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| **Alternative Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in line with the CRPD in Pakistan** |
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Prepared by:

**Pakistan Association of the Blind**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**INTRODUCTION**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are part of an ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the overarching principle of ‘leave no one behind’. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda build upon their predecessors, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Persons with disabilities (PWDs) felt that they were excluded from the MDGs agenda as there was no reference to disability. However, the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda are inclusive as they make at least 11 explicit references to persons with disabilities (PWDs).

**PAKISTAN AND SDGs**

Pakistan is committed to fulfilling the vision of 2030 Agenda, and is the first country in the world to localize the SDGs of 2030 Agenda after a unanimous parliamentary resolution was passed on 19 February, 2016. The federal and provincial governments have established SDG units in their respective planning and development departments. The SDG units are working hard to fulfill the vision of 2030 Agenda.

**SDGs AND UNCRPD**

After the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2011, persons with disabilities (PWDs) have taken many steps to ensure protection of their rights as per the UNCRPD’s provisions.

SDGs and UNCRPD are closely connected. Almost all of the 17 SDGs apply either directly or indirectly to persons with disabilities (PWDs). This report analyses 6 SDGs and their respective provisions in UNCRPD in Pakistan.

**METHODOLOGY**

This report selected SDG 01, 03, 04, 08, 11, and 16 and their progress in Pakistan. A participatory methodology was adopted whereby the data was collected through interviews, questionnaires and it focused on group discussions from the Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) based in Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The data was collected in two phases: phase-I involved interviews while phase-II involved focused group discussions.

**INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) IN PAKISTAN**

Numerous institutions at federal, provincial and district level exist for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan including the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education, National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRDP), provincial ministries of social welfare, Provincial Council for the Rehabilitation of Disable Persons (PCRDP), Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) and office of the district social welfare officers.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) IN PAKISTAN**

Besides many constitutional provisions, numerous legislations apply to persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan. For example, the Disabled Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance, 1981, the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018, Balochistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017 and Punjab Disabled Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Amendment Act, 2015 are laws which exclusively deal with persons with disabilities (PWDs) at federal and provincial levels. Provincial legislations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir have already been tabled as bills in the respective provincial assemblies.

**SDG 01: NO POVERTY**

In Pakistan, many social protection schemes operate for persons with disabilities (PWDs). For example, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), and Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) are programs designed to provide social protection to deserving people. Needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs) are particularly prioritized by these programs.

**SDG 03: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Pakistan spends 1.12% of its GDP on health. As such, persons with disabilities (PWDs) enjoy all the health facility provided to the entire population. However, the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002, National Health Vision Pakistan 2016-25, and Prime Minister’s National Health Program make special provisions for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

**SDG 04: QUALITY EDUCATION**

Many steps have been taken by the state to educate persons with disabilities (PWDs). Besides having access to special education schools, persons with disabilities (PWDs) have the liberty to be educated at inclusive schools. Furthermore, education of persons with disabilities (PWDs) is free at all the public sector schools, colleges and universities. Higher Education Commission (HEC), an independent statutory institution in Pakistan, has designed an inclusive policy for students with disabilities.

**SDG 08: WORK AND EMPLOYMENT**

In order to provide persons with disabilities (PWDs) with job opportunities, a job quota of 02% has been allocated in all public and private sector establishments. However, achieving this quota has proved to be a difficult task. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are also allowed to take Central Superior Service (CSS) exam. Some of the provincial legislations have increased the quota from 02% to 05%.

**SDG 11: INCLUSIVE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

The accessibility of all physical and virtual infrastructures for persons with disabilities (PWDs) is a major issue in the country. The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2002 and the Accessibility Codes of Pakistan, 2006 provide many guidelines for accessible infrastructure. The Digital Pakistan Policy, 2018 provides guidelines for the accessibility of online websites to persons with disabilities (PWDs) (especially the visually impaired ones).

**SDG 16: ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

Dispensation of justice in Pakistan is both expensive and slow. However, persons with disabilities (PWDs) have access to all the administration of justice available to a common Pakistani. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other Pakistanis can consult the office of the ombudsman for redressal of their grievances against any state institution.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | AJ&K: Azad Jammu & Kashmir | 23 | NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations |
| 2 | BISP: Benazir Income Support Program | 24 | NPPD: National Policy for Persons with Disabilities |
| 3 | BRT: Bus for Rapid Transit | 25 | PAB: Pakistan Association of the Blind |
| 4 | CBOs: Community Based Organizations | 26 | PBM: Pakistan Baitul Maal |
| 5 | CE: Competitive Exam | 27 | PC: Planning Commission |
| 6 | CSS: Central Superior Services | 28 | PCAP: Pakistan Council of Architects and Planners |
| 7 | CWDs: Children with Disabilities | 29 | PCRDP: Provincial Counsel for Rehabilitation of Disable Persons |
| 8 | DPO: Disable People Organization | 30 | PEC: Pakistan Engineering Council |
| 9 | ENT: Eyes Nose Throat | 31 | PM: Prime Minister |
| 10 | EP: Empower Pak | 32 | PPAF: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund |
| 11 | FATA: Federally Administered Tribal Areas | 33 | PPSC: Provincial Public Service Commission |
| 12 | FPSC: Federal Public Service Commission | 34 | PTV: Pakistan Television |
| 13 | GB: Gilgit-Baltistan | 35 | PWDs: Persons with Disabilities |
| 14 | GDP: Gross Domestic Product | 36 | SCNIC: Special Computerized National Identity Card |
| 15 | HEC: Higher Education Commission | 37 | SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals |
| 16 | ILO: International Labour Organization | 38 | SEDA: Socio Economic Development Association |
| 17 | KM: Kilometer | 39 | STEP: Special Talent Exchange Program |
| 18 | KP: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 40 | STP: Software Technology Park |
| 19 | MDGs: Millennium Development Goals | 41 | UNCRPD: United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| 20 | MPI: Multidimensional Poverty Index | 42 | UNDP: United Nations Development Program |
| 21 | NCRDP: National Counsel for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons | 43 | WHO: World Health Organization |
| 22 | NFWWD: National Forum for Women with Disabilities |  |  |

# Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 program are broader, universal commitments to end poverty, protect the environment and ensure peace and prosperity across the globe. The SDGs replaced their successor Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015 resulting from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. It is important to mention here that these goals cover some new areas such as climate change, innovation, sustainable consumption, reducing economic inequality, peace and justice and some other priorities. SDGs are interconnected with the belief that success of one goal will lead to the success of another[[1]](#endnote-1).

The SDGs of the 2030 program are broader than the Millennium Development Goals not only in terms of universality, but also in planning and strategies. For instance, Millennium Development Goals aimed to reduce extreme poverty while Sustainable Development Goals strive to eradicate poverty. Similarly, MDGs are limited to 8 in number with 18 targets and 48 global indicators, while SDGs are 17 in number with 169 targets and 231 global indicators. This change has given a new direction to diverse populations to stand for sustainable global action for all.

Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistani diplomat and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN General Assembly, on July 19, 2018, stated that Pakistan is the first country in the world to localize SDGs by adopting a unanimous resolution in its National Assembly on 19 February 2016[[2]](#endnote-2). The State of Pakistan remains committed to be included in the list of ‘upper middle class countries’ by 2030. Commenting on the adoption of 2030 Agenda, the then Minister of Planning, Development and Reforms Mr. Ahsan Iqbal said:

*“We believe that SDGs agenda for development isn’t an international agenda; it is our own agenda. It reflects our ambition and desire to give our people better quality of life. Therefore, we must take ownership of SDGs with complete devotion and passion[[3]](#endnote-3).”*

In order to achieve the SDGs set in 2030 Agenda, the federal government established special SDGs units in the Planning Commission of Pakistan**.** The SDGs unit is working on the implementation and reporting of SDGs progress in the country. As of now, the SDGs unit has published reports on poverty; has got National SDGs framework approved by National Economic Council (NEC), has published a report on multidimensional poverty in Pakistan, and has conducted Social Sector Research and a series of seminars on SDGs.

## 1.1 SDGs and Pakistan

Pakistan also formed a special parliamentary SDGs secretariat based in National Assembly so that parliament remains committed to SDGs and Pakistan is one of the few UN member states to do so[[4]](#endnote-4). The Federal SDGs Support Unit set three SDGs priorities: priority-I includes goals 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 16; priority-II includes goals 1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 17, and priority-III includes goals 12, 13, 14, and 15[[5]](#endnote-5).

