenders-in-times-of-covid-19.html>

⁴⁶ <http://awazcnds.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Observational-survey-findings-on-Ehsas-Cash-Grant-Distribution.pdf>

PWDs in Pakistan face various challenges and the most important one is that they are not counted appropriately. PWDs are only 0.48% of the total population as the most recent population census of Pakistan, whereas it was 2.49% in the previous population census held in 1998. If we consider the percentage of old census total population of PWDs in may be 5.223 million today but World Health Organization (WHO) declares that Pakistan has 31 million people living disabilities out of 220 million today. They faced great challenges during the COVID 19 regime. PWDs headed families were even more deprived than the families having one or more PWDs. There was no special planning and opportunity available for PWDs community during COVID19 however they were being treated casually. 45.74% PWDs who were selected for government relief fund during COVID 19 complained that they were neither given any priority nor the distribution points were accessible⁴⁷. 41.78% respondents of a survey on trends of violence during COVID19 observe that PWDs faced more violence and intolerance⁴⁸. However this pertinent to mention here that in order to provide timely and appropriate information and sensitization on COVID19, AwazCDS-Pakistan and its partner organization Social & Economic Development Association (SEDA) published WHO guidelines for the prevention from COVID19 in braille language and also produced documentary of the guidelines in sign language for the sensitization of hearing and visually impaired people.

Persons with disabilities also did not have access to social protection and relief programs as their needs were not prioritized. Moreover, persons with disabilities with limited resources often require access to food, cash, hygiene kits and assistance provided by the government. However, they are unable to register themselves in online portals because they are not accessible and user friendly, especially for screen reader users. Also, many do not have internet connection. “How can they register? Portals are also not in easy to read formats either”. NGOs working for PWDs offer their assistance in this matter and sometimes they are successful. “When a person with disability obtains cash or income support, they are unable to receive it because many do not have a bank accounts”⁴⁹.

5.6 Impact on Education in times of COVID19:

Pakistan is an unfortunate country where 22.84 million children are already out of schools.⁵⁰ The COVID19 have further aggravated this learning crisis and pushed millions more not to return to schools/ education due to permanent closure of low income private schools, higher drop outs of existing boys and girls⁵¹.

⁴⁷ <http://awazcnds.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Observational-survey-findings-on-Ehsas-Cash-Grant-Distribution.pdf>

⁴⁸ <http://awazcnds.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Survey-findings-Leaving-no-one-behind-during-COVID-19.pdf>

⁴⁹ <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/covid19-pakistan>

⁵⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/education>

⁵¹ <https://epod.cid.harvard.edu/article/analytical-angle-covid-19-and-looming-education-crisis>

Like other countries Pakistan also temporarily closed educational institutions (schools, colleges and universities) to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The covid-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the education of millions of students in Pakistan. Parents and teachers have growing concerns about the likely impact on students' short-term learning and long-term success? The impact, no doubt, is negative and disproportionate. The closures are having more negative impact on students from low-income families or students of rural areas.

On March 13, when the Government of Pakistan decided to close educational institutions, elite private educational institutions (both schools and universities), in urban centres, started online classes to minimize the disruption to their students' learning. For many of them, that was a small leap. Their students have educated parents, and laptops and desktops with Internet connections at home. This was not a substitute for the rich and meaningful learning experiences of classroom interaction. They communicate with teachers and do lessons/assignments using email, websites, and engaged in videoconferencing. Students have formed study groups using the same technologies and educational software and apps. But they're also losing social interaction, like sports and extracurricular activities which are as important as curriculum contents.

Keeping aside the loss in social interaction, poor internet connection, noise, lack of independent learning skills among kids and young children or emotional maturity to maintain attention, arguably these students of elite urban institutions have a learning advantage over those from disadvantaged ones who attend public educational institutions in general and those in the rural areas in particular. From March 13 to April 14, unlike elite institutions' students, public schools' students (74 percent in the rural areas and 41 percent in the urban) remained unattended. Their school closures were notified as 'summer vacation'. It was only on April 14, when the Federal Education Ministry, in tandem with PTV, started the first ever *tele school* in Pakistan to help public school students and minimize their learning loss. It is an appreciable initiative.

School closures, for low income families means children are expected to help their families. Children get engaged with their families doing agriculture, fetching wood and tending cattle. Some are even pushed into child labour. Similarly, the absence of an educational environment at home; children's and parents' lack of interest in schooling; household poverty; pressures of domestic responsibilities; and the absence of fathers due to outstation work are factors that will lead irreparable learning loss for these children⁵².

After six months of educational lockdown schools were reopened in three phases starting from September 15, 2020. All the schools will have to strictly follow the SOPs (standard

⁵² <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2020/05/07/covid-19-education-unequal-learning-loss/>

operating procedures). It was announced by the federal and provincial governments that strict disciplinary action will be taken against violators,”⁵³

Expectations of CSOs from Government on COVID:

CSOs in Pakistan have expressed their concerns and expectations from Government in the form of Communique on behalf of Pakistan Development Alliance endorsed by 100+ Civil Society Organizations⁵⁴:

1. Parliament of Pakistan and other elected assemblies and forums across the country including A J & K and Gilgit Baltistan are not providing expected guidance and leadership during this time of need whereas none of the government response initiatives including Ehsaas Cash Grant Program as well as other packages on construction industry and small traders being implemented by government were passed through the inclusive process of collective and participatory decision making.
2. Lack coordination among federal and provincial governments on the lock down policy and other emergency measures taken by them unilaterally that caused further mistrust and reflected political immaturity of our political fraternity
3. Nonfunctional local governments and underutilization of the potential of elected representatives at district level causing serious challenges in delivery of emergency relief and mass sensitization on this critical situation under COVID19 regime.
4. Lack of Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) for the front line service providers including Doctors, Paramedics, police, military and officials of other government and non-government organizations
5. Most vulnerable communities like transgender, people living with disabilities, older people and religious minorities and women headed families are suffering much more than others. Most of them are deprived of Ehsaas Cash Grants because most of them do not have Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) so do not fulfill the eligibility criteria. Some of them do have CNICs but unable to have mobile numbers in their name and those who have mobile numbers are illiterate therefore unable to send and read responses of the messages by the registration authorities.
6. Religious minorities are severely deprived of food and other relief items as charity organizations are instructed by the donors to give Zakat (religious giving) only to Muslims.
7. Corona testing and quarantine facilities across the country are far less than needed and lack of coordination among federal and provincial governments are further aggravating the concerns of concerned citizens and civil society.
8. Besides the secondary and tertiary hospitals at district headquarters level there is a dire need to focus on the primary health care centers known as Rural Health Centers (RHCs) and Basic Health Units (BHUs) as well which are providing most basic services to the patients at grassroots level. However, their medical staff are also vulnerable to Coronavirus due to the non-availability of PPEs. Many participants informed that

