



PAKISTAN

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TO GENDER EQUALITY

A Quick Reference on Gender Indicators in ADB Priority Sectors

Laws and programs at the national and provincial levels in Pakistan promote women's rights. The Constitution of Pakistan serves as a strong legal framework to achieving gender equality and women empowerment as it promotes the fundamental rights of women. As a signatory to various international conventions including the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the country has enacted various laws such as the Enforcement of Women's Property Act 2020, Zainab Alert, Response & Recovery Act 2020, Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2018, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2020, National Commission on Status of Women (NCSW) (Amendment) Act 2018, and the Women in Distress and Detention Fund (Amendment) Act 2018 to strengthen institutions and protect the rights of women and minorities. Moreover, the country has also amended specific sections of the Criminal Law Offenses relating to rape and the pretext of the Honor Act



Women of Pakistan. Women contribute significantly to Pakistan's economy and food security (photo by Syed Muhammad Rafiq/ADB).

2016, and has passed the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act, Anti Women Practices Act, and Acid Crimes and Control Act were passed to improve women's legal representation and protect them from gender-based violence (GBV).

In addition, the provincial governments of Pakistan have created an enabling environment to safeguard women's rights. These laws include the (i) Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act 2012 and Punjab Partition of Immovable Property Act, (ii) Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act 2016 on domestic, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse, and (iii) Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act 2014 on early child marriages. Moreover, policy frameworks and corresponding strategies to promote gender equality and women empowerment at the provincial level are put in place through the following: Provincial Human Rights Strategies notified by the Government of Punjab and Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab Women Development Policy 2018, Women Empowerment Policy Framework notified in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the formulation of a national-level policy guidelines on GBV.

Following the establishment of the first GBV court in Lahore, the Supreme Court directed the establishment of specialized GBV Courts in Pakistan's 116 districts that offer specialized legal aid to GBV victims in a friendly and safe environment.¹ Violence Against Women Centers (VAWCs) were also established in Punjab to provide housing facility and medical support for GBV survivors. Shelter homes and crisis centers to provide free helpline services were also established at the federal and provincial levels, and finally, Women Ombudsperson Offices were established to protect women against harassment in their workplace.

The country has demonstrated advancement in gender-responsive policies and in some aspects of human development. However gender disparities are glaring in key gender indicators. In 2016, ADB published the Country Gender Assessment that analyzed the gender situation in Pakistan and the gender equality barriers in ADB priority sectors. This reference on gender indicators in ADB priority sectors supplements these analyses and revisits selected development indicators in the country. It illustrates gains and challenges that impact Pakistan's efforts toward gender equality.

¹Zarizana Abdul Aziz and Maria Cecilia T. Sicangco, eds. 2021. *Court Companion on Gender-Based Violence Cases*. Manila: ADB.



Key Gender Indices

Pakistan's overall Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2019 is 0.557, placing the country in the medium human development category and ranking it at 154 over 189 countries and territories.⁵ The country's 2021 Global Gender Gap ranking is also extremely low at 153 out of 156 countries, with a score of 0.556.⁶ Social Institution and Gender Index (SIGI) value for Pakistan was 58.7% in 2019, with discrimination in the family at 79.8%, and restricted access to productive and financial resources at 60.1%, restricted civil liberties at 53.1%, and restricted physical integrity at 37.1%.⁷

⁵ UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York.

⁶ World Economic Forum. 2021. *Global Gender Gap Report 2021*. Geneva: World Economic Forum.

⁷ SIGI measures discrimination against women in social institutions and is built on 27 variables in 4 dimensions including discrimination in the family, restricted physical integrity, restricted access to productive and financial resources, and restricted civil liberties. The data were sourced from OECD. 2022. Social Institutions and Gender Index. <https://www.genderindex.org/ranking/?region=asia> (accessed on 7 February 2022).



Human development. Government initiatives promote human development and address barriers to women’s empowerment and gender equality (photo by Nasr ur Rahman/ADB).

