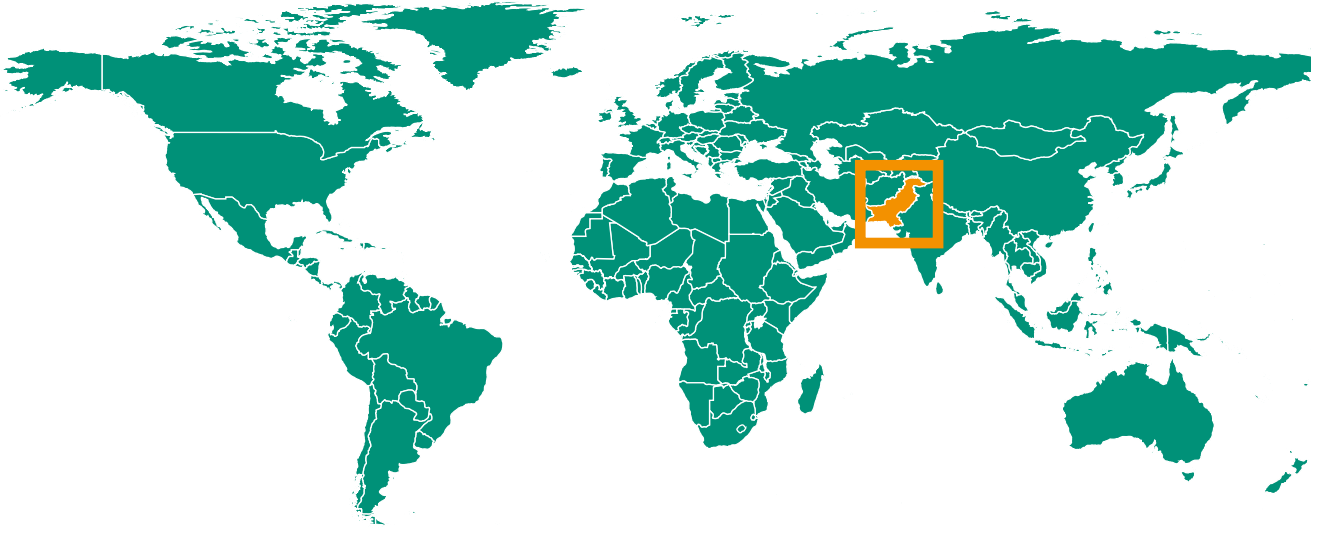


COUNTRY
PROGRAMME
DOCUMENT
2008 – 2009

PAKISTAN





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P.O. Box 30030, GPO 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Fax: + (254 20) 762 4266/7

E-mail: UN-HABITAT@UN-HABITAT.org

Website: <http://www.UN-HABITAT.org>

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FOREWORDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In April 2007, the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT approved our 2008-2013 Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan. This plan intends to promote the alignment of UN-HABITAT normative and operational activities at country level.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents (HCPD) are tangible components of this Plan as well as a genuine endeavour of UN-HABITAT to better coordinate normative and operational activities in a consultative and inclusive process involving UN-HABITAT's in-country focal points, UN-HABITAT Programme Managers, national governments, UN country teams, sister-UN agencies, development partners and all divisions of our Agency. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are strategic tools meant as a guide for all UN-HABITAT activities over a two-year period. A major dimension of the UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document is to advocate UN-HABITAT's mandate and address the urban challenges facing the world's developing countries.

The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents identify national urban development goals and priorities including shelter, urban governance, access to basic services and credit. Important cross-cutting issues such as the environment, gender, responses to disasters, and vulnerability reduction are also addressed. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents focus on UN-HABITAT country programming. They serve as a work plan for UN-HABITAT Programme Managers and a reference tool for national and local actors involved in sustainable urban development. Accord-

ing to the Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Action Plan adopted by the UN-HABITAT Committee of Permanent Representatives on 6 December 2007, twenty UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents are to be completed during 2008, including the One-UN Pilot countries where UN-HABITAT is active.