Though the 2030 Agenda is a global commitment, it is still not legally binding. The reason being that national realities and policies vary, and that governments find opportunities to reflect on sustainable development goals according to their national capacities, policies and realities. In this respect, 2030 Agenda has a balanced political approach towards universal ambitions and national ownerships. Broadly speaking, Sustainable Development Goals include everyone, and they try to stick their principle which says, ‘leave no one behind’. This indicates that 2030 Agenda is committed to working globally in order to ensure an inclusive and sustainable society for all. It is best reflected in the slogan of Disability Rights Movement which says ‘nothing about us without us’.

## 1.2 SDGs and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Before SDGs, persons with disabilities (PWDs) were excluded from numerous developmental and funding initiatives across the globe. In contrast, SDGs have focused on persons with disabilities at least 11 times which have opened new opportunities of inclusion for persons with disabilities throughout the world.

There are 11 direct references to disability in the 2030 Agenda. In declaration, for example, references are made in paragraphs 19, 23 and 25 which talk about human rights, vulnerable groups and education respectively.Similarly, reference to persons with disabilities (PWDs) is also made in Goal 4 Education, Goal 8 Work and Employment, Goal 10 reduce inequalities, Goal 11 inclusive cities and Goal 17 means of implementation.

Furthermore, throughout the 2030 Agenda, the term ‘vulnerable’ has been used 18 times which directly apply to persons with disabilities (PWDs). Inclusive phrasing like ‘for all’ and ‘for all men and women’ in various goals, targets and indicators throughout the agenda can also be used for persons with disabilities (PWDs). In short, 2030 Agenda applies to persons with disabilities as its overarching principle which says, ‘leave no one behind’.

Sustainable Development Goals can transform lives of persons with disabilities (PWDs) if they work with governments to implement SDGs in line with UNCRPD. This is how disability-inclusive-societies can be created by working with persons with disabilities. As mentioned above, there are a number of specific commitments given in SDGs for the empowerment of persons with disabilities (PWDs) which is the core domain of UNCRPD. In this sense, UNCRPD should serve as a comprehensive framework for the implementation of SDGs at national level.

Both UNCRPD and SDGs complement each other in a number of ways. All of the SDGs are reflected/reinforced in the articles of UNCRPD. An inference can be drawn from a number of articles of UNCRPD for the implementation of every goal and target.

This report shows progress made by Pakistan regarding selected SDGs with respect to persons with disabilities (PWDs). The selected SDGs for reporting and analysis are given below:

|  |  |  |
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| SDG 01 | No Poverty | End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere |
| SDG 03 | Good Health and Well-being | Ensure Healthy Lives And Promote Well-Being For All At All Ages |
| SDG 04 | Quality of Education | Ensure Inclusive And Equitable Quality Education And Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities For All |
| SDG 08 | Decent Work and Economic Growth | Promote Sustained, Inclusive And Sustainable Economic Growth, Full And Productive Employment And Decent Work For All |
| SDG 11 | Sustainable Cities and Communities | Make Cities And Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient And Sustainable |
| SDG 16 | Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions | Promote Peaceful And Inclusive Societies For Sustainable Development, Provide Access To Justice For All And Build Effective, Accountable And Inclusive Institutions At All Levels |

The report is divided into two parts:

* Part I discusses the methodology adopted for the study and it also discusses disability situation in Pakistan especially institutional, organizational and legal framework for disability in Pakistan;
* Part II discusses each of the selected goals with respect to disability in Pakistan.
* Annexure provides the questionnaire for data collection, SDGs and UNCRPD framework, an overview of Pakistan Association of the Blind, and a list of Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) in Pakistan.

# PART-I

This part discusses the methodology adopted in preparation for this report. It also provides a context for part-ii. The context includes a brief overview of persons with disabilities, and institutional, organizational and legal framework for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

This report is based on participatory methodology. In participatory methods, the knowledge of the participants is not only acknowledged but it also forms the basis of a research[[6]](#endnote-6).

### 2.1 Identification and Selection of DPOs

As a first step, a number of Disabled People Organizations (DPOs) were identified using snowball sampling techniques. In snowball sampling technique, the researcher moves from the known to the unknown. Pakistan Association of the Blind (PAB) has contacts with a number of DPOs across the country. DPOs working in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, were identified. A list of selected DPOs is provided in Annexure.

### 2.12 Tools for Data Collection

The tool for data collection was a semi-structured interview guide. The interview guide was divided into 07 sections. Section 01 focused on general questions about SDGs and disabilities in Pakistan. Section 02 focused on questions regarding SDG-Goal-01. Section 03 focused on SDG-Goal-03. Section 04 focused on SDG-Goal-04. Section 05 focused on SDG-Goal-08. Section 06 focused on SDG-Goal-11 while the last section talked about SDG-Goal-16 (see Annexure for Interview Guide).

The second tool for data collection was focused group consultative workshop. After the preparation of draft report, the findings were shared with selected groups of individuals around the country. The focused group workshops were conducted in Peshawar, where the researcher is based, Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. The participants of focused group workshops include members of DPOs, representatives from state departments such as Social Welfare, Education, Labour Welfare, Planning and Development, Health, Benazir Income Support Programme, and advocates/lawyers working for the disabled.

### 2.13 Data Collection Procedure

Data was collected in two phases: phase1 included data collection through interviews while phase2 involved data collection through focused group workshops.

#### Phase-1

After developing and finalizing the tool for data collection, the next phase was to collect data from selected DPOs. For this purpose, a team of researchers travelled to Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta. Islamabad being the federal capital while Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi and Quetta, being the provincial capitals, had the highest concentration of DPOs. Each identified DPO was contacted via phone for their consent. After their consent, date, time and place of interview was chosen with each of the DPO separately.

Initially, interviews were supposed to be conducted with all the DPOs. However, during the course of data collection, some of the DPOs, who initially consented for an interview, could not find time for a full-scale interview. So it was suggested by some of the DPOs to leave the interview questions with them and that they would respond with a written reply. As this study was participatory which has a loose structure in terms of data collection procedures, therefore such suggestions were approved after discussion with research team. Thus the data involves transcripts of interviews and written replies from the DPO representatives.

#### Phase-2

Phase2 of the data collection involved conducting focused group consultative workshops with selected groups of participants. For this purpose, focused group consultative workshops were conducted in Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore, and Karachi. The participants included representatives from state departments including Labour Welfare, Health, Social Welfare, Law and Home Affairs, Education, and Planning and Development. Besides state departments, the social work departments of some selected universities were also included in the potential participants of focused groups. Further, representatives from UNDP and DPOs were also included in the list of potential participants.

The focused group consultative workshop followed a mixed structure of discussion and workshop. Initially, the findings of the report were shared with all the participants of the workshop. After that, the participants were given time for open discussion on each of the selected SDGs and progress made by Pakistan in this regard.

The discussion was recorded and transcribed later on. The findings of the focused group consultative workshops are presented in this report.

## 2.2 OVERALL CONTEXT: PAKISTAN

Pakistan is located in South Asia, bordered by India to the East and by Afghanistan to the West. It also borders Iran to the South West. China’s Eastern region of Xinjiang touches the North Border of Pakistan. To the South, Pakistan touches the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. Pakistan’s territory is 7,96,0962 kilometers. With a total population of 207,774,520[[7]](#endnote-7) and a population density of 261, Pakistan stands as the 6th most populated country in the world. Majority of the population lives in rural areas, i.e. 60%[[8]](#endnote-8). This population lives with a life expectancy at birth of 66.6 years which is lower than the South Asian average of 69.3[[9]](#endnote-9).

Although per capita income stands at $1641/-[[10]](#endnote-10), still 4 out of 10 Pakistanis live in multidimensional poverty[[11]](#endnote-11) and 23.4% of the population lives below the poverty line[[12]](#endnote-12). Despite the fact that Pakistan’s economy is predominantly agrarian, almost 80% of the poor live in rural area[[13]](#endnote-13). Pakistan was ranked amongst the Medium Human Development countries. It was ranked 150th out of 189[[14]](#endnote-14).

The active insurgency in Afghanistan and a recurrent blame-game for terrorism has put the country in a difficult position with its neighbors. Kashmir dispute has adversely affected relations between Pakistan and India. Both the countries have fought three major wars over Kashmir and the dispute still exists between the two countries. It has been categorized as the ‘nuclear flashpoint’[[15]](#endnote-15). Besides this, Pakistan has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees since early ’80s. The post *Zarb-e-Azb*[[16]](#endnote-16) policy of repatriation drive has increased tension between Pakistan and Afghan.