Human and Gender Development Indices, 2015 and 2019

Indicators	2015	2019
Human Development Index - Female ²	0.449	0.456
Human Development Index - Male	0.608	0.612
Gender Development Index ³	0.739	0.745
Gender Inequality Index ⁴	0.541	0.538

Note: The 2021/22 Human Development Report will be released in the second quarter of 2022. (UNDP. 2021. 2021/22 Human Development Report to Explore Uncertainty in the Anthropocene. Accessed on 9 February 2022.)

Source: UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York. Accessed on 9 February 2022.

² A composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development – a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.

³ Ratio of female to male HDI values.

⁴ A composite measure reflecting inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions – reproductive health, empowerment, and labor market.

Population at a Glance

Demographic Data, 2015 and 2019

Category	% of total population	
	2015	2019
Total population:	199.4M	216.6M
Rural	127.5M (64%)	136.6M (63%)
Urban	71.9M (36%)	79.9M (37%)
Female	96.8M (48.5%)	105.1M (48.5%)
Male	102.6M (51%)	111.4M (51.5%)

Sources: World Bank. 2021. *Open Data. Population – Pakistan*; World Bank. 2021. *Open Data. Rural Population – Pakistan*. Accessed on 16 June 2021.



Pakistan's population. Women comprise half of the country's population. Majority of women are in rural areas (photo by Madiha Aijaz/ADB).



Rural women. Employment in the agriculture sector is a main source of livelihood for rural women. Improved access to land, income, and education are women’s concerns that ADB projects address (photo by Sara Farid/ADB).

Gender Gaps in Human Development

Economic Situation, 2015 and 2019-2021

Indicators	2015	2019	2020-2021 ⁸
Gross domestic product (GDP) annual growth rate (%)	4.7	1.0	3.94
Agriculture (% of GDP)	25.1	23.4	19.19
Proportion of population living below the poverty line (%)	24.3	24.3 (preliminary from 2015 data)	
Estimated gross national income per capita, female (in 2017 PPP \$)	1,393	1,393	
Estimated gross national income per capita, male (in 2017 PPP \$)	7,496	8,412	

Sources: ADB. 2021. *Online Key Indicators – Pakistan*; UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York; World Bank. 2021. *Open Data. GDP Annual Growth – Pakistan*. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Real Growth Rates of GDP at constant Basic Prices 2005-06. Accessed on 16 June 2021.

⁸ Partial data at constant basic prices of 2005-2006.



Economic Participation

Gender gaps in Economic Participation persist in Pakistan. As of 2019, the female share of employment in senior and middle management is extremely low at only at 4.2%.⁹ Based on the Global Wage Report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2018, Pakistan's overall hourly average (mean) gender pay gap was at 34%—the highest among 73 countries and is more than twice the global average. The report also showed that 90% of the bottom 1% of wage earners in the country are women, and only 9% belong to the top 1% wage earners.¹⁰

Labor force participation rate (% ages 15 and older), 2015 and 2019

	2015	2019
Female	23.9	21.9
Male	80.8	81.7

Source: UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York.

Employment in key sectors, 2013-2014 and 2017-2018 (%)

Sector	2013-2014			2017-2018		
	Both	Female	Male	Both	Female	Male
Agriculture	42.2	72.9	33.2	37.4	66.1	29.6
Industry	22.9	13.1	25.8	24.0	16.6	26.0
Services	34.9	14.0	41.0	38.6	17.3	44.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Ministry of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2018. *Employment Trends*.

⁹ UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York. Accessed on 26 April 2021.

¹⁰ ILO. 2018. 2018/2019. *Global Wage Report 2018/2019: What Lies Behind Gender Pay Gaps*. Geneva.

