

1. Description of Country Context

With some 187 million people, Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world and, one of the youngest, with nearly two-thirds of the population under 25. In 2015, inflation decreased to 3.4% and growth accelerated. It is expected to be further boosted by the agreement on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Despite this progress, according to the Human Development Index, Pakistan' ranks 147 out of 187 countries. This reflects high levels of inequality, widespread unemployment and human insecurity and an overall multi-dimensional poverty rate of 45.6%. Women and girls remain disadvantaged compared to their male counterparts. Minorities face deep discrimination and some communities are subject to sectarian attacks.

Pakistan suffers from deep human development disparities and imbalances between and within provinces and regions: more than 60% of the population of FATA lives below the poverty line and 92% of women are illiterate, which is significantly higher than the national average.

Relative to other countries in South Asia, Pakistan's performance on the MDGs was weak. After Afghanistan, Pakistan has one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates; the highest rate of out of school children, the lowest gender parity in primary education; and the lowest female labour force participation rate in the region. Gender-based discrimination against women and girls is pervasive and significantly impeded realisation of the MDGs and if not ended, will continue to hamper progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With 1.54 million registered Afghan refugees, Pakistan continues to host for over 30 years, the world's largest number of protracted refugees. 64% are children and youth, nearly 50 % are girls, the majority of whom are the second or third generation born in Pakistan.

Security threats remained significant in 2015 with 625 terrorist attacks, although this marked a decline of 48 percent from 2014. Despite significant incidents on the Line of Control throughout 2015, the year ended with a rapprochement between Pakistan and its neighbours India and Afghanistan.

As part of the National Action Plan put in place to in December 2014, military courts were established to expedite the trial of suspected terrorists. In March 2015 the moratorium on the death penalty was lifted for all cases, not only those related to terrorism. According to some estimates, there are more than 8,000 prisoners on death row with concerns expressed that among those executed were those who were minors when the offence was committed.

The massive polio eradication campaign continued in 2015, yet despite progress, Pakistan remained one of two countries in the world with polio. The number of polio cases nationally substantially decreased from 305 cases in 44 districts in 2014 to 53 cases across 18 districts. Pakistan must interrupt transmission by May 2016 in order to meet the eradication goal of 2019.

Pakistan is the seventh most vulnerable country to natural hazards and ranks the third on the list of countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In 2015, there were heatwaves in Karachi, unseasonable flash floods in Chitral, several earthquakes in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, as well

as the continuing drought in Sindh and Balochistan, all demonstrating the need to reduce the risks from disasters.

2. Highlights on Progress on joined up work

2.i.Support to the national government to achieve SDGs/ Agenda 2030

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan consider the MDGs a lost opportunity and the SDGs providing the platform for a paradigm shift in the national development discourse. Due to the UN's advocacy and technical support, the Government of Pakistan was among the early adopters of SDGs.

In line with United Nations Development Group (UNDG) guidance on UN wide support to the national institutions on Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) for the 2030 Agenda / SDGs, the UN in Pakistan jointly provided support to the Government of Pakistan to commence the localisation and implementation of SDG agenda. Under the overarching guidance of the RC and UNCT, an inter-agency technical working group on SDGs was established in September 2015. This technical working group aimed to ensure coordination with all agencies and that their inputs were taken into account.

With the support of UNDP, in collaboration with other agencies, the Planning Commission of Pakistan held a National Consultative Workshop on the SDGs on 7th October to initiate discussions on SDGs localisation in Pakistan and to gather inputs for a Pakistan SDG Action Plan. Further support was provided to prepare the SDG localisation roadmap. Presided over by the Minister for Finance, Sindh and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, and supported by the UN Resident Coordinator, the first provincial level SDG localisation workshop was held in Karachi, Sindh on 21st December 2015. In addition to provincial government, participants included representatives from civil society and the private sector, as well as the UN.

In partnership with the UN, the federal government and two provincial governments, Sindh and Punjab respectively, signed agreements to establish SDG support units which will ensure mainstreaming and localization of SDGs in national and sub-national policy frameworks and provide adequate monitoring capacity.

On the implementation level, UN agencies provided dedicated technical support to their areas of expertise to focus on achieving specific SDGs. Building on the progress made towards the MDG education goal, SDG 4 (Quality Education) was one of the first areas discuss implementation. The Federal Ministry of Education, held a national consultation on 2030 SDG 4 on 15th December, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO, and UNHCR. The consultation brought together all partners to initiate a discourse and build a common understanding of the new agenda among national and provincial education stakeholders.

