

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Plus Programme

## Background & Project Overview

The SDGs Plus Programme is a second-generation initiative that builds on the foundation laid by the National Initiative for SDGs (2016–2023), jointly implemented by the Government of Pakistan and UNDP.

It focuses on strengthening whole-of-government policy integration, developing resilient institutional capacities, expanding partnerships with the private and non-government sectors, and mobilizing innovative financing mechanisms. In parallel, the initiative promotes innovation and inclusive approaches to place Pakistan on a more stable and forward-looking path toward achieving the SDGs.

It is grounded in an integrated framework built around three strategic objectives, positioning national and sub-national governments as central drivers of the SDG agenda. As a result, the programme ensures sustained political ownership and deepens commitment to coordinated, cross-sectoral development solutions.

## Quick Facts



### Duration

2024–2030



### Implementing Partners

Federal and Provincial Governments, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, private sector, academia, media, civil society, UN agencies, UNDP Pakistan



### Funding Partners

Sindh, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Provincial Planning and Development Departments, UNDP



### Location

Islamabad, Sindh, KP, Punjab



### Total Budget

US\$5.2 million



## Objectives

- Address policy and governance challenges, with a focus on reducing regional disparities — particularly in the least developed areas affected by the 2022 floods. This includes strengthening capacities for transformative governance, advancing reform and digitalization efforts, and aligning Public Sector Development Plans (PSDPs) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs) with priority SDG targets.
- Mobilize innovative Financing for Development by unlocking diverse sources of funding and leveraging new financial instruments to support sustainable development outcomes.
- Mainstream gender, inclusion, and innovation across national, sub-national, and local development planning and implementation, ensuring that development solutions are equitable, inclusive, and forward-looking.

## Impact

Through targeted policy interventions, the project directly supports the federal and provincial governments, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, UN partners, and the private sector in mainstreaming the SDGs and formulating effective policy actions to advance their implementation.

## Key Interventions



### Policy and Governance

Strengthening institutional capacities by training over 250 government officers through the National School of Public Policy on SDG-aligned planning. The programme is supporting the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives in promoting equitable development across 20 of the least developed districts while clarifying mandates of National and Provincial SDGs Taskforces to ensure coherence and accountability in implementation.



### Financing for Development

Mobilizing private sector capital by partnering with the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry and improving public finance strategies through collaboration with UNESCAP. The programme is supporting the establishment of a Debt Management Wing within the Economic Affairs Division and introducing innovative tools such as debt swaps and SDG-linked bonds. Pakistan's \$2.8 billion SDG-aligned portfolio is being showcased globally, alongside the launch of the SDG Investor Map 2023. A \$7.9 billion pipeline of 44 climate-focused projects is being advanced, with feasibility studies for the 2025 SDG Investor Fair in Seville. The initiative is also scaling gender- and climate-resilient investments in partnership with IBA and JS Bank and encouraging youth-led innovation through national Innovation Challenge Cups and development conferences.



### Gender and Inclusion

Mainstreaming gender across provincial SDGs efforts by launching a gender equality campaign and strengthening gender data systems through the Punjab SDGs Unit. Through different initiatives, the programme is enhancing the skills and employability of marginalized women through targeted training programmes in Sindh. In KP, it is promoting inclusive dialogue on gender-based violence in collaboration with the KP Commission on the Status of Women and Blue Veins, ensuring that provincial development planning remains responsive, inclusive, and equitable.