Business Owners ¹¹, 2014 and 2018

Share of Business Owners (% of total business owners)	2014	2018
Female	16.3	14.4
Male	83.7	84.3

Source: World Bank. 2021. *Gender Data Portal*.¹²



Asset Ownership

Assets	2013	2018
a. Land Ownership		
- Women who own land alone (% of women age 15-49)	2.0	1.2
- Men who own land alone (% of men)	13.4	9.8
- Women who own land jointly (% of women age 15-49)	1.8	0.8
- Men who own land jointly (% of men)	16.5	14.4
b. House Ownership		
- Women who own house alone (% of women age 15-49)	2.0	1.8
- Men who own house alone (% of men)	39.8	30.7
- Women who own house jointly (% of women age 15-49)	7.4	1.4
- Men who own house jointly (% of men)	34.2	35.1

Source: World Bank. 2021. *Gender Data Portal*.

¹¹ Based on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Demographic and Health Survey, definition of indicators can be accessed in World Bank Gender Data Portal. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/datatopics/gender>.

¹² Link for gender data, which can be customized based on data by country, indicators, and time period.



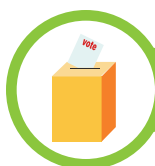
Financial Inclusion

Despite having the 2015 National Financial Inclusion Strategy in place, Pakistan is third among seven countries that has the largest number of unbanked adults—home to 6% (100 million) of the 1.7 billion unbanked adults globally.¹³ While there was a significant increase in bank ownership from 2014 to 2017, bank ownership by women remains low and insufficient, with a 30% points gap from men.¹⁴

Account Ownership (%), 2014 and 2017

	2014	2017
Bank		
Female	4.8	7.0
Male	21.0	34.6
Mobile Money (age 15+)¹⁵		
Female	2.2	0.8
Male	9.3	12.6

Sources: World Bank. 2017. *The Global Data Index – Measuring Financial Inclusion and the Fintech Revolution*. Washington, DC. Accessed on 29 April 2021; World Bank. 2021. *Gender Data Portal*.



Political Participation

Seats held in Government (%), 2016 and 2018

Indicators	2016-2019
Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament	20
Proportion of seats held by women in local government	16.9

Source: UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York.

¹³ World Bank. 2017. *The Global Data Index – Measuring Financial Inclusion and the Fintech Revolution*. Washington, DC.

¹⁴ Footnote 13.

¹⁵ Based on the USAID Demographic and Health Survey, definition of indicators can be accessed in World Bank Gender Data Portal. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/datatopics/gender>.



Paid and Unpaid Work

Time Use Survey, 2007^a

Activities	Female	Male
Sleep care (hrs/day)	8.85	8.7
Rest due to illness (hrs/day)	5.58	5.55
Rest and recreation (hrs/day)	1.70	1.43
Total share in unpaid care work, %	91.1	8.9
Time devoted to unpaid care work (hrs/day)	4.78	0.47
Time devoted to paid work (hrs/day)	1.30	5.37
Time spent on unpaid labor for own final use (hrs/day)	3.85	0.28
Time spent on providing caregiving services to household members (hrs/day)	0.92	0.15

^aThe 2007 data may be outdated but these are the only available data gathered from online research. Sources: Bureau of Statistics – Pakistan. 2007. *Time Use Survey*. Islamabad; ILO. 2019. *The Unpaid Care Work and Labour Market. An Analysis of Time Use Data based on the Latest World Compilation of Time Use Surveys*. Geneva.



Gender-based Violence

In 2019, provincial police reported 19,954 trafficking victims in 2019. This was an increase of 231 more victims compared to 19,723 in 2018. Among them, 79% (15,802) are female victims and at least 760 are bonded labor victims identified in Sindh and Punjab.¹⁶

Percentage of women who experienced violence in intimate partner relations, 2019	24.5
Child marriage, women married by age of 18 (% of women aged 20 to 24 years married or in union), 2018	18.30
Percentage of children (aged 5-17 years) engaged in child labor (economic activities and household chores), 2018	12.80
Female	12.90
Male	12.70
Percentage of women (aged 15-49 years) who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one of the specified reasons, 2018	41
Percentage of men (aged 15-49 years) who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one of the specified reasons, 2018	37

Sources: UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York; UNICEF. n.d. *Country Profile – Pakistan*.

¹⁶ United States Department of State. 2020. *Trafficking in Persons Report: Pakistan*.