Improved coordination of UN activities in the provinces

As part of the One Programme (OP) II management arrangements, and in response to the devolution of responsibilities to the provinces, joint UN-Government Steering Committees (PSC) were established in all provinces and regions. The steering committees are co-chaired by the provincial government and the UN. Provincial governments have welcomed this initiative as it fosters ownership, inter-departmental coordination and accountability for results at the provincial level. Government-led technical working groups have been established in some provinces to

address operational issues and support the PSCs. Although the steering committees became operational in 2014, the first PSC meeting in Pakistan Administered Kashmir was held in 2015. PSC meetings also took place in Balochistan, Sindh, KP and Punjab.

Established in September 2014, the Provincial Programme Teams (PPTs) were rendered operational in 2015. As complementary bodies to the Programme Management Team at the central level, these structures have improved programming and promoted One UN principles at the provincial level. PPTs are now operational in Balochistan, KP, Gilgit-Baltistan, Punjab and Sindh.

2ii. Support to integrating the Human Rights Based Approach

The UN consistently considered its obligation to protect and promote human rights as vital to the development programmes in Pakistan. However, the discourse in 2015 between the UN and the Government on human rights has been based on available 'strategic points of entry' rather than on a sustained and open dialogue on joint development priorities, and Pakistan's realization of its international commitments.

Advocacy for human rights as well as the UN's role in this, was a primary goal in 2015. The UN's on-going political analysis, allowed it to balance advocacy with sustained partnerships to remain relevant in the context of Pakistan. The UN engaged with national and international partners, facilitating and actively participating in dialogues and events. Initiatives included the organization of the joint UN-EU film festival to commemorate Human Rights Day as well as celebrate the UN's 70th anniversary. Films from all over the world focusing on human rights were shown in public venues, including universities, throughout the country. This initiative was well received by all. This advocacy campaign helped to reposition the image of the UN's position with international partners as the global custodian of international human rights instruments and processes that are of relevance for the government (Treaty Reporting, Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review).

As delineated in the UN Pakistan's human rights work-plan, considerable effort was put into improving the perception within the UN team of human rights, emphasizing it as an organizational imperative and basic principle. Information products and guidance were provided to the UNCT to ensure that the UN speaks with one consistent voice on human rights issues. At the technical level, dedicated training sessions on human rights and the human rights-based approach were held, in addition advocacy was done by the RC/UNCT, to espouse respect for diversity, equality, non-discrimination and other human rights principles as a basic part of organizational culture. The annual One UN planning and reporting workshop 2015 in November further served to reinforce the elements of the human rights-based approach.

The One Programme II, the framework for all UN work in Pakistan was developed using the human rights based approach. All interim reviews and assessments have similarly included human rights. Furthermore, the protection and promotion of human rights are specifically identified as a dedicated strategic priority area (SPA 5). Within this context, the UN in Pakistan maintained close links with all relevant UN human rights bodies, such as OHCHR.

In 2015, the work of the UN in the area of governance, humanitarian assistance and the rule of law led the UN Pakistan team to assess its own compliance with the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). UN Pakistan translated the recommendations of its HRDDP review into on-going programming. The assessment also contributed to the Rights Up Front initiative of the Secretary General.

The measures taken to mitigate the risks from the UN and/or staff being implicated human rights violations included thematic human rights initiatives, such as training to selected law enforcement entities as well as rights-compliant processes, including promoting accountability of the police

through existing provincial structures; project design and monitoring in a participatory manner, through consultation with civil society. In response to multiple requests from law enforcement institutions, the UN provided human rights training courses and ad hoc support.

2.iii. Progress in preparedness, crisis and post-crisis transition results

Preparedness and Humanitarian Response

The UN system continued to work closely together with federal and provincial governments to ensure effective planning and preparedness to support humanitarian needs. The capacity development efforts of the UN in preparedness and response is bearing fruit, with provincial governments being increasingly able to respond to ad hoc emergencies such as the earthquakes that affected Northern Pakistan in the last quart of 2015. The UN provided support to the victims of the flash floods in Chitral and is supporting recovery initiatives, and limited assistance was provided in the areas affected by the earthquake. The existing humanitarian and recovery plans to support the IDPs from FATA and their host communities, as well as to support returns were effectively implemented. By the end of December 2015, the return of 113,311 families had been supported, and the remaining 188, 863 displaced families continue to receive support.