⁵³ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/pakistan-announces-reopening-schools-in-phases/1965561>

⁵⁴ <https://gcap.global/news/pakistan-csos-statement-on-covid-19-response-by-government/>

BHU/RHC and OPDs in most of the district hospitals are closed therefore many needy patients are facing challenges to get access to appropriate healthcare services.

9. Media messages and public sector sensitization campaigns on COVID 19 lack inclusiveness as people living with disabilities particularly hearing impaired / blind people.
10. Severe violations of safety protocols are observed during Ehsaas Cash Grants distributions across the country whereas reports of corruption are also shared by the participants
11. People at worship places particularly in mosques are also violating the safety protocols therefore creating vulnerabilities for the spread of COVID19.
12. Sexual and gender based violence is reported to be increased in many communities
13. People are severely suffering from mental health issues particularly anxiety, depression and intolerances. Instances of community violence and unrest are also shared by some participants
14. Tele taleem / Taleem Ghar TV is very effective source of education during the closures of schools however many poor households do not have televisions in their homes. People living in the border areas do not have access to TV channels thus deprived of educational opportunities.
15. Data available to the government under the Ehsaas Programme lacks information on various groups of informal workers, including home based workers, piece rate workers and domestic workers. Absence of updated data as in some cases, a male head of the household may have passed away but the information is not updated so the widow is unable to seek government assistance.

Chapter 6: The Government Response on COVID19:

6.1 The National Action Plan (NAP) for COVID-19:

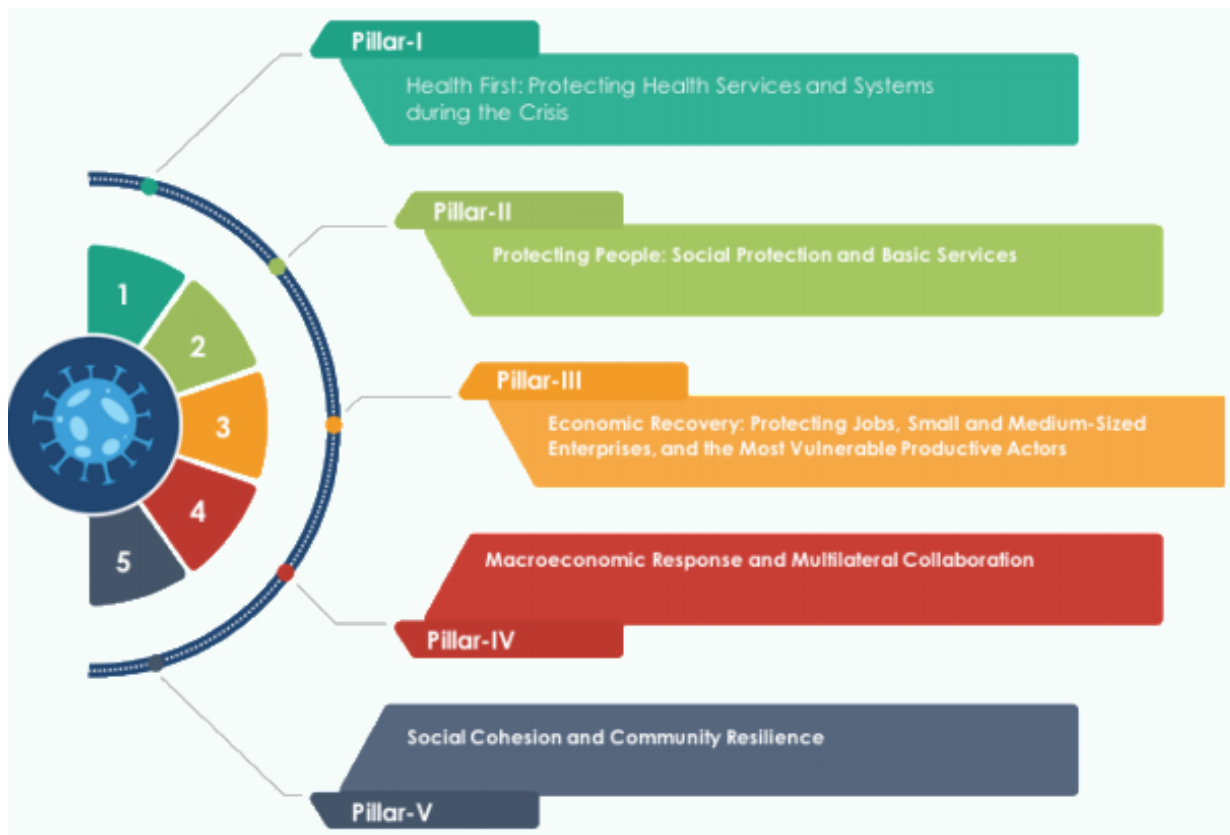
The NAP aimed to: (i) contain and respond to the outbreak in a timely and efficient manner; (ii) prioritize financial resources and increase the domestic and international investment for country emergency preparedness (iii) implement emergency preparedness actions by strengthening inter-sectoral collaboration with government sectors, private sector and civil society at the provincial level. The plan covers planning and coordination mechanisms, laboratory support, food security, logistics, communication, infection prevention and control at PoEs and health facilities, trainings for health workers, human resource management, quarantine preparedness, isolation hospitals, surveillance, reduced community exposure, and monitoring and evaluation. A National Emergency Coordination Committee and National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC)⁵⁵ was established at the national level with provincial representation and relevant stakeholders (Ministries of Finance, Interior, Planning, Foreign Affairs, Health, Pakistan Army, National Disaster Management Authority, National Institute of Health etc.) to monitor the response. The Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the National Security Council on March 13, 2020 to ensure implementation of the nation-wide response and addressed the nation on March 17. A COVID-19 Secretariat was set up at the Planning Commission to help with a coordinated economic and social response to COVID-19⁵⁶.