Gender in ADB's Priority Sectors

ADB supports government's development efforts in the sectors of agriculture and natural resources, education, energy, health, public sector management, transport, and water and other urban infrastructure. The projects seek to close the gender gap by increasing women's increased economic empowerment; strengthening their participation in decision-making; enhancing capacities; and improving access to social services, water, and infrastructure.

Gender features of ADB projects in Pakistan:¹⁷

- Improving women's access to safe spaces, education, water, transport, health services, financial resources, and gender-sensitive urban and rural infrastructure
- Promoting economic empowerment through employment and other opportunities
- Mobilizing women to participate in agriculture, irrigation, and resource management
- Developing capacity on entrepreneurship, crop production, farm and water management, water, sanitation, and hygiene, and gender-based violence
- Producing of knowledge products for deeper understanding of sectoral issues
- Integrating gender in policies, design of development projects, and project management systems



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Percentage distribution of employed in Agriculture Sector, by Employment Status and Sex

	2013-2014		2017-2018	
	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers
Both	12.5	87.5	12.1	87.9
Female	14.2	85.0	12.0	88.0
Male	12.0	88.0	12.3	87.7

Source: Ministry of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2018. *Employment Trends*. Islamabad.

¹⁷ Description of gender design features of projects are based on available Gender Action Plan (GAP) updates as of September 2021.



Projects on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Subsectors covered:

- Irrigation
- Natural resource management – rural flood protection

Gender Design Features of ADB Projects	Gender Equality Targets and Achievements
<p>Access to infrastructure and other services Improving women's access to infrastructure for health, safety, and livelihood purposes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of gender design features in irrigation infrastructures such as water pads, cattle baths, and safety fences • Construction of family parks as safe space for women and children's recreational activities as well as for marketing of women entrepreneurs' products • Construction and rehabilitation of basic health units with gender-responsive facilities and health services offered • Construction and upgrading of primary schools and middle schools for girls • Installation of water supply outlets in strategic spots of the irrigation tributary system for household use • Establishment of a processing plant for fruits and vegetables for small-scale agri-businesses
<p>Economic empowerment Providing access to productive resources and other economic opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of women farmers in farm services centers • Provision of farm inputs to women farmers • Establishment of women-managed demonstration plots and women-led small-scale agri-businesses for fruits and vegetables • Provision of agricultural support services to women-managed home gardens
<p>Capacity building Developing skills for employment opportunities and natural resource management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of awareness-raising campaigns for women on health, hygiene, and disaster risk management • Establishment of capacity building programs on livelihood opportunities for home-based businesses, handicraft, food processing, advanced production technologies, kitchen gardening, farm management, water resource management, financial management, safe water usage, and kitchen gardening • Mapping of skills for employment and entrepreneurship opportunities
<p>Participation in decision-making Enhancing women's involvement in decision-making through participation in consultations and in water management structures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of women-only consultations on needs assessment • Inclusion of women in water user associations
<p>Knowledge management Conducting of studies on good practices and lessons from project implementation</p>	<p>Conduct of impact study on improved access to water for domestic use on women's time poverty.</p>
<p>Improvement in policies, programs, and systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating a gender lens in project monitoring system • Strengthening gender mainstreaming in policies and programs 	<p>Collection, monitoring, and reporting of project related baseline data and output using sex-disaggregated data</p>

Sources: Asian Development Bank. See for example, PAK: Trimmu and Panjnad Barrages Improvement Project: Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Trimmu Barrage.



Transport and Communication

Communication:

- As of 2018, 9.5% of the total female population use the internet¹⁸
- As of 2018, 72.6 per 100 people have mobile phone subscription¹⁹
- Mobile phone ownership in 2019-2020: females (25%), males (65%)²⁰

Transport:²¹

- 9 out of 10 trips are done by walking
- Women's mode of transport: walking, household automobile, public transport
- Men's mode of transport: walking, bicycle, household automobile, public transport



Percentage Distribution of Employed in Transport and Communication, by Employment Status and Sex

	2013-2014		2017-2018	
	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers
Both	53.4	46.6	50.4	49.6
Female	65.5	34.5	85.9	14.1
Male	49.6	50.4	50.2	49.8

Source: Ministry of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2018. *Employment Trends*. Islamabad.