The country is facing many challenges including terrorism, floods, natural disasters, inflation, mother and child mortality, and unemployment. The Global Terrorism Index ranked Pakistan the 5th most severely affected country by terrorism[[17]](#endnote-17). Almost 70 thousand people have been killed in terrorism related incidents since 2001[[18]](#endnote-18). The War on Terror has left thousands injured and millions other affected directly and indirectly.

In this context, persons with disabilities of different nature are the most vulnerable and the most neglected ones in Pakistan. An instance of this neglect was observed in the census of 2017 when the census forms did not include ‘disability’ section at the initial stages. However, with the involvement of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the ‘disability’ section was added. Owing to late entry into the census forms, the population with disabilities now constitutes less than a million of Pakistan’s population[[19]](#endnote-19).

## 2.3 SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN PAKISTAN

### 2.31 General Data

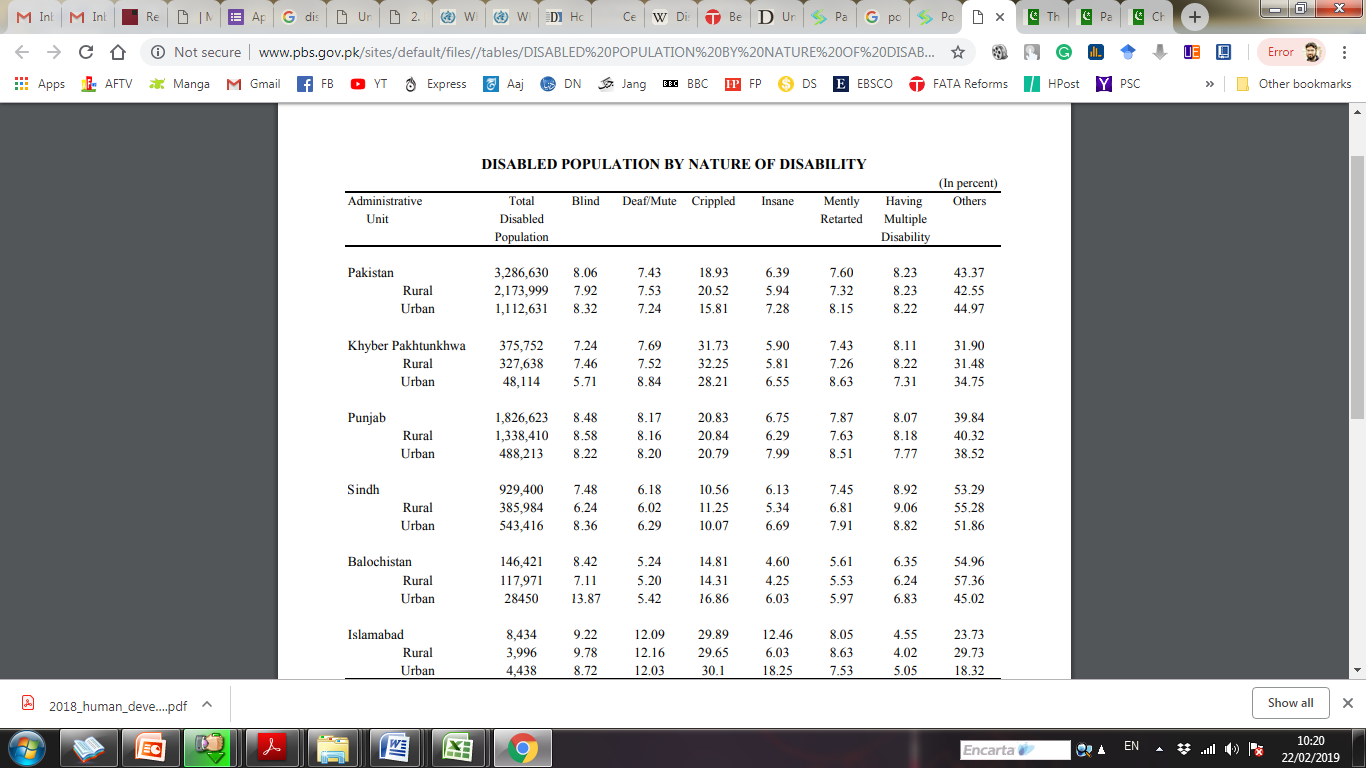
The global estimates for persons with disabilities (PWDs) are 10-15%[[20]](#endnote-20). In Pakistan, the latest population statistics for persons with disabilities (PWDs) has aroused huge controversies. As mentioned earlier, according to 2017 general population census, less than a million people in Pakistan are disabled which makes it only 0.48% of the total population. According to previous census conducted in 1998, the total number of the disabled was 3.2 million,[[21]](#endnote-21), 2.3% of the total population. Out of the total percentage, 66% of the population with disabilities lived in rural areas while 34% in urban areas. The 1998 census had categorized the population with disabilities into seven categories: five categories were blind, deaf/mute, crippled, insane, mentally retarded (See Table 01). The sixth category included persons with multiple disabilities while the seventh category was those who could not be categorized in the previous six categories (others).

The analysis of Table 01 further reveals that the highest percentage of persons with disabilities (PWDs) is categorized as ‘others’ (43%), i.e. no clear categorization. The data, however, does not provide any information about the sex of the disabled.

The average number of people per household is 6.8 in the country with 3person average per room. The single room households are 38% of the total population in the country. More than half of the households live in brick houses while 30% households have no access to electricity[[22]](#endnote-22). Likewise, access to separate or shared bathroom was not available to 43% of the households[[23]](#endnote-23) while more than 50% households had no washroom at all.

A large number of persons with disabilities (PWDs) live in rural areas across the country with poor access to education, health, and other facilities. Likewise, access to bathrooms and latrines is further limited as these facilities are available to limited number of populations inside a house. Furthermore, access to vocational and rehabilitation centers is severely restricted in Pakistan. The case is more extreme for persons with disabilities (PWDs) living in rural areas where their movement is severely hampered by different factors. Facilities for the disabled are scarce and those available are insensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

**Table 01: Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Population by Nature of Disability in Pakistan (1998)**



* Terminologies original from Census 1998

*Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.* [*http://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files//tables/DISABLED%20POPULATION%20BY%20NATURE%20OF%20DISABILITY.pdf*](http://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files//tables/DISABLED%20POPULATION%20BY%20NATURE%20OF%20DISABILITY.pdf)

### 2.32 Institutional Framework of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

At the state institutional level, numerous departments and agencies are responsible for the provision and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Pakistan. Previously, Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education was responsible for the protection and provision of the rights of persons with disabilities at national level. The 18th Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan relegated social welfare and special education to the provinces. Social welfare and special education are now provincial matters while the state at federal level has no or limited social welfare programmes.

Provincial ministries of Social Welfare are now empowered to carry out all the functions of social welfare including protection and provision of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The Ministry of Social Welfare coordinates the activities of departments providing services to persons with disabilities (PWDs). The department incharge of carrying out essential duties for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the provinces is the Directorate of Social Welfare.

At national level, the National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRDP) was established under the Disabled Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981 while the same law provided for establishing Provincial Councils for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PCRDP).

A district is the smallest administrative unit in Pakistan. The ministry of Social Welfare appoints a social welfare officer at district level. It is the duty of district social welfare officer to coordinate and administer services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in his/her respective district.

### 2.33 Organizational Framework

In Pakistan, persons with disabilities (PWDs) organise themselves into associations, NGOs and networks. However, there is no national federation of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Most of the groups with disabilities work at provincial level while few work at national level. Pakistan Association of the Blind (PAB) has a national scope and has offices around the country. A list of organizations of persons with disabilities (PWDs) is provided in annexure (annex-iv)[[24]](#endnote-24):

### 2.34 Legal Framework

The legal cover for the protection, rehabilitation and well-being of persons with disabilities (PWDs) has been indirectly provided by the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan. Although it does not provide any clear reference to persons with disabilities (PWDs,) its provisions, in the Article 37 and 38 regarding protection, rehabilitation and well-being of all citizens, apply to persons with disabilities (PWDs) too.

The first exclusive law focusing on persons with disabilities (PWDs) was promulgated in the International Year of Disability 1981. The Disabled Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981 made provisions for the employment and rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities (PWDs). It ordered state departments and private establishments to allocate a 01% job quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs). It also levied additional tax on those establishments who did not employ persons with disabilities (PWDs). It further provided establishment of National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (NCRDP) at federal level and provincial councils for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PCRDP) in each province.