6.2 Framework for COVID19 Response:

The Framework for Impact Assessment and Response Plan takes guidance from the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19. It is based on five pillars, anchored in the core objectives and principles of saving lives, and protecting rights of people living under the duress of the pandemic with particular focus on the most vulnerable countries, groups, and people who risk being left behind.

⁵⁵ <https://ncoc.gov.pk/>

⁵⁶ [file:///C:/Users/Acer/Downloads/Pakistan%20-%20COVID-19%20Socio-economic%20Impact%20Assessment%20and%20Response%20Plan%201%20May%202020%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Acer/Downloads/Pakistan%20-%20COVID-19%20Socio-economic%20Impact%20Assessment%20and%20Response%20Plan%201%20May%202020%20(2).pdf) (pg-9)



Implementation of this Framework and the related Plan requires contextualizing and adapting to the situation that has emerged as a result of COVID-19 by: 1. Switching to the emergency mode by ensuring an adequate and effective rescue (saving lives) and relief (economic packages) plan through its COVID-19's National Action Plan and annual development plans (Pillar-1&2). This also means: a) maintaining essential life-saving health services along with a complementary effort targeting health systems recovery, preparedness and strengthening with a focus on primary health; and b) scaling-up and expanding resilient and pro-poor social protection systems including provision of essential food and nutrition, water and sanitation, education and protection services, with a focus on infants, children, women and other vulnerable populations. 2. Developing a resilient economy by protecting jobs, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and the most vulnerable productive actors through public sector development, policy and regulatory measures. (Pillar-3). This also means: a) increasing public-sector investment in labour-intensive development schemes (cashfor-work) for immediate, short-term job creation in sectors of high priority such as agriculture, rural infrastructure development etc.; and b) introducing incentives for vulnerable productive sectors and SMEs through policy, regulatory measures and financial packages (subsidies, interest-free loans, tariffs rebates etc.) to protect and sustain private sector jobs, enterprises, domestic productions and exports. 3. Managing a fiscal and financial

surge through efficient financial and resource planning, management and mobilization for the response to COVID-19 and other development priorities (Pillar-4).

This also means: a) estimating the potential impact of COVID-19 and its financial implications, identifying macroeconomic policy options and other administrative measures to create fiscal space for financing COVID-19's response, and identifying COVID-19 response priorities for allocation of financial, budgetary resources; b) introducing measures for promoting global partnerships, private sector engagement and development cooperation to mobilize and leverage financial, technical and advisory support to implement the public-sector development plans, particularly the response to COVID-19; and c) promoting efficiency-saving measures including austerity measures, negotiation for rescheduling of debts, deferment of debt servicing, etc. 4. Inculcating principles of social cohesion and community resilience in the overall public sector development planning and for the socio-economic response to COVID-19 by establishing systems and processes through which citizens and communities can participate in and benefit from public sector development programmes. Specifically, this means: a) introducing well-tailored social dialogue and political engagement, grounded in fundamental human rights such as peaceful assembly, freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, freedom of expression, access to information, gender equality and the inclusion of women, non-discrimination, amongst others.

6.3 The COVID-19's Socio-economic Impact Assessment and Response Plan:

- Short-term measures, to minimize, manage and mitigate the adverse, most pressing, and urgent impacts of COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of the people including their access to essential services and fundamental rights.
- Medium to long-term measures, to ensure a structural response - offering sustainable development and 'building back better' than before – to address the negative impacts of COVID-19. These include policy, regulatory and institutional measures as well as social and economic transformation⁵⁷.

6.3.1 The Federal Government's Fiscal Stimulus Package:

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet in its meeting on March 30, 2020 approved a fiscal stimulus package with an outlay of Rs. 1.2 trillion. The main components for businesses are (i) Rs 75 billion to enable the FBR to make payment against claims from the last 10 years for sales tax and income tax refunds and duty drawback; (ii) Rs 30 billion to pay duty drawback claims to textile exporters in the current financial year and (iii) exemption of advance tax on import of pulses and additional customs duty on soya bean, palm, canola and sun flower oil and seeds. In addition to the aforesaid, which were mentioned in the press release issued by the Ministry of Finance, the Prime Minister announced Rs. 100 billion allocations towards red

⁵⁷ [file:///C:/Users/Acer/Downloads/Pakistan%20-%20COVID-19%20Socio-economic%20Impact%20Assessment%20and%20Response%20Plan%201%20May%202020%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Acer/Downloads/Pakistan%20-%20COVID-19%20Socio-economic%20Impact%20Assessment%20and%20Response%20Plan%201%20May%202020%20(2).pdf) (pg 18-19)

payment of loans by the agriculture sector and SMEs. He also announced that the SBP shall direct banks to provide ‘easy’ loans to businesses that do not lay off employees in the midst of this crisis.

On April 3, 2020, the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance stated that Rs. 200 billion had been allocated for those who have become unemployed or require income support due to the restrictions imposed to combat the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus⁵⁸.

6.3.2 Special Incentive Package for Construction Industry:

On April 3, 2020, the Prime Minister announced a “Special Incentive Package for the Construction Industry,” which envisages a tax amnesty for investment made in the construction sector, fixed income tax regime for the industry, reduction in sales tax on construction material and reduction in provincial sales tax on construction services. Most significantly, the source of income of any investment construction shall not have to be explained, enabling previously untaxed and undeclared funds to be so invested without any adverse consequences. Furthermore, a fixed income tax rate will mean that fixed tax will be charged on a per square foot or per square yard basis, which will effectively reduce tax liability on builders and developers and reduce compliance costs. Any builders or developers carrying out construction in the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme shall have to pay only 10% of such fixed tax. The holding period for the purpose of capital gains tax on constructed property shall be reduced from 4 years to 3 years. Withholding tax on purchase of goods and services for construction industry (except steel and cement) will be reduced to zero. Federal legislation on the aforesaid package is yet to be promulgated⁵⁹.

