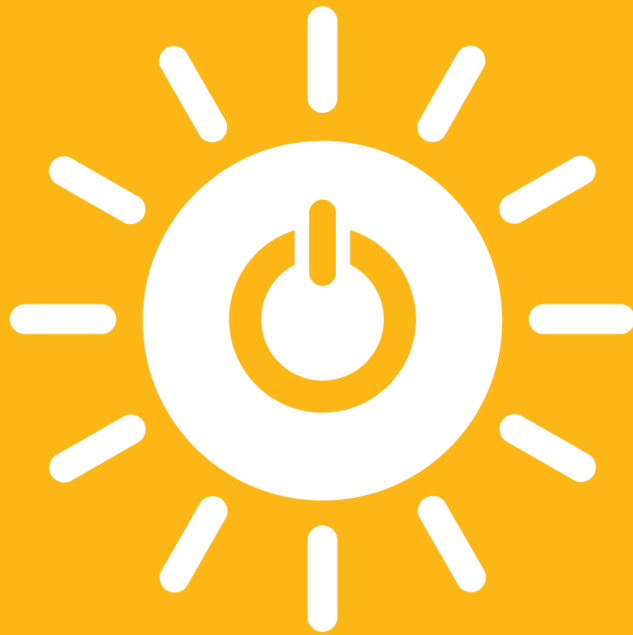


Goal 7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



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

Affordable and Clean Energy

Pakistan is among countries still struggling with balancing rising energy demands vis a vis transition to clean renewable energy sources. The country is faced with various challenges including unsustainable energy mix, continuous rising demand, transmission infrastructure, inadequate monitoring leading to corruption and inequitable financing. The currently operational micro-hydel projects are unsustainable due to high maintenance costs and dependence on seasonal source of water. The reliance on oil-based energy production has an exacerbating effect on the country's carbon footprint vis a vis ever escalating oil prices that keep increasing the cost of production affecting peoples' affordability. Reckoning the projected demand of 35,000 MW by 2030, the country requires rapid transition to clean energy sources. The country has focused transition of the energy mix to clean, green and renewable sources but requires substantive efforts and financing to achieve that ambition. This requires fundamental reforms in electricity production, transmission, distribution, robust governance and transition to clean energy sources.

1. **Energy policy requires several reforms focusing transition to renewable sources and high efficiency with lower production costs for sustainable green energy future**
2. **Investments need to be upscaled in renewable energy sources compared to traditional models to gradually phase out unsustainable patterns**
3. **Enhanced access (availability and affordability) to clean energy for all need to be prioritized**
4. **Transition to solar and wind power generation projects need to be upscaled for a smooth transition to affordable clean energy**
5. **Integrated planning could also complement country capacity to rid off fossil fuels through climate friendly transportation systems in future**
6. **Harmful subsidies to the fossil fuel industry need to be curbed so that equitable financing could be channelled in sustainable sources**
7. **The international community must mobilize technical, technological and financial support for developing countries for smooth transition to clean and affordable energy**

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