The 18th Amendment in the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan placed the responsibility for the protection, rehabilitation, and well-being of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) on the provinces which led the provinces to legislate for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The province of Khyber Pukhtunkwa has no exclusive legislation on persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, efforts are being made to get a bill approved by the provincial assembly for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Punjab adopted the Disabled Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance, 1981 with very minor changes (quota increase to 03%). Sindh and Baluchistan recently enacted exclusive legislations for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The Sindh Empowerment of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, Act No: XLVIII of 2018 makes special reference to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006. Its preamble states that “an Act to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of ‘Persons with Disabilities’ and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.” It provides almost all the provisions mentioned in the UNCRPD in order to empower persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The purpose of Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017, Act, No II of 2017, as mentioned in the Act, is “to promote and ensure full and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community in line with the Islamic teachings and international best practices to protect their rights.” Its preamble talks about provision of legal and institutional framework for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Besides disability, specific legislations at national and provincial level, various provisions of other legislations also apply to persons with disabilities (PWDs).

# PART—II

This part deals with SDGs and UNCRPD in the context of disabilities in Pakistan. The following SDGs were selected for reporting and analysis:

## 3.1 CONTEXTUALIZING GOAL 01: NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.4 By 2030 all men and women have equal rights

CRPD Article 28: Adequate standard of living and social protection

1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.
2. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right.

This section deals with poverty with regard to persons with disabilities in Pakistan. It analyzes legal framework for poverty and persons with disabilities.

### 3.11 Poverty in Pakistan

Extreme poverty exists in Pakistan. The official report of the Ministry of Finance, Pakistan titled ‘Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18’ reports that more than 24% people are living below the poverty line[[25]](#endnote-25) (Official poverty line is $2 a day). In 2016, the Planning Commission of Pakistan conducted a Multi-dimensional Poverty Index for Pakistan and found that 04 out of 10 Pakistanis live in multidimensional poverty[[26]](#endnote-26), i.e. 40% of the total population. Poverty, irrespective of persons with disabilities, is a very serious issue in Pakistan.

Poverty and disability have a two-way relationship. Disability poses a higher risk of poverty while poverty makes the disabled more vulnerable[[27]](#endnote-27). Numerous empirical studies on developing countries have shown that persons with disabilities (PWDs) are poorer than the able-bodied[[28]](#endnote-28). The UN SDG Knowledge Platform recognizes that the disabled are overrepresented amongst those who live in extreme poverty[[29]](#endnote-29).

In Pakistan, debates around persons with disabilities (PWDs) are usually clouded with pity, charity, and sympathy. Most of the poverty reduction strategies are charity-oriented while fewer efforts are made for rehabilitation and creating economic independence for the disabled, as the Executive Director of Empower Pak (an organization for the Disabled), Muhammad Babar Shahzad, said in the interview:

*In Pakistan persons with disabilities (PWDs) are perceived as objects of pity who just need charity from the society and they are also considered as somehow medically ill requiring only medical interventions. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) do not have any special social protection. Governments make tall claims about providing financial aids for persons with disabilities (PWDs) but in reality, this aid causes more challenges than turning out to be a solution.*

### 3.12 Legal, Policy, and Constitutional Framework of Poverty for Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 Article 37 and 38
2. Balochistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017
3. The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018

### 3.13 Analysis of the Legal and Constitutional Framework with regards to Poverty of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

Article 37 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan lays down principles of policy for ‘promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils.’ The issues of social justice and social evils, as per the Constitution, include economic backwardness (clause a), illiteracy (clause b), expensive and slow justice (clause d), inhuman work conditions and employment of women and children in vocations unsuited to their age or sex (clause a), prostitution, gambling, injurious drugs, printing, publication, circulation and display of obscene literature and advertisement, and consumption of alcohol liquor (by Muslims) (Clause h). Regarding poverty reduction, Article 37 requires the state to ‘promote, with special care, educational and economic interests of backward classes or area.’

Article 38 of the Constitution lays down ‘principles of policy for ‘promotion of social and economic well-being of the people’. Its definition of social and economic well-being includes securing well-being of people by raising their standard of life and preventing concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, facilities for work and adequate livelihood, social security and social insurance, provision of basic necessities of life, reducing disparity in income and earning of individuals, and elimination of *Riba* (interest).

Article 27 of the Balochistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017 deals with insurance of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the province. It requires the Provincial Council on Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PCRDP) to devise comprehensive life medical and accidental insurance for persons with disabilities (PWDs) along with facilitating persons with disabilities (PWDs) in getting such insurances. It also requires the Council to establish a separate fund for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Article 32 of the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 deals with insurance of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the province. It makes almost similar provisions to that of Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017.

### 3.14 Policies and Programs for Poverty Eradication relevant to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)
2. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)
3. Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM)
4. National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002

### 3.15 Analysis of Policies and Programs for Poverty Eradication relevant to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was launched in July 2009 as a single largest social safety net programme in Pakistan. Through this programme, unconditional cash grant is provided to deserving persons in Pakistan especially to women and Persons with disabilities. Under Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), every family headed by a person with disability or having a family member with disability is given a sum of Rs. 1,000/- per month which is now increased to Rs. 1500/- per month[[30]](#endnote-30). The objective of the programme is to increase the purchasing power of the poor families. BSIP has a positive impact on poverty reduction of persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, the programme is criticized for providing too little an amount. Rs. 1500-/ per month is insufficient to help any family living below the poverty line. Besides providing unconditional monthly cash grants, BSIP also launched *Waseela-e-Haq* programme to provide loans to the poor including persons with disabilities to “promote self-employment and enhance small businesses and entrepreneurship amongst the poorest of the poor[[31]](#endnote-31).” During 2017-18, the BSIP benefited 30,800 persons with disabilities across the country through its *Waseela-e-Haq* program.

Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) is a leading poverty alleviation programme in Pakistan. It was established in 2000 and is working across the country. PPAF works with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to perform productive asset transfer to ultra-poor, to provide interest-free loans to ultra-poor (mostly women), to equip them with skills and provide managerial training, and to perform other poverty alleviation activities. Its poverty alleviation activities are mostly focused on women and persons with disabilities (PWDs)[[32]](#endnote-32).

Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) was established in 1991 as an autonomous body to alleviate poverty in the country. Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) focuses on “assistance to destitute, widow, orphan, invalid, infirm and amputated, and other needy persons[[33]](#endnote-33).” The words ‘infirm’ and ‘amputated’ here refer to persons with disabilities (PWDs). One of the projects of Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) is ‘Special Friends of PBM’ which focuses on families with two or more members with disabilities. Every family that “consists of 02 or more persons with disabilities has been given status of Special Friend of PBM”. Such a family “would be legally authorized to get Rs. 25000 per annum from Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) and also wheel chairs, hearing aid, white canes, and artificial limbs if needed[[34]](#endnote-34).” Furthermore, a family with only one member with disability is also eligible to receive an amount of Rs.10,000 annually[[35]](#endnote-35). During 2017-18, Rs. 64 million was spent by Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) under the Special Friends of PBM scheme.

It can be seen from the above discussion on poverty reduction that the activities of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), and Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM) overlap in many areas/ways. Each of the above three programmes manage separate staff, offices, and systems. But, the cliental is the same: the poor.

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002 does not directly target poverty and disability. However, its Article C(vii) discusses self-employment as a means for economic independence.

### 3.16 Impact of and Challenges to SDG 01 in Pakistan

The Economic Survey of Pakistan is issued every year by the Ministry of Finance. In its 2018 report, it has dedicated its chapter 15 to SDG 01 to ending poverty and Pakistan’s progress in this regard. In line with SDG 01 and Article 28 of CRPD, the National Framework for SDG 01 (of Pakistan) states that by 2030, “the proportion of population covered by social protection systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable” will be increased from 29.9% to 70%[[36]](#endnote-36).”

It can be inferred from this item of the National Framework that: i) at present, only 29.9% of the population with disabilities is covered under social protection system; and ii) the government has planned to increase the social protection coverage for persons with disabilities to 70% by 2030. Note that the priority indicators of the National Framework for SDGs categorically mention persons with disabilities. However, the report does not clarify how this will be achieved and whether needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs) will be prioritized or not.

Apart from the state institutions, NGOs are working on poverty reduction of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Mr. Khalid Naeem, representative of SEDA (a DPO) pointed towards the work of Akhuwat organization for poverty reduction in the Punjab. Akhuwat organization[[37]](#endnote-37) works for poverty reduction in through micro-finance, education, health and food security programmes. All of its programme components prioritize persons with disability (PWDs).