6.3.3 Measures announced by the State Bank of Pakistan:

In the wake of the crisis, in two meetings on 17th and 24th of March 2020, of the [Monetary Policy Committee](#) of the SBP announced a cumulative reduction of 2.25% in the benchmark interest rate.

Furthermore, the SBP in its [notification](#) dated 20 March 2020 announced the following policies and measures:

1. SBP will provide refinancing opportunities to support banks in providing cheap credit at interest rates between 3 and 6% to exporters for working capital or new projects.
2. The matching amount for exporters has been reduced. As per the new performance requirements, export must be 1.5 times the amount of the borrowed funds. Furthermore, the date to meet the performance requirement has been moved from end June 2020 to end December 2020.
3. Exporters must now ship their goods within 12 months (previously 6 months) of availing subsidized credit schemes between January and June 2020.
4. Exporters will be able to avail credit under the Long Term Financing Facility between 1 January and 20 September 2020 if the exports amount to 40% of the total sales or USD 4

⁵⁸ <https://www.riabarkergillette.com/pk/covid-19-bulletin/>

⁵⁹ Ibid

million; a decrease of 10% or USD 1 million from the previous requirements. Additionally, the new projected exports performance measurement time period has also been increased to 5 years.

5. SBP has increased the time period for the realization of export proceeds from 180 days to 270 days and this provision will be granted on a case by case basis. Additionally, the time period for imported goods against advanced payment has also been increased from 120 to 210 days.

In a [notification](#) issued on 26 March 2020, SBP, in collaboration with Pakistan Banks Association (PBA), announced a relief package aimed at households and businesses. Relevant aspects of the announcement are highlighted below:

1. The Capital Conservation Buffer applicable to commercial banks has been reduced from 2.5% to 1.5%, increasing the loanable pool funds by Rs 800 billion.
2. The regulatory retail limit of Rs 125 million per SME has been increased to Rs 180 million to encourage banks to provide additional loans to SMEs.
3. Payments of principal loan obligations may be red by one year upon a written request submitted by the borrower before 30 June 2020. This ment will not be classified as a restructure/reschedule and will not affect borrowers' credit history.
4. Until 31 March 2021, loans that are rescheduled/restructured within 180 days from the due date will not be treated as defaults and banks will not be required to suspend the unrealized mark-up on these loans. Additionally, the timeline for classification of trade bills has also been increased from 180 days to 365 days.
5. To increase the borrowing ability, the margin call requirement of 30% against listed shares has been reduced to 10% and banks have been allowed to take exposure against the shares of their group of companies⁶⁰.

6.3.4 Measures Taken by Federal Board of Revenue:

The FBR issued a notification dated 20 March 2020 exempting custom duty, income tax and sales tax on all diagnostic support items including medical equipment for three months, which is stated to be extendable. The FBR had also granted an extension for submission of sales tax and federal excise returns for the tax period of January and February 2020 till 15 April 2020 and an extension in date of payment for the tax period of February 2020 till 12 April 2020. An extension in time limit for filing of goods declaration has also been granted. The filing of goods declaration for Import General Manifest filed between 17 March and 7 April 2020 had been extended to 25 days.

Sindh Board of Revenue had granted extension to registered persons, including the withholding agents covered by the provisions of Sindh Sales Tax Special (Procedure) Withholding Rules, 2014, for E-Deposit of Sindh Sales Tax till 31 March 2020 and for E-filing of Tax Return till 10 April 2020 for the tax period of February, 2020. Other provincial tax collection authorities had also notified extensions. In addition to this, Sindh Infrastructure Cess on imports of testing kits and other medical devices required to treat COVID-19 were waived.

⁶⁰ Ibid

The Government of Punjab had also announced a tax relief package of Rs 18 billion comprising reduction to zero of rates of sales tax on construction services, services of doctors, private hospitals, marriage halls, catering, laundry, beauty salons, gyms, embroidery services, human resource development and online platforms, a “ring” of property tax and development cess on urban immovable property and reduction of Capital Value Tax and stamp duty on property transactions to 2%⁶¹.

6.3.5 Measures Taken by Courts:

A meeting of National Judicial Policy Making Committee (NJPMC) was held on 19 March 2020 under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, deciding that, due to the prevailing situation courts will remain open but the judicial work load will be reduced.

The Sindh High Court and the Lahore High Court had issued notifications stating that they shall remain closed for all ordinary civil business till further orders and only urgent matters of criminal or civil nature shall proceed.

The Balochistan and Peshawar High Court issued notifications that they and all subordinate courts shall remain closed until 28 March 2020 for ordinary business and shall only hear urgent cases. They have not resumed ordinary business till date. It is expected that notifications extending the previous directions shall be issued by the High Courts.

The Islamabad High Court in its circular dated 16 March 2020 directed that only urgent matters shall be heard until 5 April 2020.

The Appellate Tribunal Inland Revenue in its circular dated 25 March 2020 directed that only stay applications etc. will be heard and decided by the respective benches at different cities. Further, the main appeals of urgent matters will be fixed and heard by the concerned benches on appropriate application till further orders. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) issued a memorandum stating that no adverse inference may be drawn for non-attendance in hearings and directed that cases may be adjourned in the absence of a request until 24 April 2020⁶².