¹⁸ UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York.

¹⁹ Footnote 18.

²⁰ Bureau of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2021. *Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (2019-2020)*. Islamabad.

²¹ Adeel, Muhammad. 2016. *Gender Inequality in Mobility and Mode Choice in Pakistan Transportation*. ISSN 0049-4488.

Projects on Transport:

Subsectors covered:

- National highways

Gender Design Features of ADB Projects	Gender Equality Achievements
<p>Access to infrastructure and other services Increasing women's access to elderly-women-children-disabled (EWCD) friendly infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of platform level boarding and safety design features for women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities • Construction of well-lighted non-motorized transport lanes with accessible bike parks and sidewalks with accessibility ramps • Installation of bike sharing system that provides gender-neutral bikes • Installation of CCTV cameras in bus stations and buses
<p>Economic empowerment Increasing women's access to employment and other opportunities for income generation</p>	<p>Establishment of commercial spaces for small women entrepreneurs</p>
<p>Participation in decision-making Involvement in project consultation activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of bus tour for women to incorporate women's feedback in designing the buses and bus stations such as: (i) height of grab rails; (ii) placement of manual ramps and restrain belts; and (iii) provision of separate restrooms, ticketing counters, waiting areas, seating section in buses for men and women • Conduct of satisfaction survey
<p>Capacity building Deepening the understanding of issues relevant to project beneficiaries</p>	<p>Awareness-raising campaign on (i) demonstrating ease of access, safety, comfort, and other advantages of the Bus Rapid Transit system; and (ii) educating the public against gender-based violence and provide helpline contact details in strategic areas around transport terminals</p>
<p>Improvement in policies, programs, and systems Integrating a gender lens in institutional guidelines and management system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of equal opportunity and social inclusion policy • Implementation of digitized complaint management system

Source: Asian Development Bank. See for example, PAK: Peshawar Sustainable Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Project.



Access to transport. ADB support to the transport sector ensures that women's mobility and safety are highlighted in project design and implementation (photo by Rahim Mirza/ADB).



The following information is based on the 2018 baseline study conducted by Women in Energy Network of Pakistan.²²

- Women only make up 3.6% of the total staff of 8 power utilities covered in the study (both public and private) during distribution, transmission and generation;
- Among the total number of engineers recruited, only 4.6% are women against the total number of engineers recruited;
- Female students only make up to 25% of the total enrolled students in BSc/MSc levels in engineering;
- On average, only 3% of employees in technical positions in the three Independent Power Producers are women;
- Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) only has 6% women employees, with 3.3% in technical positions;
- In distribution companies (DISCOs), women make up only 2% of the total employees, and of these, 4% are recruited in technical positions; and
- At the National Transmission and Dispatch Company, only 3% of the female employees are in technical positions as engineers.

Employment in the Energy Sector, by Employment Status and Sex, 2013-2014 and 2017-2018 (%)

	2013-2014		2017-2018	
	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers
Both	97.12	2.9	97.9	2.1
Female	100		100	
Male	97	3	97.8	2.2

Source: Ministry of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2018. *Employment Trends*. Islamabad.

²² Women in Energy Network. 2018. *Pathways to Power South Asia Region Baseline Assessment for Women Engineers for the Power Sector*.

Energy usage:

- As of 2015, renewable energy consumption from the total final energy consumption is 46.48%²³

Households' Access to Energy, 2019-2020 (in %)

	Pakistan	Balochistan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Punjab	Sindh
Electricity as source of light	91	77	86	96	87
Gas as fuel for cooking	48	35	30	50	57
Clean fuel for cooking, lighting, and heating	37	26	16	39	49

Source: Bureau of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2021. *Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (2019-2020)*. Islamabad.