Although acknowledging the positive impact of BISP on persons with disability (PWDs), a few has criticized its operations. Ms. Najmus Saqlain, representative from Dar-us-Sakun, said:

*BISP is a charity programme. They are not providing capital to persons with disabilities but charity.*

Another criticism on social protection programmes is the extent of their coverage. Mr. Atif Sheikh from STEP, while commenting on PPAF, said:

*Furthermore, they are serving a very small segment of persons with disability (PWDs).*

A few respondents in this research recognized women/girls with disability and the challenges they face in terms of poverty. Ms. Abia Akram from STEP commented that:

*The poverty elevation fund (PPAF) has a huge program in which they may include woman/girls with disabilities. As a result, woman/girls with disability may establish their own small programmes for their livelihood. To that end, it is needed to understand that how woman/girls with disabilities can contribute on grass root level. I am more concern with those woman/girls with disabilities who are in the grass root or those living in villages with no source of income. In any program it is needed to include woman/girls with disabilities from villages.*

Overall, the following challenges to persons with disabilities (PWDs) were identified by the DPOs in interviews:

* Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are dependent on their families
* They have limited basic services like wheelchairs or white cane etc.
* Families are considering them as burden
* Poverty is the main cause of exclusion
* Society does not recognise them as productive members of the society.
* The burden multiply, when other members of the family are also unemployed/poor
* Coverage of social protection schemes to a very small segment of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

## 3.2 CONTEXTUALIZING SDG 03: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

CRPD Article 25 Health:

States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability.

### 3.21 Health in Pakistan

A nation’s health plays an important role in the development of a country. Health is one of the key indicators of Human Development Index of the UN system. Pakistan is ranked 122 out of 190 by WHO Performance Report. Access to quality health facilities is one of the major issues in Pakistan. In addition to public health system, Pakistan also has a huge private health sector. However, the private health is very costly and is unaffordable for many in Pakistan. Child mortality, infant mortality, and maternal mortality are very common in Pakistan. On top of that, diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, hepatitis, typhoid, are also widespread in the country.

Health expenditure in Pakistan has been gradually increasing not only as a total expenditure but also as a percentage of GDP (See Graph-I). A quick look into Graph-I reveals that the curve of health expenditure is gradually increasing every year. It was Rs. 125.92 billion in 2012-13 and rose to Rs. 384.57 billion in 2017-18. Similarly, during 2012-13, its percentage share in GDP was only 0.56% but it increased to 1.12% in 2017-18 (See Table 02)[[38]](#endnote-38).

*Source: Government of Pakistan. (2018). Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18. Chapter 11 (p.166). Islamabad: Ministry of Finance.*

**Table 02: Health and Nutrition Expenditure in Pakistan**



*Source: Government of Pakistan. (2018). Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18. Chapter 11 (p.166). Islamabad: Ministry of Finance.*

### 3.22 Legal Framework for Health of Persons with disabilities in Pakistan

1. Balochistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017 (Article 11)
2. The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 (Article 10)

### 3.23 Analysis of Legal Framework for Health of Persons with Disabilities in Pakistan

Article 11 of Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017 deals with all matters related to health of persons with disabilities (PWDs). It requires the government to “ensure barrier free access to necessary public health services in private and public institutions and infrastructure [sic] without any discrimination and without any cost borne by such persons [Article 11(1)].” It further provides for devising plans for health insurance and medical coverage of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The law requires private health sector to provide 50% concession to persons with disabilities (PWDs). It also requires the government to take measures for early detection and prevention of any disability. It further focuses on community based rehabilitation programmes and research on causes of disabilities.

The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 also provides for and requires the government for almost similar measures: easy access to medical services, health and medical insurance, provision of assistive aids, medicines, appliances etc., subsidized rates in private sector, research on disability; and early detection and prevention of disability.

### 3.24 Policies and Programmes Favouring Health of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002
2. National Health Vision Pakistan 2016-2025
3. Prime Minister’s National Health Program 2014
4. Sehat Insaf Card Scheme

### 3.25 Analysis of Policies and Programs Favouring Health of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

National Health Policy (Vision) of Pakistan 2016-2025 also recognizes the rising disability in the country and the scarcity of services available to persons with disabilities (PWDs) in order to improve their standard of living[[39]](#endnote-39). The Strategic Vision (2b) of the policy looks into improving coverage of health services for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The Vision also provides for prevention of disability among children (Challenge 7a).

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002 asks for measures to be taken in early detection, prevention, treatment of disability, and family counseling.

The Prime Minister’s National Health Programme, 2014 focuses on provision of and access to free health services to all including persons with disabilities (PWDs). The programme focuses on “underprivileged citizens to get access to medical health care in a swift and dignified manner without any financial obligations[[40]](#endnote-40).”

The Sehat Insaf Card Scheme (Health Card) is newly inaugurated health scheme at national level to reduce the health cost of poor families. Under this scheme, 80 million Pakistanis below the poverty line will receive free medical treatment worth Rs. 720,000/- in private or state-owned hospitals. Health Card Scheme uses BISP criteria for eligibility of beneficiaries. By this criterion, persons with disabilities (PWDs) are automatically eligible for Health Card. The scheme was already successfully tested in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since 2014[[41]](#endnote-41).

As mentioned earlier, the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab do not have specific health clauses for persons with disabilities. The health coverage of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in KP and Punjab comes under general health coverage.

### 3.26 Impact of and Challenges to SDG 03 in Pakistan

Public sector health services, for everyone including for the disabled, are available free of charge in Pakistan. But unfortunately, health services offered by government hospitals are not of good standard. Both at federal and provincial levels, the following facilities are available free of charge in government hospitals to persons with disabilities (PWDs):

* General treatment as well as surgeries by ophthalmologists
* In orthopaedic wards, people with physical disabilities are provided with orthopaedic related treatment and physiotherapy
* Psychiatric wards provide treatment to people with intellectual disabilities
* ENT wards deal with detection of deafness and provide services and assessment regarding hearing aids in the light of expert opinion by audiologists and people concerned. Through prime minister programme, cochlea implantation is also available free of charge.
* Persons with disabilities (PWDs) (along with senior citizens) are exempt from standing in queues.
* There are special counters for persons with disabilities (PWDs) (along with senior citizens) for issuance of forms etc.

Besides this, some hospitals provide special services to people with specific category of disability. For example, Khyber Teaching Hospital in Peshawar has established Artificial Limb Centre for providing prosthetic limbs to persons with disabilities (PWDs). The centre is a joint venture of the department of Health and Social Welfare. Likewise, in Islamabad, the National Institute of Handicapped, which is now converted into National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, provides medical services to the physically handicapped. The National Institute of Mental Health, Islamabad and Punjab Institute of Mental Health, Lahore provides services to mentally retarded persons especially to those with autism spectrum disorder.

The major issue in health services is access. As mentioned above, some of the provincial legislations and PM National Health Programme, provide easy and free health services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and underprivileged population. However, a number of issues still persist. Khalid Sherwani, a DPO representative said:

*The factors of immobility, inaccessibility, poverty, and social stigma cause the health issues to become even graver than they really are. Therefore, in order to address this issue, governments – provincial and federal – have to take into account all the factors that make up the health eco-system of a country, accessible hospitals, free healthcare, health insurance, socially aware hospital staff, accessible ambulances, and awareness regarding different diseases.*

A DPO representative from SEDA, Mr. Khalid Naeem, said:

*As far as issues in Health are concerned, the list is long. For blind cornea, implantation is not available except an organization in Rawalpindi, which provides it with the help of Sri Lanka.*

A DPO representative from Dar-ul-Sakun, a mental health organization, Ms. Najmus Saqlain said:

*As far as I know, there are no specific health services available for persons with disabilities. I wish persons with disabilities had proper health facilities; there are a number of issues particularly the issues of reproductive health and dental issues for people with intellectual disabilities for which constant, specialised care is needed. Unfortunately, we don’t have dentists who may deal with the issues of people with intellectual disabilities.*

She further added that:

*We have experienced this a number of time when we ask any physician for the treatment of a person with intellectual disability, he/she usually hesitates even to touch him/her. Further, we don’t have ramps in our hospitals which people with disabilities can access easily.*

In one of the focus group workshop, a participant commented that:

*Free health services are provided in few major hospitals in big cities which is absent in small cities and rural areas. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) have to travel to big cities for free medical treatment but their boarding lodging cost is more than the cost of treatment at their native stations.*

Another participant of the same FGD commented that:

*Staff of the hospitals are not PWDs friendly especially women with disability are more vulnerable.*

To sum up, Mobility, access, staff attitude, cost of travel, and limited health coverage are some of the major issues being faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan.