6.3.5.1 Bails of Under-Trial Prisoners

On 24 March 2020, the Islamabad High Court granted bail to prisoners under trial for minor offences to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in prisons. Other provincial High Courts and subordinate court had also been entertaining bail applications of prisoners on grounds of the virus. On 30 March 2020, in an appeal against such order of the IHC granting bail, the Supreme Court of Pakistan restrained the grant of any bails on such grounds by the High Courts and Provincial Governments. Furthermore, the Supreme Court ordered that any bail orders issued but not implemented shall not be acted upon until further orders from the Supreme Court. On 1 April

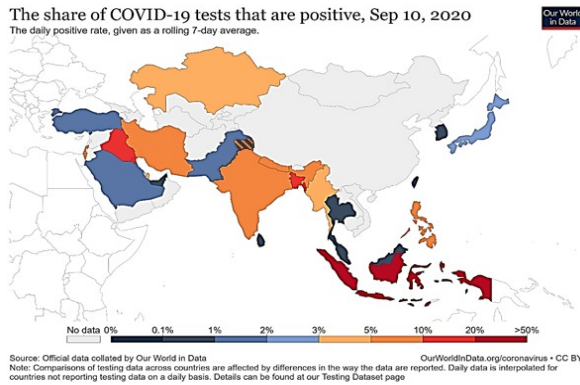
⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Ibid

2020, the Supreme Court ordered *status quo* to be maintained and directed the Inspectors General of Prisons across the country to furnish a report in respect of prison populations and capacity, categories of prisoners: women/elderly, nature of offences and whether convicted or under trial. Interestingly, even though this has no direct nexus with the issue of grant of bail to prisoners, in its order of 1 April 2020, the Supreme Court directed the Federal Government, Provincial Governments, Government of Gilgit Baltistan and the administration of Islamabad Capital Territory to furnish a report on the expected threat of the further spread of the Novel Coronavirus, measures adopted by them to deal with the outbreak and the state of readiness of hospitals⁶³.

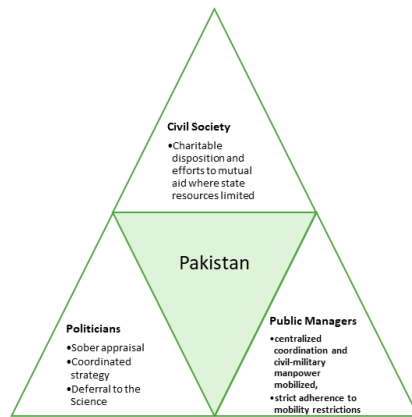
Why Pakistan is a Success Story against COVID19 in the Region & World?

Pakistan claims a success against COVID19 on the basis of strategic effort and multipronged strategy devised and implemented by the government and followed by the public at large as mentioned in the *Triangular Diagram*⁶⁴. However this is being said that the number of COVID cases in Pakistan are lower than others in the region because the government has not carried out desired number of tests as shown in the *map*. Pakistan's positive testing rate is less than 2% and when we compare it with number of deaths as mentioned in the *graph of confirmed COVID-19 deaths*⁶⁵ the situation in Pakistan looks better than neighboring India in the region as well as Brazil & USA at global level.



the situation in Pakistan looks better than neighboring India in the region as well as Brazil & USA at global level.

A Strategic Triangle Approach to Pakistan's Coronavirus Efforts



⁶³ Ibid

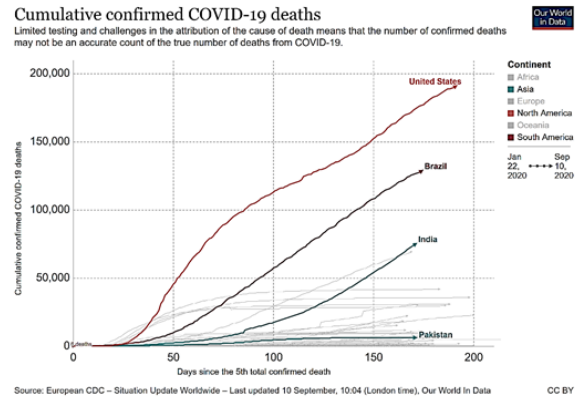
⁶⁴ <https://casstt.com/post/pakistan-india-two-public-value-paths-in-the-coronavirus-pandemic/254>

⁶⁵ Ibid

panic and responded steadily by learning from other's experiences. Countrywide lock down was avoided at the first place despite criticism from some people at home and abroad. Provincial and city level partial lockdown strategy was adopted in the beginning and then it was transformed into countrywide lockdown for one and half months.

According to the working paper on COVID 19 by Centre for Aerospace and Strategic Studies, there are policy and structural level contributors in the so called so far success of Pakistan. At policy level Pakistan decided to keep its economy open, stimulus package was announced and delivered timely, civil society was given more space than usual and protected its rural areas while adopted the partial and smart lock down strategies. Above than all tireless efforts of healthcare providers as frontline soldiers against COVID-19, sanitary workers for keeping our cities clean, postal and bank employees for delivering pensions and *Ehsaas*⁶⁶ emergency cash grants to more than 15 million beneficiaries in due time.

Furthermore certain structural strengths & weaknesses of Pakistan have also contributed in this success. Today Pakistan is a country of young people as 70% of its population is less 30 years therefore this demographic strength might have worked to defeat COVID-19 as young people believe to have better immunity than older people. Obesity was also considered a major reason for COVID-19 related death and cases whereas only 8% Pakistanis are facing obesity. Pakistan is a highly conservative culture and most of the people follow religious teachings very strictly regarding use of liquor and other such products which may be considered injurious to health. Central air conditioning in the high rise buildings was also believed to be great source of spread of COVID-19 in many parts of the world but Pakistan's urban design is comprised of low rise housing and corporate buildings, therefore very few sites of central air-conditioning effects. BCG vaccine which is believed to be helpful in building immunity against COVID-19 has



⁶⁶ <https://www.pass.gov.pk/>

benefited Pakistan as almost every child/ young person in Pakistan has got BCG injection at least once in life to protect themselves against tuberculosis (TB). Although WHO denies this that BCG has any positive effect on COVID-19⁶⁷.

