

Goal 2

ZERO HUNGER

2 ZERO
HUNGER



Country Context

Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the fifth largest population on the planet with 213.6 million people,¹ is a sovereign state situated in a geo-strategic location at the junction of middle East and central Asia. Bereft of Quaid's dream for a welfare state, social development has been off the mark with 22.4 million Out of School Children,² 56.3% Out of Pocket Expenditure in health,³ and 29.5% population living below poverty line.⁴ Exclusionist policy patterns marginalizing governance has led to country ranking at 147th out of 188 in Human Development Index⁵ and 143rd out of 144th in Global Gender Gap Index.⁶ Moreover, marginalization of key strategic sectors has led to funding diversions away from social development, barely allocating 3% of the GDP each for Education, Health and Social protection.⁷

With a GDP of \$279 billion (2017 est.),⁸ Pakistan is categorized as a lower middle-income country. Economic stability has been a constant uphill battle with public debts and liabilities escalating up to 74% of GDP.⁹ The country is ranked at 171 out of 188 countries in terms of GDP per capita (PPP) of \$5,400 (2017 est.)¹⁰ while unemployment stands at 6% without factoring in statistics from informal economy which employs almost 70% of the country's workforce.¹¹ Gini index estimates 30.7% inequality with disparities as wide as the income share held by the lowest 10% at 4% against that of the top 10% at 26% (2013 est.)¹² in Pakistan.

In hindsight, political institutions in their formative years - mainly adapted from the colonial rump - were barely able to withstand extraconstitutional maneuvers¹³ in the absence of a strong nation-building consciousness. This resulted in successive instability of civilian governments followed by political proxies and status-quo representatives, beguiling under democratic pretexts. Weak democratic structures led to the absentia of populace from democratic processes and crippled country prospects in socio-economic and political spheres with implications long into its future. This is evident of the country rankings at 110th in Democracy Index¹⁴ and 20th among Failed States rankings in 2018.¹⁵ Fret over it not though, for Quaid's optimism guides our course:

The story of Pakistan, its struggle and its achievement, is the very story of great human ideals, struggling to survive in the face of great odds and difficulties.ⁱ

Amid international isolationism, national calamities and social fragmentation, democratization of state and social institutions is the moral and political imperative. It is essential that we promote critical education and discourse to bring forth analysis that helps adequately influence policy mandates for a just, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan.

ⁱ M.A. Jinnah, Address to the people in Chittagong, March 23, 1948

Agriculture Sector

Despite tremendous prospects with 21% share in the GDP, employing 44% of the labor force and 78% of the country's export (directly or indirectly through food, textile and leather),¹⁶ the agricultural sector has recently been marginalized in governmental priorities resulting in a relative decline in the past few years. One of the major deterrents is water stress resultant of water scarcity, low user charges and limited storage potential which has resulted in agricultural productivity remaining way lower than international benchmarks on crop yields per hectare and per cubic meter of water.¹⁷ The other issue is that current agricultural subsidies are inadequate, with their concentration on specific crops at the expense of diversification; insufficient for not reaching out the small farmers;¹⁸ and patronized by political affiliations. The sector's tremendous potential could be unlocked by redirecting political will to enact fundamental reforms in agricultural governance to address the issues of food insecurity leading to zero hunger.

- 1. Provision of conducive agro-environment for small landowners should be ensured by offering access to adequate subsidies focused on diverse agricultural products.**
- 2. Wide range agricultural subsidies and credit schemes for small landowners is a strategic input with the prospects of raising the standard of lives and poverty alleviation of the most marginalized.**
- 3. Biotechnology should be combined with indigenous expertise to excel in organic farming, low-cost irrigation techniques and livestock production.**
- 4. Interlinkages and technical support should be provided to agro-processing industries for enhanced quality of production.**
- 5. Hegemonic patterns in water distribution and land acquisition need to be addressed in favor of small landowners and marginalized communities.**
- 6. Sensitized policy action should focus on conservation of finite resources and sustainable use of marine and sea life.**