## CONTEXTUALIZING SDG 04: QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.5: By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.a: Build and upgrade educational facilities that are; child disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

CRPD Article 24: Education

“States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education.”

### 3.31 Education in Pakistan

Quality of education is one of the key indicators of national development. Today, nations with excellent education are the most developed in the world. Education is a universally recognized human right.

In Pakistan, overall literacy rate is 58% with 70% and 48% male and female respectively[[42]](#endnote-42). Education expenditure has been gradually increasing in Pakistan (See Graph-II). It increased from Rs. 162 billion in 2006-07 to Rs. 699.2 billion in 2016-17. Today, education expenditure is more than three times higher than that in 2005-06. Nonetheless, it is still only 2.2% of the GDP[[43]](#endnote-43). Some of the other statistics about education can be seen in Table 03 and 04.

*Source: Government of Pakistan. (2018). Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18. Chapter 10 (p.158). Islamabad: Ministry of Finance.*

**Table 03: Number of Schools and Teachers at various levels in Public Sector in Pakistan (2018)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Education** | **In Thousands (000)** | | |
| **Nos of Schools** | **Teachers** | **Enrollment** |
| Primary (Classes I-V) | 169.6 | 457.2 | 22521 |
| Middle Education (Classes VI-VIII) | 49.1 | 455.4 | 7189 |
| High (Classes IX-X) | 31.6 | 560.6 | 3765.2 |
| Higher Secondary (Classes XI-XII) | 5.1 | 120.3 | 1750.6 |
| Technical & Vocational Institutes | 3.8 | 18.2 | 358.3 |
| Degree Colleges (Classes XIII-XIV) | 1.4 | 37.9 | 1089.7 |
| Universities (Classes XV onward) | 185\* | 58.7 | 1423.1 |

*Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18, Chapter 10,p154:*

\*actual

**Table 04: Education Expenditure in Pakistan (2017-18)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **Current Expenditure** | **Development Expenditure** | **Total Expenditure** | **As %age of GDP** |
| **Federal** | **91139** | **16890** | **108029** | **2.2%** |
| Punjab | 221049 | 39593 | 260642 |
| Sindh | 134650 | 12082 | 146732 |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 109482 | 26639 | 136121 |
| Balochistan | 40571 | 7127 | 47698 |
| Pakistan | 596891 | 102331 | 699222 |

*Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18, Chapter 10, p.158*

### 3.32 Legal Framework for Education of Persons with Disabilities in Pakistan

1. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan ,1973 [Article 25(A), 37(b)(c)]
2. Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981 (Article 13)
3. Balochistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017 [Article 09]
4. The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018

### 3.33 Analysis of Legal Framework for Education of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

Article 25(A) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides for “free and compulsory education to all children aged five to sixteen years in such a manner as may be determined by law.” Further, Article 37(B) forces the state to “remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within minimum possible period” while Clause (C) of the Article 37 compels the state to “make technical and professional education generally available and higher education equally accessible to all on merit.”

The provisions in the Constitution of Pakistan apply to everyone irrespective of gender, class, cast, creed or disability. Regarding free and compulsory education to children between 05-16, the state has established primary and secondary schools throughout the country. The Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18 reports that 169.6 thousand state-run primary schools (up to grade 05) around the country with 475.2 thousand teachers were functional the previous year[[44]](#endnote-44). Furthermore, there were 49.1 thousand middle schools (grade 06-08) with 455.4 thousand teachers and 31.6 thousand high schools (up to grade 10) with 560.6 thousand teachers[[45]](#endnote-45). Overall, there are 254800 schools to provide free and compulsory education for children aged between 05-16.

Besides the Constitution, the primary legislation for persons with disabilities in Pakistan, i.e. Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981, Article 13 provides for establishment of technical and vocational training institutes for persons with disabilities.

*“Establishment of training centres. The Provincial Council shall arrange for the training of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in such trades or vocations as it thinks fit, and shall establish training centres in such trades or vocations and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Provincial Government.”*

Special education institutions, established under the Disabled Person (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981, are quite a few in numbers. According to Mr. Khalid Naeem, founder of SEDA, a DPO organization, there are around 700 special education schools in Pakistan. Out of these, 400 are public sector schools while 300 are private special education schools[[46]](#endnote-46). However, their condition is also unsatisfactory according to many disabled persons organizations (DPOs). Muhammad Babar Shahzad[[47]](#endnote-47), the executive director of Empower Pakistan (EP) commented that:

*These institutions claim to provide education to persons with disabilities (PWDs) but the dismal condition of the institutions, coupled with lack of capacity of teaching staff, cannot equip the students with education and training to compete in open market for either getting jobs or continuing education at tertiary level. Resultantly, only few lucky ones having the support of family and friends are able to acquire higher education. Some even outperform even those students who have no physical/sensory impairment.*

Apart from federal level, recently enacted provincial legislations specifically provide for education of persons with disabilities. Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017 specifically considers education as the right of persons with disabilities[[48]](#endnote-48). It has dedicated one full article with 09 sub-clauses for education of persons with disabilities. Article 09 deals with all matters related to education of persons with disabilities. It provides equal rights and adequate facilities for the disabled in all public and private educational institutions. It also provides for free education of at all levels. It further gives at least 50% age relaxation to the disabled in public and private education institutions. It also allocates special quota for persons with disabilities in educational institution for admission and it prohibits discrimination in admission on the basis of disability. Regarding special education, the Act provides for establishing special education schools and other institutions. The Act further ensures inclusion wherever possible. It further provides for teachers training and accessibility of education in any form vis-a-vis vocational training, online education, distance learning and adult education of persons with disabilities (PWDs). In short the Act advocates the:

* Provision of adequate facilities without discrimination
* Free education for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
* 50% age relaxation in public and private institutions
* Establish and equip special education institutions for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
* Non-discrimination in admission of persons with disabilities (PWDs)
* Inclusive education at all levels
* Reasonable and appropriate accommodation for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in hostels etc.
* Facilities for teacher training
* Access to all modes of education.

The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 also recognizes the right to education of persons with disabilities (PWDs) (Part II, Article 3). Further, Article 09 of the Act also provides for all matters related to education of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The major focus of the Article is on equity in education. In this direction, it provides for non-discrimination and opportunities for sports and recreational activities making buildings and campuses accessible to persons with disabilities (PWDs), provision of reasonable accommodation according to individual needs, provision of individualized environment, appropriate mode of language, early detection of individual learning needs, transportation of persons with disabilities (PWDs), life skills education, and access to all modes of education.

### 3.34 Programmes, Rules and Policies Favouring Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in terms of Education in Pakistan

1. National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002
2. National Education Policy 2009 [56(4,5)][[49]](#endnote-49)
3. Higher Education Commission (HEC) Policy for Students with Disabilities for Higher Learning Institutes in Pakistan (2016)

### 3.35 Analysis of Programmes, Rules and Policies Favouring Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in terms of Education in Pakistan

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002 advocates promoting the “integration of children with disabilities in general education system at all levels.” It focuses on training and awareness of teachers regarding disability. The policy seems to focus more on inclusion and does not stress special education that much.

The National Education Policy of 2009 makes specific reference forpersons with disabilities (PWDs). Article 56(4&5) caters for education of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Article 56(5) states that “Special measures shall be taken to ensure inclusion in mainstream education as well as in literacy and TVE programmes”. The policy focuses on inclusive education and inclusion in mainstream education. It also focuses on technical and vocational education of persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, no reference is made for specific needs and special education for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) has developed specific policy for students with disabilities at higher learning institutions. HEC is a regulatory body for universities and degree-awarding institutions in Pakistan. It provides policy guidelines for universities across the country regarding the needs and rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The policy, however, is only a guideline with no implementation force behind it.

### 3.36 Impacts of and challenges to SDG 04 in Pakistan

Education facilities in Pakistan are insufficient and not accessible to every person with disability (PWD). Provision of education for children with disabilities (CWDs) and persons with disabilities (PWDs) is scarce. Consequently, children with disabilities (CWDs) have remained neglected.

Moreover, federal government’s decision to devolve the education ministry to provincial governments had a huge negative impact on the education of children with disabilities (CWDs) as it resultantly impacted the list of priorities. Provincial government remained unplanned and unprepared for how to respond to the educational needs of children with disabilities (CWDs).