Access to electricity:

- As of 2020, 91% of the households have access to electricity as source of lighting.²⁴


Percentage of Population with Access to Electricity, 2013 and 2018

Geographical location	2013	2018
Total population	70.8	71.1
Rural	55.5	54.4
Urban	98.5	100

Source: World Bank. 2021. *Open Data. Access to Electricity (% of population) – Pakistan*.

²³ World Bank. 2021. *Open Data. Renewable Energy Consumption – Pakistan*.

²⁴ Footnote 20.



Gender and energy. Promoting women's employment in the energy sector and participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education are key gender actions integrated in ADB's energy projects (photo by Syed Muhammad Rafiq/ADB).



Sectoral situation:

- Women make up less than 18% of STEM professionals.²⁵
- The highest percentage of female researchers that are engaged in medical and health sciences is at 48.3%, followed by humanities and arts at 45.5%, and natural sciences at 42.7%.²⁶
- As of 2019, the percentage of female (ages 25 and older) that has reached (but not necessarily completed) a secondary level of education is 27.6% compared to 45.7% of male (ages 25 and older).²⁷

Percentage Distribution of Employed in Education Sector, by Employment Status and Sex

	2013-2014		2017-2018	
	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers	Wage and salaried workers and employers	Own account and contributing family workers
Both	96.6	3.4	96.7	3.3
Female	94.5	5.5	95.4	4.6
Male	97.7	2.3	97.5	2.5

Source: Ministry of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2018. *Employment Trends*. Islamabad.

Enrolled Population (age 15 years and above) by Sex, 2013-2014 and 2017-2018 (%)

Educational Level	2013-2014		2017-2018	
	Both	Female	Both	Female
Middle but below matric (less than 10 years of education)	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.5
Matric but below intermediate (10 to 11 years of education)	1.5	2.4	3.1	4.7
Intermediate but below degree (12 to 13 years of education)	1.3	1.9	2.7	3.9
Degree (14 or more years of education)	1.2	1.6	2.4	2.9

Source: Ministry of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2018. *Employment Trends*. Islamabad.

²⁵ Empower Women. Organizations. Women Engineers in Pakistan. *Progress is a Fundamental Right*. 2021.

²⁶ Pakistan Council for Science and Technology. 2021. *Women in Science*.

²⁷ Footnote 20.

Youth Literacy (15-24 years old) by Sex, 2019-2020 (%)

Country/Province	2019-2020		
	Female	Male	Overall
Pakistan	65	79	72
Balochistan	40	69	57
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	49	85	67
Punjab	75	81	78
Sindh	57	72	65

Source: Bureau of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2021. *Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (2019-2020)*. Islamabad.



Sectoral situation:

- Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) has decreased by 26 from 166 in 2013 to 140 in 2017²⁸
- The percentage of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel is 68% in 2020, up by 10 percentage points from 58% in 2015.³⁰

Health Indicators, 2015 and 2019

Indicators	2015	2019
Life expectancy at birth, female (years)	67.5	68.3
Life expectancy at birth, male (years)	65.7	66.3
Mortality rate, female adult (per 1,000 live births) ³⁰	142	138 (2018 data)
Mortality rate, male adult (per 1,000 live births) ³¹	179	173 (2018 data)

Source: UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report Country Profile – Pakistan*. New York.

²⁸ UNICEF. n.d. *Country Profile – Pakistan*. Accessed on 7 February 2022.

²⁹ Footnote 20.

³⁰ Probability that a 15-year old will die before reaching age 60, expressed per 1,000 people.


³¹ Footnote 30.

Projects on Health

Gender Design Features of ADB Projects	Gender Equality Targets and Achievements
<p>Access to infrastructure and other services Enhancing availability of health care facilities and services</p>	<p>Retrofitting of public sector buildings such as schools and health facilities to make these multi-hazard resistant</p>
<p>Economic empowerment Increasing women's access to employment and other opportunities for income generation</p>	<p>Employment of women in management and technical positions</p>
<p>Improvement in policies, programs, and systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating a gender lens in project monitoring system • Strengthening gender mainstreaming in policies and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection, monitoring, and reporting of project-related baseline data and output using sex-disaggregated data • Gender integration in national disaster risk and management framework, emergency response plans, and early warning system to ensure women's specific needs such as health, sanitation facilities, water, adequate light and separate help desks—for accessing the relief items including food and shelter—are available • Formulation of gender equality framework to ensure gender mainstreaming at the project and institutional levels

^a Project target not yet due for implementation

Source: Asian Development Bank. See for example, Pakistan: National Disaster Risk Management Fund.