¹ Government of Pakistan. (2017). *Provisional Summary Results of 6th Population and Housing Census – 2017*. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Retrieved August 23, 2018, from <http://www.pbs.gov.pk/content/provisional-summary-results-6th-population-and-housing-census-2017-0>

-
- ² Government of Pakistan. (2015). *Pakistan Education Statistics*. National Education Management Information Systems. Retrieved September 11, 2018, from <http://library.aepam.edu.pk/Books/Pakistan%20Education%20Statistics%202015-16.pdf>
- ³ Government of Pakistan. (2017). *Pakistan Economic Survey 2017/18*. Ministry of Finance. Retrieved August 21, 2018, from http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_17/10-Education.pdf
- ⁴ United States Government. (n.d.). *The World Fact Book*. Central Intelligence Agency. Retrieved August 19, 2018, from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2004rank.html>
- ⁵ UNDP. (2016). *Human Development Report 2016*. Retrieved September 07, 2018, from http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2016_human_development_report.pdf
- ⁶ World Economic Forum. (2017). *The Global Human Capital Report 2017*. Retrieved September 07, 2018, from <https://weforum.ent.box.com/s/dari4dktg4jt2g9xo2o5pksjpatvawdb>
- ⁷ Government of Pakistan. (2017). *Budget 2017/18*. Ministry of Finance. Retrieved September 11, 2018, from <http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/Budget%20in%20Brief%202017-18.pdf>
- ⁸ World Bank. (2018). *World Bank Data/Pakistan*. Retrieved September 17, 2018, from <https://data.worldbank.org/country/pakistan>
- ⁹ Government of Pakistan. (2018). *Pakistan's Debt and Liabilities - Summary*. State Bank of Pakistan. Retrieved September 14, 2018, from <http://www.sbp.org.pk/ecodata/Summary.pdf>
- ¹⁰ United States Government. (n.d.). *The World Fact Book*. Central Intelligence Agency. Retrieved September 11, 2018, from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2004rank.html>
- ¹¹ United States Government. (n.d.). *The World Fact Book/Pakistan*. Central Intelligence Agency. Retrieved August 20, 2018, from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pk.html>
- ¹² World Data Atlas. (2018). *GINI Index/Pakistan*. Knoema Corporations. Retrieved September 13, 2018, from <https://knoema.com/atlas/Pakistan/topics/Poverty/Income-Inequality/GINI-index>
- ¹³ Tudor, M. (2015). *Pakistan's Security State of Mind*. Cambridge Journals/Perspectives on Politics, 13(04), 1097-1102. Retrieved September 04, 2018, from <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/perspectives-on-politics/article/pakistans-security-state-of-mind/71A9A5FFA5B65766110425AE774E9502>
- ¹⁴ The Economist Intelligence Unit. (2017). *Democracy Index*. Retrieved August 21, 2018, from http://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIO-438/images/Democracy_Index_2017.pdf?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWkRkbU1HWmxNVEUwTW1FdyIsInQiOiJpdlltVFV0b1FRQzZNVERCZHhVeitZRElmcUgplOHh3NWs1d2wzVzdRS1JvNU1kVmUxOVRESU9LbEVSOVwvR1F4aG1PV1NIS0ZZcng4NzBcLzVNZ09JOUxiZU5TTEVPekVHayttOTRqQkQ
- ¹⁵ Fund For Peace. (2018). *Fragile States Index*. Retrieved September 07, 2018, from <http://fundforpeace.org/fsi/data/>

¹⁶ World Bank. (2017). *Pakistan Development Update*. Retrieved September 04, 2018, from <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/536431495225444544/pdf/115187-WP-PUBLIC-P161410-77p-Pakistan-Development-Update-Spring-2017.pdf>

¹⁷ World Bank. (2017). *Pakistan Development Update*. Retrieved September 04, 2018, from <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/536431495225444544/pdf/115187-WP-PUBLIC-P161410-77p-Pakistan-Development-Update-Spring-2017.pdf>

¹⁸ World Bank. (2017). *Pakistan Development Update*. Retrieved September 04, 2018, from <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/536431495225444544/pdf/115187-WP-PUBLIC-P161410-77p-Pakistan-Development-Update-Spring-2017.pdf>