⁶⁷ [https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/bacille-calmette-guérin-\(bcg\)-vaccination-and-covid-19](https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/bacille-calmette-guérin-(bcg)-vaccination-and-covid-19)

Chapter 7: Challenges and Assessments

7.1 Civil Society Actions in the Wake of COVID19:

Many NGOs and CSOs, charities remained engaged in relief and public support interventions across Pakistan. Government had also eased the working environment and regulatory requirements for the smooth sailing and financial transactions of NGOs during the COVID 19 pandemic. Upon the demand of CSOs/NGOs exemption letter for signing of MOUs with Economic Affairs Division was withdrawn for six months⁶⁸. This facility gave sigh of relief to many organizations receiving foreign funding. Very few CSOs and their platforms were highlighting challenges related to human rights, women rights and other socially excluded groups including minorities, Dalits, transgender community, women headed families, orphans and elderly people. Some organizations like HRCP, Pakistan Development Alliance and AwazCDS-Pakistan have recorded responses of citizens on initiatives taken by Government.

7.2 The HRCP's analytical fact-finding study finds that the pandemic has eroded people's trust in, and respect for, ruling institutions and the governing elite. The health emergency has exacerbated existing structural discrimination and inequalities, and laid bare misplaced socioeconomic priorities. The report includes a survey of a cross-section of citizens countrywide, of whom only 25pc thought the steps taken by the federal government had been effective in tackling COVID-19. Around 94pc felt that wage labour had been the most affected by the pandemic. More than half were concerned that religious minorities would be discriminated against in the distribution of relief items or access to healthcare, and around 70pc felt that women had become increasingly vulnerable to domestic violence.

Women's health, employment, and domestic abuse are areas of special concern that need immediate attention. Governments and civil society must not lose sight of the vulnerability of religious minorities, persons living with disabilities, the elderly, and transgender persons, especially in terms of their access to healthcare and aid distribution. The problems identified in access to online education and connectivity must be rectified at the earliest. Serious attention must also be paid to the state of Pakistan's prisons, which are especially susceptible to infectious diseases.

HRCP believes that there is a defining time for government at all levels as their performance will be judged in relation to how they have handled this crisis, and there is much that can still be done to mitigate its effects. The report has recommended that the federal government must bring back parliamentary oversight to all decision making, and address institutional imbalances in the interest of democracy. The collaborative and coordinated policy effort must involve the federal, provincial and district governments in order to put forward a united front⁶⁹

⁶⁸ <http://www.ead.gov.pk/Sitelimage/Misc/files/COVID-19.jpg>

⁶⁹ <https://www.dawn.com/news/1570247>

7.3 Citizens responses taken by AwazCDS-Pakistan:

AwazCDS-Pakistan and its **46** partner organizations are working together in **45** districts across the country including A J & K and Gilgit Baltistan under its Ujala Program.

During COVID-19 pandemic, AwazCDS-Pakistan and its partners conducted observational surveys⁷⁰ during relief work carried out by governments and CSOs to observe some of the basic indicators like accessibility, taking care of health & safety protocols, transparency in cash transfer, witness discipline and coverage of most vulnerable sections of society like PWDs, transgender, minorities / other socially excluded groups etc.

Out of 129, 74.42% sites were the distribution points of Ehsaas cash grants; Whereas, 25.58% sites were of non-governmental/ private charities where ration, food and other essential items including sanitizers, masks and soaps were distributed among needy.

1. Observers were asked if the distribution points were reachable and in the easy access of people, 87.6% observers responded yes whereas 12.4% of observers did not agree and found the distribution places distant and hard to reach.
2. 68.2% Observers witnessed that measures and protocols for health & safety were followed at most of the distribution locations, whereas 31.8% observers found the distribution points untidy and unhygienic.
3. Social distance was not maintained completely in any of the province and region. Nationally, 55.8% observers were satisfied on maintaining social distance by people while distribution activities were carried out and 44.2% observers were not satisfied.
4. The non-serious conduct of people towards the adherence of safety measures and protocols as only 27.9% observers confirmed that people were following protocols to keep themselves safe from COVID-19.
5. The distribution staff were observed abiding by the safety protocols by using gloves, masks, sanitizers etc. as stated by 69% observers but still 31% observers stated that distribution staff and other co-workers did not follow government's directives regarding personal safety protocols.
6. Separate places for PWDs were not allocated at distribution points with average 61.24%. Other than allocation of separate areas, it was also observed that there was no such arrangement of wheelchair, ramps etc. for the deserving PWDs who were there for collecting their cash. TGs were also not given priority during the distributions of cash grants and other relief items except in Punjab with 35.71% agreement of observers.
7. Only 37.21% observers agreed for the availability of separate places for elderly people so they could not wait for long and not to get mixed in large gathering as elderly people are supposed to get virus easily due to their fragile health conditions.

⁷⁰ <http://awazcads.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Observational-survey-findings-on-Ehsas-Cash-Grant-Distribution.pdf>

8. During cash distributions, elderly people were also somehow given priority to receive Ehsaas cash grant on urgency basis as confirmed by 57.36% observers.
9. Most of the staff found friendly and helpful. Cash amounts were given to people with their complete contentment. In case of any issue like missing finger prints of any elder person, staff was found sympathetic and supportive in explaining them the issue and way out for claiming their amounts.
10. 95.5% observers confirmed that people were provided with complete amounts and proper evidence and record were being maintained through bio-metric verifications. Nobody was given amount in absentia or in place of relative of any beneficiary or if biometric was not verifiable at Ehsaas cash grants distribution centers⁷¹.

7.4 National assessment of Leaving No One Behind in times of COVID-19⁷²

AwazCDS-Pakistan and its 44 Ujala partners carried out an other national survey in their respective 44 district headquarters to collect citizens' responses on some of the basic indicators included information of Ehsaas Cash Grant Program, its process and challenges faced by them. They also tried to understand how much vulnerable groups are aware from Corona virus, their economic challenges, status of behavioral changes, inclusion of most vulnerable groups of society and if elected representatives have played their role in educating and facilitating public⁷³.