Health care promotion. Women and girls' health needs are prioritized in ADB initiatives to improve health services delivery in Pakistan (photo by Rahim Mirza/ADB).



Water and Other Urban Infrastructure

Proportion of Individuals with WASH Access (%)

Indicators	2015	2020
Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services ^a	36.2	35.8
Proportion of population using basic drinking water services ^b	89.5	90.1
Proportion of population using at least basic sanitation services ^c	59.2	68.3
Proportion of population with basic handwashing facilities at home	64.0	80.0
Proportion of population practicing open defecation	14.8	7.3
^a Safely managed drinking water: Improved source accessible on premises, available when needed and free of contamination ^b Basic drinking water: Improved source within 30 minutes round trip collection time ^c Basic sanitation services: Private improved facility which separates excreta from human contact		

Sources: UNICEF. n.d. *Country Profile – Pakistan*. Accessed 7 February 2022; UNICEF. 2021. *Drinking Water*. Accessed on 7 February 2022; WHO. n.d. *Annex 2: Safely Managed Sanitation Services*. Accessed on 7 February 2022; WHO. n.d. *Global Health Observatory Data Repository*. Accessed 7 February 2022.

Water Access, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Households (%)

Indicators	2019-2020
Households with access to drinking water from improved sources	94.0
Households with improved toilet facility not shared with other households	68.0
Households with specific place of handwashing facility with soap	54.0

Source: Bureau of Statistics – Government of Pakistan. 2021. *Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (2019-2020)*. Islamabad.

Water and Sanitation in Schools, 2019

Schools with basic water service- improved and available (%)	57.0
Schools with limited water service – improved but not available (%)	8.0
Schools with no water service – no facility or unimproved (%)	34.0
Schools with no sanitation service (%)	24.0

Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene. 2019. *Country Report on WASH – Pakistan*.

Projects on Water and other urban infrastructure

Gender Design Features of ADB Projects	Gender Equality Achievements
<p>Access to infrastructure and other services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to public infrastructure and services Providing gender-inclusive design features in infrastructure projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of water meters at household level to improve safe water supply connections Construction and rehabilitation of family parks as safe space for women and children's sports and recreational activities, which include separate washrooms for women, access ramps, jogging and walking tracks, and security cameras Construction of gender-inclusive facilities in bus terminals and other public structures such as separate female and male toilets with provisions for diaper changing stations, access ramps, and pedestrian crossings Information materials related to gender-based violence in public spaces
<p>Economic empowerment</p> <p>Increasing women's access to employment and other economic opportunities</p>	<p>Allocation of commercial spaces for women vendors</p>
<p>Capacity Building</p> <p>Capacity building for women on WASH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of gender-sensitive training manuals on WASH Training of women focal persons on WASH
<p>Participation in decision-making</p> <p>Strengthening women's participation in decision-making through various mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of women in consultations to design water and sanitation schemes Establishment of gender-inclusive grievance and redress mechanism Conduct of gender-sensitive satisfaction surveys
<p>Improvement in policies, programs, and systems</p> <p>Integrating a gender lens in project monitoring system</p>	<p>Sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators integrated in monitoring and information system and in reporting of project results</p>

Source: Asian Development Bank. See for example, Pakistan: Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Project.

Pakistan — Addressing Challenges to Gender Equality

A Quick Reference on Gender Indicators in ADB Priority Sectors

Development initiatives impact women and men differently. This quick reference on gender indicators in ADB priority areas provides a glimpse of the gender situation in Pakistan through relevant socioeconomic indicators and gender entry points for ADB projects in the country.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members —49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

1550 Metro Manila, Philippines

www.adb.org