Under the Humanitarian Coordinator leadership supported by OCHA, the Humanitarian Country team finalised the Pakistan Humanitarian Strategic Plan for 2016, which provides the basis for strategic planning. The plan aims to provide essential support to 3.6m people with a total resource requirement of US\$442million. In line with UNDG and OCHA guidance on resilience work, the 2016 Humanitarian Strategic Plan is linked to the One Programme II through the interlocking of its strategic objectives. For the first time, refugees have been included in the Plan, and it is exemplary in terms of inclusion and gender sensitivity.

FATA Recovery and Rehabilitation Strategy

Lying on the border with Afghanistan, and being considered in the past a hub for the Taliban, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) has long been the poorest and most geopolitically vulnerable region in Pakistan. Extended military operations initiated in 2014 aimed to address the security threats in the area made over 1.6 million persons displaced and caused wide-spread destruction. Rebuilding the impacted FATA districts and promoting human development and economic growth are critical components to the broader peace and security agenda.

With technical support from the UN system, the FATA Secretariat launched the FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy (SRRS) in April 2015, and the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Unit was established to provide an effective governance mechanism for the recovery process. This Unit has supported the preparation and approval of a wide array of recovery and reconstruction initiatives and has helped mobilize over US\$ 400 million for FATA.

Under the umbrella of the FATA Sustainable Recovery and Rehabilitation Strategy, the UN and a group of key donors (USAID, UK, EU, Japan) devised a joint intervention plan that aims to promote stability and peace in the area through incorporating development principles into the humanitarian response, and seizing opportunities from the very beginning to start restoring national capacity, livelihoods and peaceful conditions for development. Over US\$ 60 million were mobilised for the implementation of the FATA SRRS by promoting this approach.

The response builds upon the participating agencies' comparative advantages and past experience of dealing with similar crises in Pakistan and other countries. The coordinated UN response to this complex challenge, resulted in a more effective early recovery effort and produced a visible impact

on the returning IDPs. Returnees to FATA received a targeted, comprehensive package of support which included improved food security and livelihoods, governance and access to basic services such as health and education. For example, in Bara district, around 10,000 returnees are being supported, 51 Village Development Committees have been established; 273 micro infrastructure schemes have been completed; and 74 Km link road and 517 Km irrigation channels rehabilitated. The irrigation channels are expected to irrigate an estimated 4,300 acres of agricultural land.

In line with the integration of considerations of sustainable returns, the UN supported the FATA secretariat to develop the Agriculture Action Plan (AAP). Launched in September 2015, a key component of the Plan was to assist 93,600 families to resume agriculture-based livelihoods and link them with longer term development activities. By the end of 2015, 28,200 families had been assisted.

3. Results of joined up work

3.i. New Partnerships formed in 2015

Cop21 & the Environment

The UN agencies in Pakistan working on climate change (FAO, WFP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIC, UN-Habitat, and ILO) partnered with the Embassy of France and key environment NGOs to support Pakistan's preparations for the COP 21 talks held in Paris at the end of 2015, on climate change.

A joint UN-French Embassy consultation with major donors on climate change was held in Islamabad in May 2015. The meeting initiated a discourse amongst partners and facilitated an information exchange on support to Pakistan's preparations for the COP21 conference. To broaden the discourse, a national conference on climate change, "Pakistan Sey Paris", co-organized by the French Embassy, UN, numerous civil society organizations, NGOs and think tanks was held in Lahore in October 2015. The objective was to engage civil society on the topic of climate change and to discuss "made in Pakistan" solutions. Several UN agencies showcased their efforts in climate change adaptation and mitigation in thematic pavilions set up as part of the event. Although participation from the Government of Pakistan in the COP21 discussions was limited, the UN is positioned to provide substantive support in this area at federal and provincial levels.

