

## Challenges for the implementation of sustainable Goals in Pakistan

### 1) What are SDGs?

Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that by 2030, all people enjoys peace and prosperity.

The 17 SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls.

### 2) Current Situation of Pakistan

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Pakistan's future is facing a lot of hurdles in the development of SDGs. Pakistan ranked 129 out of 165 countries in recent Sustainable Development Goals, with an overall score of 57.7%, mainly for its progress on one of the 17 goals.

### 3) Challenges In implementing SDGs

There are a lot of challenges Pakistan is facing in implementation of SDGs at a greater level. Some of them are listed below:

#### 1) High rate of Urbanization

Pakistan has one of the highest rate of urbanization in South Asia. Urban areas have expanded immensely between 1995 and 2015. In an article on "Asia & the Pacific Policy Society", it has been estimated that urban sector converts 306 hectares of agriculture land annually for urban uses in Lahore. If these rates doesn't slow, by 2030 all agricultural land of cities will be urbanized.

## b) Shortage of Water

Pakistan has major water shortages. It is ranked

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14<sup>th</sup> out of 150 countries at high risk of water crisis. Water aid notes that 17 million people in Pakistan lack access to clean water close to home and 70 million lack access to a decent toilet.

### c) Gradually increment in inflation

Inflation remains above 6% in 2023, raising the cost of many products. People in Pakistan are unable to afford all the necessary things. Due to increase in inflation, high rate of unemployment is

16% among the educated middle class in 2018 to 2019 and increased in wealth inequality.

### d) Governmental Issues

A lot of hurdles in the government policies and their implementation is a big issue. The problem among the politicians is a big concern for Pakistan. A simple problems leads to catastrophic damages and infrastructure of the country.

### e) Security Concerns

On going security concerns, including terrorism and regional conflicts, divert resources and attention away from SDRs impacting the peace of country. According to report of East Asia forum, Pakistan recorded the second largest increase in terrorism-related deaths in 2022. In such situation, it is difficult to achieve SDRs.

### f) Corruption

A big hurdle in achieving the SDRs. Pakistan ranks 27 in Corruption Perceptions Index 2022.

## g) Climate change Vulnerability.

Pakistan is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe natural disasters, undermining the efforts to achieving the SDGs.

long summer in 2023 and seasonless rainfalls caused serious destruction in the country, a report by World Economic forum. Such disastrous problems are the biggest challenge in achieving SDGs.