The findings are based on 3,997 responses received from 44 districts including 10 districts from each of the four provinces and 02 each from Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

	Punjab		KP		Sindh		Balochistan		AJK		GB		Total	
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Women Headed Family	31.8%	314	43.3%	363	34.0%	394	43.5%	276	37.8%	76	43.8%	77	37.5%	1500
Person with Special Abilities or family member	24.7%	244	28.0%	235	27.0%	313	33.4%	212	58.2%	117	34.1%	60	29.5%	1181
Religious Minority	19.6%	194	17.0%	143	24.4%	282	19.2%	122	3.0%	6	22.2%	39	19.7%	786
Transgender Community	23.9%	236	11.7%	98	14.6%	169	3.9%	25	1.0%	2	0.0%	0	13.3%	530
Total	100.0%	988	100.0%	839	100.0%	1158	100.0%	635	100.0%	201	100.0%	176	100.0%	3997

⁷¹ <http://awazcnds.org.pk/observational-survey-on-ehsaas-cash-grant-distribution/>

⁷² <http://awazcnds.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Survey-findings-Leaving-no-one-behind-during-COVID-19.pdf>

⁷³ <http://awazcnds.org.pk/national-assessment-of-ehsas-cash-grant-program-lnob/>

Out of total, 37.5% women headed families, 29.5% PWDs, 19.7% Religious minorities and 13.3% Transgender community were surveyed. Sindh came out with highest number of respondents (1158) engaged followed by Punjab (988) and KP (839). Some of the findings are shared below:

1. **90.73%** women headed families, **93.48%** PWDs, **91.86%** Religious minorities and **89.06%** Transgender out of total respondents from the respective categories shared that they are aware of Government's Ehsaas Cash Grant Program.
2. Out of all four categories, 70.72% respondents told that they received timely response from Ehsaas Cash Grant. 67.66% respondents shared they have received validation from them but only 27.01% have received cash grant.
3. Out of all four categories, **91.45 %** respondents expressed that they received complete amount of PKRs 12,000/- as per Government's promise. But only **32.97%** respondents were happy from the cash amount as they think this is minimum amount being provided in this difficult time.
4. Out of 3384 respondents, **91.9%** said that they have faced economic changes at family level due to corona virus. From all four categories, **64.70%** respondents stated that they are facing economic distress/ less income whereas, **52.55%** shared they became unemployed due to economic situation in COVID-19.
5. When asked about the satisfaction on health services provided by Government in times of COVID so only **36.50%** shared their response of "satisfactory". Whereas, Religious minorities found least satisfied with health services during COVID with **34.10%**. Among provinces, AJ&K remained at top with least satisfied with **81.59%** followed by Balochistan and KP with **71.65%** and **67.70%** respectively.
6. Though, respondents were found very concerned about their children's education as **87.77%** respondents think that education of their children is badly affected by corona virus. Women headed families were found most concerned about children's education with **90.33%**. Among provinces and regions, AJ&K came out with highest % considering children' education is badly affecting with **99%** followed by KP and GB with **92.97%** and **91.48%** respectively.
7. Among provinces, KP came out with highest % of 88.32 to share that mental distress has increased among people followed by Punjab, AJ&K, Sindh and GB with 83.50%, 83.08%, 81.09% and 80.11% respectively.
8. 56.67% respondents believe that violence against women including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. 58.20% women from category "women headed families" agreed with the increased rate of violence against women.
9. 33.73% respondents believe that violence against transgender community including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. 59.250% transgender from category "Transgender" agreed with the increased rate of violence against them.
10. 55.92% respondents believe that violence against children including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. out of all four categories, Transgender came out with high % with opinion of increased violence against children with 57.55% followed by women headed families with 56.20%.
11. 41.78% respondents believe that violence against PWDs including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. 52.64% transgender

agreed with the increased rate of violence against PWDs followed by PWDs themselves with 41.66%.

12. While asking about the discrimination, 26.72% respondents of category “Religious minority” shared that they have faced discrimination during COVID period. Out of that, not being included into relief package came out as highest form of discrimination with 59.05%. Overall, 47.37% people think that they were not provided with any relief package.
13. Among provinces, 93.03% respondents from AJ&K shared that no elected representative came for their facilitation during COVID followed by second highest % in Balochistan with 87.56%.
14. However, overall 39.03% respondents were satisfied from Governments’ initiatives to tackle Corona virus. But at the same time 83.49% respondents expressed that government should continue awareness campaign to protect people from COVID-19.

Chapter 8: Action Plans and Proposals for Future:

Following action plans are proposed as follow up of KMDF2020 related to,

COVID-19:

1. Since the second wave of COVID-19 is expected in Pakistan and in the region therefore a robust sensitization campaign for public awareness may be launched through media and civil society based on the past learning & experience
2. Multi-stakeholder's consultative processes to understand impacts of COVID-19 on human development policies and structures at national and regional level to suggest appropriate and doable way forward

SDGs:

1. COVID-19 has shattered the economies across the world that will have implications on global human development instruments like SDGs. Financing for SDGs was already miserable and after COVID-19 it is expected to be further decline so what will be the future of SDGs? Civil societies at national and regional level may initiate multi-stakeholders dialogue and suggest appropriate measures on how to achieve SDGs in the current scenario?
2. Many national governments have prepared their SDGs National Priority Framework to achieve SDGs in due time however this is important that CSOs should also develop Civil Society Priority Frameworks on SDGs at national and regional level. Such frameworks would be helpful in holding governments accountable on their global and national commitments

Democracy, Civic Space and Human Rights:

1. Today democracy, civic space and human rights are in danger in Pakistan and in the region whereas all the nation states have commitments under various national and global instruments including Constitutions, laws, UN conventions, SDGs etc. It would be good to identify government commitments related to democratic values & culture including civic spaces and human rights to develop **Civic Charter of Demand**.
2. Multi-stakeholders dialogue among parliamentarians, media, political parties, CSOs, academics, labour unions and private sector may also be initiated at national and regional level to achieve demands under Civic Charters.