In line with the United Nations reform process, UN-HABITAT Country Programme Documents seek to strengthen the role of the United Nations and to demonstrate our commitment. I wish to thank our UN-HABITAT Programme Managers for their input and dedication and for putting together these documents under guidance of the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division and with support from all branches and programmes of the Agency.

Anna K. Tibaijuka
Executive Director, UN-HABITATs

MINISTER



I appreciate the efforts of UN-HABITAT Country Office in Pakistan for developing the first Habitat Country Programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Government of Pakistan. I also like to thank the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for valuable support extended in the reconstruction of earthquake affected areas of Pakistan.

2. The UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document has been prepared in parallel to the UN Joint Programme. The Ministry of Environment participated in its preparation together with all concerned partners including consultations with Provincial Governments to capture the needs and translate them into sustainable proposal and action plan for growing urbanization in Pakistan.

3. The Country Programme Document, on the one hand reflects the contribution of UN-HABITAT and other UN agencies in Delivering as One in Pakistan, and on the other hand strongly supports the sustainable urbanization process to which the Government is fully committed, in its efforts to reduce poverty and improve the welfare of our people.

4. The sustainable urbanization action plan which is a part of the Country Programme will strengthen urban planning and contribute towards

achieving the Millennium Development Goals through a people-centered approach. It is an approach that builds partnerships between local government institutions, and civil society actors and organizations. The key focus will be in the areas of urban planning, urban water supply and sanitation, slum up-gradation and disaster preparedness and mitigation in secondary cities.

5. The Ministry looks forward to continued fruitful collaboration with UN-HABITAT and the implementation of UN-HABITAT Country Programme Document on the ground.

6. I wish to thank all those who made possible the preparation of this Country Programme Document particularly those who participated from all Provinces, international agencies and civil society organizations.

Hameed Ullah Jan Afridi
Minister for Environment
Government of Pakistan

SITUATION ANALYSIS

NATIONAL URBAN POLICY CONTEXT

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the world's 7th most populous and second largest Muslim nation, after Indonesia, with a population of about 160 million.

Current trends in urban development remain uncontrolled and unguided and are highly unsustainable. Despite a well developed legal framework, a number of local good practices and significant national expertise, fragmentation and overlapping of responsibilities at all levels makes addressing these issues complex. Very little is achieved in implementing the existing set of policies covering human settlements and housing. This situation has resulted in exacerbating urban poverty amidst a rapidly growing urban economy. The social unrest and instability in the cities is attributed to this gap between the rich and the poor in the urban areas.

The devolution process initiated in 2001 through the application of the Local Government Ordinance provides a progressive framework for improved governance. However, the rapid implementation of this radical change without appropriate supportive measures, especially in terms of capacity building, results in the fact that the positive impact of devolution is yet to be seen.

Access to urban land and secure tenure remain the key issues for the urban poor. Informal settlements continue to grow faster than the regularisation of Katchi Abadis. Access to basic services, especially water and sanitation in informal settlements, has a major impact on the health and productivity of the slum dwellers. Access to housing for the urban poor is equally difficult, resulting in very low quality, overcrowding and inadequate shelter for slum dwellers. Gender mainstreaming is a key issue to ensure that the particular needs of women are properly addressed, the promotion of women's rights being one of the most urgent human rights issues in Pakistan.

The lack of effective implementation of the devolution process and the issue of capacity of local governments contribute to the fact that urban planning and management remains an ad hoc, crisis driven exercise, which neither guide nor make the best out of the rapid urbanisation phenomenon experienced by Pakistan. Capacity of municipal authorities is close to nonexistent in secondary and small urban centres.

The level of vulnerability to multi-hazards including flooding and earthquake in Pakistan is very high. The effect of climate change on the country vulnerability is believed to have the potential to rapidly become dramatic. These threats are a menace, particularly to human settlements and housing as seen in the recent 2005 earthquake and 2007 floods.