SG's Action Plan for Youth

The UN in Pakistan continued its efforts to implement the Secretary General's Action Plan for Youth at the country level and to contextualise the youth agenda to ensure the integration of the principles of social cohesion, peace and stability as highlighted in Vision 2025, the SDGs and the OPII. For the first time, the UN in Pakistan collaborated with the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), to support the Government to address the issue of youth employment. As part of a regional initiative, a "Needs Assessment Conference on Youth Engagement, Skills Development and Employment Facilitation in Pakistan" was held in Islamabad on 13th-14th May 2015. The event was jointly organized by the Prime Minister's Programme for Youth and the UN. The conference was attended by educational institutions, relevant educational policy developers and managers, civil society from all parts of the country, as well as the UN. Discussions revolved around identifying ways in which vocational, professional and educational institutions could raise their standards and provide more diverse and appropriate training opportunities to facilitate the entry into workforce. As a result of the workshop, a set of projects were identified which were subsequently deliberated upon by the UNCCT, Government of Pakistan and its partners.

3.ii. Highlights of results of joined resource mobilisation

Home-based Workers

UNWomen, ILO and UNIDO joined forces to support home-based workers, principally women, in the Punjab. US\$300,000 was mobilised from the Delivering Results Together Trust Fund (DRT-F). The joint project aims to develop and implement a gender responsive home-based workers policy via improving the evidence-base required and strengthening the capacity of 300 women from excluded groups. The project builds on the past success of development of the Home-based Workers Bill.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

Pakistan remains committed to the global SUN initiative. Through the collective efforts of FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP, US\$1.2 million was mobilised from the DRT-F in 2015 for the SUN initiative. This was in addition to the US\$ 358,863 mobilised from the DRT-F in 2014. The project extension builds on the success of the first project phase: the SUN Secretariat was successfully set-up to strengthen the coordination for policy coherence at the national level and to provide the technical support to the Nutrition Section of Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The additional funds allowed the UN to expand its technical support to multi-sectoral nutrition coordinating mechanisms and institutional structures at the federal, provincial and regional level, including policy, strategy, surveillance and assessment units. Support is also being strengthened to review and institutionalize provincial strategies, prepare operational plans, budget plans and monitoring frameworks.

Multisector Response and Preparedness

The donor environment is changing rapidly and the UN needs to be responsive. A consortium led by IOM and composed of FAO, UNICEF, IOM, HANDS and ACTED was established in July 2015 to mobilise funds from DFID. The consortium was granted UK£26 million over four years from the DFID-funded multi-year (2015-2019), to implement a multisector (shelter, WASH and food security/livelihoods), disaster preparedness, response and recovery program targeting 25 disaster-prone districts across Pakistan. While disaster responses are ongoing, the consortium is also targeting residual needs from previous disasters that have affected Pakistan. Since its inception, the consortium has responded to needs arising from both monsoon floods in Northern Pakistan and the October earthquake.

National Human Development Report

The need for better data and evidence to support planning has been highlighted in the SDG discussions. With youth making up two thirds of Pakistan's population, it is essential to integrate youth concerns into policy planning at all levels. UNDP, ILO and UNFPA mobilised US\$600,000 from the DRT-F in 2014 to support the development of the National Human Development Report on Youth (NHDR). The development process was completed in 2015 and the report will be launched in early 2016. The NHDR aims to provide credible analysis and policy recommendation to address some of the root causes hampering the effective participation of youth in national discourse. The report is guided by a high level Advisory Committee, chaired by the Minister of Planning Development and Reforms and has representation of policy makers, civil society, academicians and leading experts. A National Youth Perception Survey was conducted where approximately 7,000 young people took part in sharing their fears and aspirations on education, employment and engagement. In addition, 32 target groups of youth were identified (aged 15 to 29), ranging from minorities to marginalized communities and focus group discussions were held. Moreover, 72 consultations were successfully carried out throughout Pakistan with the collaboration of civil society, UN agencies, and the private sector from Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, FATA,

and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The NHDR 2015 process will be instrumental to identify relevant, evidence-informed policy interventions to improve the lives and opportunities for Pakistan's youth.