Annexure (A):**COVID-19 Pandemic Chronology -Pakistan**

January 1, 2020 to October 10, 2020

Date	Global / National Events
2019 Dec. 31	China - 27 cases suspicious of COVID-19 in Wuhan, China discovered and reported
Jan 29, 2020	Four Pakistani students studying in China were tested positive for COVID-19
Jan 30, 2020	WHO declares “Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)”
Feb 23, 2020	Pakistan closes its border with Iran after 43 cases were reported in Iran
Feb 26, 2020	First two cases of COVID 19 were officially confirmed by PM Special Assistant on health
March 2, 2020	Pakistan closed its border with Afghanistan
March 10, 2020	Sindh provincial government imposed temporary ban on marriage halls, tea stalls, after 11: 15 at night
March 11	WHO Declares Pandemic
March 11, 2020	Pakistani consulate in Milan, Italy announced first death of a Pakistani in Brescia
March 13, 2020	Pakistan stopped all international flight operations except for Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore
March 13, 2020	National Security Council decided that all educational institutions remained closed until April 5, 2020
March 13, 2020	Parliament of Pakistan suspended its legislative business due to COVID 19
March 16, 2020	Pakistan reached first 100 cases of COVID 19
March 16, 2020	Pakistan completely sealed its borders with China
March 16, 2020	Local and higher judiciary announced lockdown – only urgent and important civil and criminal nature cases were to be heard until August 2020.
March 17, 2020	Pakistan Super League (Cricket Tournament) postponed
March 18, 2020	First two deaths due to COVID 19 reported in Pakistan
March 21, 2020	All types and national and international, intercity air / road travel banned
March 21,	Shopping malls, markets, offices , public areas and parks were closed

2020	officially
March 24, 2020	Three Provinces announced lock down
March 24, 2020	Prime Minister approved PKRs 1.2 trillions (USD 8 Billion) economic relief packages
March 25, 2020	Pakistan reached first 1000 cases of COVID 19
March 27, 2020	Prime Minister announced youth Tiger Force to help government against the spread of COVID 19 nationwide
April 1, 2020	Government started delivering Ehsaas cash grants of PKRs 12000 to 12 million destitute families for three months
April 2, 2020	National Command & Operation Centre (NCOC) was established to combat COVID 19
April 12, 2020	Pakistan announced to bring back 4000 stranded Pakistanis from across the world through special flights
April 15, 2020	Deaths of 100 people reported due to COVID 19 in Pakistan
April 21, 2020	Pakistan re-opened its air space and airports for international travels
April 22, 2020	Pakistan reached 10000 cases of COVID 19
May 7, 2020	It was reported that more than 500 health care providers in Pakistan are infected by COVID 19
May 9, 2020	Lock down ended in Pakistan
May 10, 2020	Smart lockdown announced across the country based on COVID situation
May 11, 2020	Parliament of Pakistan resumed its business to discuss COVID 19 situation
May 21, 2020	Death toll reached up to 1000 people
June 8, 2020	Pakistan reached 100000 cases of COVID 19
June 14, 2020	Highest number of COVID case 6825 reported in one day
June 20, 2020	Pakistan opened up its borders with Afghanistan, China and Iran after COVID 19
June 20, 2020	The highest number of deaths in one day was 153
June 28, 2020	Pakistan reached 200,000 cases of COVID 19
July 10, 2020	Death toll reached up to 5000 due to COVID 19
July 12, 2020	Regional Assembly elections in Gilgit Baltistan State postponed
August 10,	Market shopping malls, hotels, parks and other public places opened up

2020	in Pakistan
August 10, 2020	Number of cases reported 539 as on the day when lockdown lifted
September 11, 2020	Pakistan reached 300,000 cases of COVID 19
September 15, 2020	Lock down on educational institutions lifted
September 15, 2020	Number of COVID cases 404 as of the educational lock down was lifted
September 23, 2020	Gilgit Baltistan Assembly elections re-announced to be held on November 15, 2020
October 10, 2020	Total number of cases reach up to 318932
October 10, 2020	Total number of recovered cases 303458
October 10, 2020	Total number of death 6570
October 10, 2020	Micro lockdown was imposed in Karachi areas until October 15, 2020
October 10, 2020	Micro lockdown imposed in some parts of Islamabad

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Annexure (B):

KMDF National Monitoring Report 2020 SWOT Analysis & Assessment - COVID-19 and Civic Space

Pakistan	
Strength <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large and inexpensive workforce• Economic corridor prospects with China• Willingness for implementation of SDGs• Democratic practices prevailing from last decade.• Pakistan's poverty reduction strategy is implemented.• Continuous efforts for accountability and transparency to eradicate corruption in the country.• Strategic geopolitical positioning of Pakistan for economics, trade and international relationship.• Counter terrorism strategy did wonders.• Dealing with COVID proved as brilliant strategy.• Reform and strengthening of political institutions in the country.• Currently, 64 percent of the nation is younger than 30 and 29 percent of Pakistanis are between 15 and 29.• Natural resources including minerals and marines.	Weakness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instable political situation in the country.• Less harmonization between bureaucracy and Government.• Lack of data and monitoring mechanisms for evidence based policy;• Weak governance and less accountability mechanism• Inadequate coordination among different department of government.• Less engagement with private sector for tapping resources.• Lack of local government system in the country.• Gap of SDGs localization.• Violation of basic human rights.• Less force of Health Care providers.• Influence of religion in the country.• Less engagement of Government and civil society.• Huge population with less resources.• Less educational level cause spread of rumors• Low level of awareness.• Shrinking spaces of Civil society• Lack of implementation on existing laws and policies.• Uneducated and unproductive youth bulge• Political victimization has increased• Drastic increase in inflation rate

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity • CPEC interventions and all weather friendship with China. • Partnership for development in regard to SDGs with Private sector for international investment. • Scope and potential of digitalization of economy and business. • Huge potential of Blue economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat • High level of international debt • COVID-19 pandemic disrupts NGOs' activities and funding opportunities. • Due to the economic recession, people are becoming less concerned about social issues. • Conflicted relationship with neighboring country India. • Foundation of existence of COVID 19 is still unknown. • Geopolitical position of Pakistan brings high security risk. • Impact on the daily life, work, and psychology of the public due to pandemic. • Impact of COVID 19 on the National economy
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