While for the first time Pakistan looks at its future as an urban future (especially in the Vision 2030), the tremendous challenges related to human settlements and housing are not adequately reflected in the development agenda of the government and its partners. Several factors have been identified that explain this situation: (a) in many instances there is no clear understanding of the nature of the problems, their underlining causes, their impacts on the poor and the way to address them, (b) there is no urban 'champion' to advocate for the urban poverty agenda, the positive contribution of urban development and cities as engines of development, and (c) there is no platform bringing together those who relate to human settlements and housing issues (those who are affected by the issues, those who contribute to the issues and those who have expertise, information and capacity to address these issues).

Until the 1990s Pakistan made only modest progress in reducing poverty and improving the welfare of its people. Since the beginning of 2000, the government initiated a wide-ranging and ambitious reform programme, which has resulted in a dramatic turnaround. In 2004/2005, the GDP grew by over 8%. Pakistan expects to maintain the growth trajectory of around

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Urbanisation (2008)

- Total population: 167 m
- Urban population: 60 m (36 %)

Annual growth rates (2005-2010)

- National: 1.8 %
- Urban: 3 %

Major cities (2008)

- Karachi: 12.4 m
- Lahore: 6.7 m
- Faisalabad: 2.6 m
- Islamabad / Rawalpindi: 2.5m

Source: UN DESA

Slum indicators

- Slum to urban population: 48 %

Source: UN-HABITAT, 2005



Preparing the daily meal
© UN-HABITAT /V.Wijaya

7-8 percent per annum, which will enable Pakistan to join the ranks of middle-income countries by 2030.

Pakistan has grown much more than other low-income countries, but has failed to achieve social progress commensurate with its economic growth. Many economists consider the reform process as purely growth and not equity oriented with little or no effect on reducing poverty. The poor are being left behind and one third of the population still lives in poverty. Differences in income per capita across provinces have persisted or widened. The North Western Frontier Province and Baluchistan remain the poorest provinces of the country with areas in southern Punjab and Sindh also suffering from severe poverty.

According to the MDG Report 2006, the overall rate of poverty which had increased to 34.5 percent in 2001 has been brought down to 23.9 percent in 2005. In terms of the Human Development Index, Pakistan stands at 134 out of 177 countries and ranks last in South Asia. If the Millennium Development Goals are to be met, a drastic change of approach towards social development and policy measures specifically addressing gender inequalities will be required.

The overall situation in Pakistan has been exacerbated in recent years by a number of natural disasters, notably the 2005 earthquake in the north of the country

and more recent episodes of drought and floods in the south. Another factor that is putting additional burden on Pakistan is the presence of a large number of refugees from Afghanistan, estimated at still over 2 million.

In addition, since 2001 there has been a marked deterioration in the security situation linked to the US-led global 'war on terror' and the rise of militant Islamic groups. As a result, there are now certain areas of the country where the normal operation of government agencies has had to be suspended.

Part one of the HCPD is divided into three of the five mutually reinforcing focus areas of UN-HABITAT's Medium-Term Strategic institutional Plan for 2008-2013, as approved by the Governing Council in 2007.



Rapidly growing urban centres. Gilgit, Northern Areas
© UN-HABITAT / M. Stephenson

FOCUS AREA 1: PARTICIPATORY URBAN PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

THE HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND HOUSING SECTOR POLICY CONTEXT

Pakistan is still a rural country, with two-thirds of the population still living in rural areas. However, Pakistan is already the most urbanised country in South Asia, with some 58 million people living in cities. This number is increasing at a rate of 3.3 percent which is three times faster than in rural areas. The urban population is expected to rise by another 70 – 80 million by 2030. This will mean 120-130 million urban dwellers, or nearly two-thirds of the total population.

urban poverty that, if not properly addressed, can lead to greater social instability and severe alienation.

The majority of urbanisation in Pakistan is unplanned. The expansion of almost all urban centres is through the development of katchi abadis on state land; through the informal subdivision of agricultural land; or through the densification of the inner cities. The majority of the urban population lives in these settlements and the densified inner cities. The government agencies have not been able to service the physical and social needs of these settlements. As a result, communities are organised to manage certain aspects of development and the informal sector has supported them in the provision of water, jobs, solid waste management and health and education services. The effectiveness of the informal sector and the nature of its relationship with communities

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