3.iii. Highlight innovations in programme and operations to address key development challenges

Polio Eradication

Pakistan made encouraging progress towards eradicating Polio in 2015. The number of children paralyzed by polio in 2015 dropped by 80%. The high number of polio cases in 2014 was attributed to the high numbers of child consistently missed by the vaccination campaigns. As of October 2015 the number of children missed was reduced to approximately 16,000 children, with a drop in number of cases to 53. The success of global eradication now depends on effectively interrupting transmission in focused geographical localities. Hence in 2015 the focus was on continuously missed children and to place front-line workers, particularly women, at the center of the polio eradication effort. Increasing the number of female cadre deployed as front line community workers was a top priority in order to increase access to mothers and children under five years of age. The response was implemented under the Government of Pakistan's National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for 2015–2016 and in collaboration with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners. All activities are now supported, supervised, monitored and evaluated by the network of Five Provincial Emergency Operation Centre's (EOCs); the National EOC is under the direction of provincial and federal governments. The number and quality of teams on the ground were greatly increased. The UN provided human resources to EOCs, support to front-line workers through training and technical assistance; improving surveillance; vaccine supply. By the end of 2015 over 4000 workers were deployed for continuous community protected vaccination (CCPV) in the highest risk districts in FATA and KP. Collectively they reached the door-step of 2.7 million children living in the polio virus reservoir areas.

Continuing the Polio Plus initiatives, the programme responded to the growing demands from communities for additional health services to protect their children's health in the highest risk areas. Over 1,800 health camps reached more than 480,000 people in the high risk areas of FATA, KP, Karachi and Lahore/Rawalpindi. Acceptance of the vaccine by communities reached 99 % in some parts of Pakistan, with more communities than ever before opening their doors to the vaccine. Furthermore, the polio program is now contributing to improvements to routine immunization through polio eradication staff revising micro-plans and monitoring of routine immunization sessions in selected districts and with the introduction of the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) both in campaign and routine modes. Vitamin A, crucial for the immune system and eyesight of young children, is distributed twice a year nationwide, targeting more than 28 million children aged 6-59 months through National Immunization Days (NIDs).

Business Operations Strategy & Innovation

After a development period of nearly a year, the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) was finalised in December 2015. The BOS articulates the UN in Pakistan's implementation of the "one office" pillar of the Delivering as One approach and is the result of the collaboration of all UN entities in Pakistan. Joint procurement was the main area identified in which substantial savings can be made. As part of the Strategy, the UN in Pakistan mobilised US\$68,000 from the UNDAF Innovation Fund in order to promote the adherence of UN operations to UN normative programming principles of human rights, environmental sustainability and capacity development. The OMT initiative seeks to develop protocols and procedural guidelines to carry out human rights and environmental sustainability due diligence assessments of all long term agreements. Also part of this initiative is to "green" the UN office premises both at the Islamabad and provincial level. In a second phase, it is hoped to build up a programmatic response to the issue that will be identified in order to build

capacity in service providers and businesses to become more observant of human rights and the environment.

4. Upcoming Opportunities for 2016

Support to SDG coordination and implementation

The SDGs will be a primary focus of the UN in Pakistan in 2016. Adopting the UN MAPS methodology, the UN will support the government to put in place adequate coordination and monitoring mechanisms and structures, as well as data, both at the federal and the provincial levels. At the same time, the UN will provide technical support and expertise to address individual SDGs. The focus will be on innovation and to initiate and/or expand dialogues with new partners, including the private sector.

FATA Sustainable Recovery and Reconstruction Strategy

Supporting the FATA Secretariat to implement the FATA SRRS, remains a priority in 2016. The UN will promote stability through coordinated and integrated immediate relief, development and good governance initiatives.

UNDAF roll-out

The UN in Pakistan has been operating within a common UNDAF since 2009. With the current One Programme II (2013-2017) expiring in 2017 and the shift in the global development paradigm, preparations for the new development of the next five-year common UN strategy and plan need to begin in 2016. The UNDAF development roadmap and the Common Country Assessment will be developed in 2016.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Following the COP 21 discussion in 2015, the climate change and environmental sustainability development discourse in Pakistan has been reinvigorated. In addition to deepening the UN's programmatic response, from climate change to disaster risk reduction, the UN system will strengthen its advocacy and expand its partnerships in this field. As the global convener of the climate change agenda, the UN will continue to support the Government to better coordinate climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Social Projection, Human Rights and Gender Equality

The SDG narrative is anchored in human rights principles, social equity and partnerships with all stakeholders, including the private sector. Towards the end of 2015 the National Human Rights Commission become operational and a new Ministry of Human Rights was established. The UN will leverage the operational space provided to reinforce its advocacy efforts in gender equality and human rights, whilst at the same time supporting the government to action these principles through greater engagement in social protection.

Census 2016

The Government of Pakistan is planning to carry out the national census in 2016. In order to address all aspects of the census from policy to implementation, the UN system will provide both technical and substantive support to the process.