Along with this, government policies rarely mention children with disabilities. In 1959 for the first time, the national commission for education placed the education of children with disabilities on the government agenda. Thus, the passage of National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002 remains the most significant official document on disability. It is an important document but exhibiting little knowledge about ground realities and no clear indications of steps to be taken to realize these goals.

Under the Disabled Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981, the department of special education was established at federal level. After the 18th Amendment in the Constitution in 2008, special education has been devolved to the provinces. Now, special education centers are working under provincial special education ministries or in Social Welfare Departments.

For the curriculum and promotion of special education as a subject, departments of special education have been established in University of Punjab, Allama Iqbal Open University, University of Karachi, and Sarhad University.

With regard to inclusive education, there is no legislation. Nonetheless, a limited number of inclusive schools do exist in big cities of Pakistan.

In one of the interviews, Mr. Atif, a representative of STEP (a DPO) mentioned the following list of issues with regard to education for persons with disabilities (PWDs):

* Lack of awareness
* Lack of information
* Accessibility/poor infrastructure
* Communication
* no policy

He further added:

*These barriers create hurdles in education for persons with disabilities. Because special education centres are limited in number and inclusive education is not yet introduced properly in the country. Furthermore, standard of special education is not fully satisfactory, so when a child with a disability completes his/her grade 5/6, he/she is unable to go to any mainstream institution because of the above-mentioned barriers.*

One of the participants in an FGD raised the issue of administration of special education in Pakistan. He added that providing special education to the persons with disabilities (PWDs) is the job of education department all over the world while in Pakistan, different departments in different provinces has administrative responsibilities of special education. Overall, it is part of the social welfare department. He recommended that the administrative control of special education ought to be under the education ministry.

## CONTEXTUALIZING SDG 08: WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 8.5:

by 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

CRPD Article 27: Work and Employment

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps

### 3.41 Labour and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

Employment is not only an economic necessity, but it also provides an economic and social status to an individual. It determines your income and thereby your level of economic independence a person may have. In Pakistan, job sector is divided into agriculture, manufacturing, and service sector. With the passage of time, the service sector has grown in terms of employment share in the country. Unemployment in youth is one of the major problems in Pakistan. Out of 189.19 million population in 2014-15 (the latest available statistics), the employed population was 134.99 million. The labour force for the same year was 61.04 million. However, the employed labour force for 2014-15 was only 57.42 million. It means 3.62 million labour-force was unemployed which is 5.9% unemployment rate. The unemployment rate has gradually increased since 2006-07[[50]](#endnote-50). Nonetheless, a gradual decline in unemployment rate has started to occur since 2014-15 (See Graph-III). Moreover, the unemployment rate is higher in urban areas. Majority of the unemployed labour-force consist of the youth.

Looking at the youth unemployment rate, the Prime Minister’s Youth Programme was launched to combat youth unemployment. The programme provides small business loans, interest-free loans, laptops, fee reimbursement, youth training, and skills development activities. Beside other groups, the Prime Minister’s Youth Skills Development Programme specifically talks about persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the development of their skills.

**Graph-III: Unemployment rate in Pakistan**

*Source: Government of Pakistan. (2018). Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18. (p.145). Islamabad: Ministry of Finance*

### 3.42 Legal Framework for Work and Employment of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. Article 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (promotion of the social and economic well-being of the people)
2. Punjab Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) (Amendment) Act, 2015 (XX of 2015)
3. The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018
4. Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017

### 3.43 Analysis of the Legal Framework for Employment of (PWDs) in Pakistan

Article 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan talks about the “promotion of the social and economic well-being of the people.” According to the said article, ensuring the well-being of the people by raising the standard of living and by preventing the concentration of wealth and means of production in the hands of a few are fundamentals principles of any state policy. It further talks about the importance of reasonable facilities for work and leisure, social security and compulsory social insurance, and reduction in incomes and earnings of individuals.

The primary legislation for the work and employment of persons with disabilities in Pakistan was promulgated during the International Year of Disability 1981. The ordinance is titled ‘Disable Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance, 1981’. Its purpose, as mentioned in the preamble of the Ordinance, was “to provide for the employment, rehabilitation and welfare of disabled persons.”

According to the Disabled Persons’ (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance 1981, a “"disabled person" means a person who, on account of injury, disease or congenital deformity, is handicapped for undertaking any gainful profession or employment in order to earn his livelihood, and includes a person who is blind, deaf, physically handicapped or mentally retarded (Article 2-C).”

The Ordinance also established National and Provincial Councils for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PCRDP). The Ordinance made it mandatory for all the establishments (i.e. a government, commercial or an industrial establishment with at least 100 workers) that “not less than one per cent of the total number of persons employed by an establishment at any time shall be disabled persons (Article 10-1).” Subsequent legislations have increased this quota. In 1998, the Government of Pakistan enhanced the job quota for disabled from 01% to 02%[[51]](#endnote-51). Further, after the 18th Amendment in the Constitution of Pakistan, each province has legislated for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Punjab increased the quota to 03%[[52]](#endnote-52) while Sindh[[53]](#endnote-53) and Baluchistan[[54]](#endnote-54) to 05%.

Article 11 of the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018, one of the major Articles of the Act with 15 sub-clauses, deals with employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Besides establishing 05% employment quota, it requires the government to formulate schemes and programmes to facilitate employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs). It also asks for special measures to be taken for persons with disabilities (PWDs) about their self-employment. The law also talks about skills development through vocational training schemes and programmes in the mainstream formal and non-formal sector. It ensures adequacy of facilities and support for the training of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The law also talks specifically about the employment of those with developmental, intellectual, and multiple disabilities including autism. It provides loans to persons with disabilities (PWDs) and marketing of the products made by persons with disabilities (PWDs). It also talks about non-discrimination against persons with disabilities (PWDs) in employment, promotion, and career development in the private sector. The industrial establishments, as per the law, are required to provide barrier- free work environment and accommodation to persons with disabilities (PWDs). Similar to the national legislation, the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018 also provides for establishing a ‘Special Employment Exchange and Portal’ for persons with disabilities (PWDs) including a ‘grievance redressal’ mechanism. For grievance redressal, the law requires every government establishment to appoint a ‘grievance redressal officer’ who shall maintain a complaint register for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Article 10 of the Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017 deals with all matters related to equity in employment for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the province. Besides establishing a 05% employment quota, it talks about non-discrimination in employment, reasonable accommodation, and provision of necessary aid and equipment for persons with disabilities (PWDs)to perform their duties. Any industrial establishment, which does not provide a 05% job quota to persons with disabilities (PWDs)is required to contribute twice the amount to funds for persons with disabilities (PWDs)each month.

### 3.44 Rules, Regulations and Policies Favoring Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in terms of Employment

1. National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002 (proposed the increase of disable quota from 01% to 02%)
2. Government of Pakistan Labour Policy 2010 [Article (45), (46)]
3. Provincial Labour Policies
   1. The Sindh Labour Policy 2018 [Article 04(v)]
   2. Punjab Labour Policy 2018
   3. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Labour Policy 2019
4. Federal Public Service Commission, Islamabad Rules for Competitive Examination (CSS) 2017

### 3.45 Analysis of Rules, Regulations and Policies Favouring Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in terms of Employment

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2002 dedicates a full section to vocational training and employment of persons with disabilities. In line with the ILO Convention 159, the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2002 proposed increase of employment quota of Persons with disabilities (PWDs) from 01% to 02%. It also proposed arrangements for sheltered workshops owing to minimal opportunities available for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the open market. The policy further laid down the framework for self-employment of persons with disabilities by providing financial environment so that the persons with disabilities may acquire economic independence[[55]](#endnote-55).

Besides this, the policy also provides incentives to employers of persons with disabilities. The incentives range from providing priority in the award of contracts to financial assistance.

The Articles 45 and 46 of the Government of Pakistan Labour Policy, 2010 provides policy guidelines regarding persons with disabilities (PWDs). The policy talks about special employment quota in all establishments. It also provides for non-discrimination of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in employment, promotion and career development. It provides equal status and opportunities to persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all matters related to employment along with establishing “special education complexes for training of workers with disabilities and children of workers under one roof through Workers Welfare Fund” (Article 45).

The Article 46 of the Labour Policy recognizes the discrimination faced by eunuchs and trans-genders in terms of employment. Besides commitment to take special measures for education and employment of transgender persons in Pakistan, it is astonishing to note that transgender persons have been put under the heading of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Labour Policy of 2010.

The provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa[[56]](#endnote-56), Punjab and Sindh have drafted provincial labour policies. Although provinces are semi-autonomous entities, however, the labour policies of all these three provinces provide similar measures with regard to persons with disabilities (PWDs). Some of the provisions include:

* establishing special quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
* curtail discrimination in any case of work related matters for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
* provides equal status and opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs)
* recognizes the problems faced by transgender in education and employment
* recognize the transgender as persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The province of Baluchistan has yet to come up with a provincial labour policy.

Besides labour policies, the Federal Public Service Commission of Pakistan allows persons with disabilities (PWDs) to take competitive examinations. The person with disability, according to FPSC rules, includes physically impaired, hearing /speech impaired (deaf and mute) and visually impaired (blind).

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are allowed to take competitive examinations in four service groups (total 09 services groups) including (a) Commerce and Trade Group (b) Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service (c) Information Group and (d) Postal Group. However, in certain cases, the persons with disabilities (PWDs) are considered for Foreign Service group too[[57]](#endnote-57).

The rules also call for age relaxation and persons with disabilities are given age relaxation in the upper age limit by two years[[58]](#endnote-58).

### 3.46 Impacts of and Challenges to SDG 08 in Pakistan

The national employment quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs) is 02% though it varies from province to province. It is the implementation of the quota which is a major challenge. On the 2018 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd), the Supreme Court called upon all provincial chief secretaries to submit the data regarding 2% quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs), i.e. the number of people recruited and the number of positions to be filled for the quota. The chiefs, secretaries, however, failed to provide the required data on time and the Court provided them one-month extension for provision of data. This is an important development with respect to the implementation of job quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs)[[59]](#endnote-59).

Nonetheless, the reserved quota is yet to be fully taken advantage of by persons with disabilities (PWDs). Commenting on this, Mr. Atif Sheikh, the DPO representative from STEP said:

*There are two reasons behind this: One; most of the persons with disabilities (PWDs), especially in rural areas, are not aware of the reserved quota even if they are aware; they are not competent enough to apply for the job; two, if they apply for and get the job, the environment is not accessible for them including transportation and internal structure of the buildings.*

Similarly, Ms. Abia Akram, a representative of National Forum for Women with Disabilities (NFWWD) said:

*In employment, the major barrier is environmental and infrastructural accessibility.*

Lack of awareness amongst persons with disabilities (PWDs) regarding reserved quota in jobs for them coupled with barriers to accessibility, are the major challenges for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Mr. Atif also added that:

*If the case is hearing impairment or sight loss, the employers feel reluctant to talk to such individuals. It is a very common stigma that I have seen in my life.*

It means the stigma associated with persons with disabilities (PWDs) is one of the major challenges in terms of employment.

Besides persons with disabilities (PWDs) in general, women with disabilities in Pakistan stand no chance getting employed. Ms. Abia Akram said in an interview that:

*When it comes to women and girls with disabilities, convincing the families is a major issue. They usually ask about security of the environmental, constrains which are expected outside home, and the comfort level they require at workplace.*

In short, major issues with regard to employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs) are:

* Improper education: most of the persons with disabilities (PWDs) are not educated properly due to which they do not meet job requirements. Same is the case with technical jobs for which persons with disabilities (PWDs) are not trained.
* No proper training is given to persons with disabilities (PWDs) so they remain unprepared for any job
* Reluctance on the part of employers, both in government and nongovernment sectors, to hire persons with disabilities (PWDs) for different reasons
* Lack of skill development programme
* Lack of transportation
* Lack of facilities
* Lack of accessibility.

No government has taken any major steps to overcome these issues. However, persons with disabilities (PWDs) themselves are fighting for their rights. Last year in Lahore, some visually impaired people protested for their employment[[60]](#endnote-60).

Proper and quality education should be given to persons with disabilities (PWDs) and their skill development should be improved. Transportation should be available to them so that they can move from one place to another easily. Another big issue is the inclusion of women with disabilities; they face greater challenges in the type of society we are living in, and thus their living standard should be improved.

Some of the Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs) have been working for the employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs) for years. STEP, an Islamabad based DPO, has established a ‘Job Centre’ for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in collaboration with National Training Centre for Disabled Persons. Nonetheless, it is not very successful yet. Some of the DPOs are supporting employers to hirepersons with disabilities (PWDs), helping employers as well as reaching persons with disabilities (PWDs) to meet their employment needs.

The National and Provincial Counsels for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, which are responsible institutions for issuing certificate and hiring persons with disabilities (PWDs) may be strengthened.

## CONTEXTUALIZING SDG 11: ACCESSIBILITY

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

SDG 11.2:

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

SDG 11.7:

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

CRPD Article 09: Accessibility

To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.

### 3.51 Accessibility in Pakistan

The world urban population has been growing at a staggering rate. In Pakistan, the urban population grew from 32.52% in 1998 to 36.38% in 2017[[61]](#endnote-61). Top 10 major cities of Pakistan include Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Peshawar, Multan, Haiderabad, Islamabad and Quetta.

The population of these cities has grown significantly. As can be seen in Table 05, the population of Karachi grew from 9.33 million in 1998 to 14.91 million, i.e. 63% growth in the past 19 years. Likewise, there has been 46% growth in the population of Lahore city, 63% in Faisalabad city, 67% growth in Rawalpindi city, 56% growth in Gujranwala city, 50% growth in Peshawar city, 56% in Multan, 67% in Hyderabad, 51% in Islamabad, and 56% growth in Quetta city. Overall, a growth of 57% has been observed in the population of these cities from 1998 to 2017.

With the staggering growth of population in these cities, the existing services and infrastructure, such as roads, parks, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities also need to increase in order to accommodate and cater to the movement and well-being of the growing population. The increasing population growth of these major cities, however, has created numerous issues including youth violence, theft, burglary, traffic problems, pollution, and above all, accessibility to numerous city services and facilities. It is in against this backdrop, that the accessibility issues of persons with disabilities (PWDs) can be seen.

**Table 05: Major Cities of Pakistan**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Major Cities** | **Census 1998 (million)** | **Census 2017 (million)** | **%age growth** |
| Karachi City | 9.33 | 14.91 | 63 |
| Lahore City | 5.14 | 11.12 | 46 |
| Faisalabad M. Crop | 2.00 | 3.20 | 63 |
| Rawalpindi City | 1.40 | 2.09 | 67 |
| Gujranwala M. Corp | 1.13 | 2.02 | 56 |
| Peshawar City | 0.98 | 1.97 | 50 |
| Multan City M. Corp | 1.10 | 1.97 | 56 |
| Hyderabad City | 1.16 | 1.73 | 67 |
| Islamabad M. Corp | 0.52 | 1.01 | 51 |
| Quetta City | 0.56 | 1.00 | 56 |
| TOTAL | 23.41 | 40.92 | 57 |

*Source: Government of Pakistan. (2018). Economic Survey of Pakistan 2017-18. Chapter 12. (p.18641). Islamabad: Ministry of Finance. Retrieved February 23, 2019 from* [*http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters\_18/12-Population.pdf*](http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_18/12-Population.pdf)

### 3.52 Legal Framework for Accessibility of Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. Special Citizens Bill 2008 (Amendment) 2015
2. Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act 2017
3. The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018

### 3.53 Analysis of Legal and Policy Framework of Accessibility in Pakistan

The Special Citizens Bill of 2008 required the government to bind the authorities of educational institutions, banks, hospitals, shopping malls, police stations, airports, railway stations, bus stops, hotels and all every public places to provide wheelchairs to the disabled. It further required public and private transport systems to provide special seats to the disabled. It also ensured special facilities on footpaths for the visual and physically impaired. But unfortunately, the bill could not be made into a law. Another effort was made in 2015 to convert the bill into a law. However, the bill is yet to be enacted

Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017 gives special attention to ‘independent living of persons with disabilities in the community’ (Article 12). Independent living of persons with disabilities (PWDs) has been considered a right by Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017. The Act requires the government to take necessary measures for persons with disabilities (PWDs) to give them access to houses, residential and other community support services [Article 12(4)]. It also requires the government to provide necessary equipment, assistive technology for free or at subsidized rates to persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Mr. Khalid Sherwani, a representative of Sindh based DPO said:

*The Balochistan Persons with Disabilities Act, No II of 2017, also talks about accessibility requirements of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and demands that the government must take steps in order to make sure that barriers in infrastructure and communication are removed.*

The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018 also provides for special measures for accessibility to necessary services including public health services and infrastructure regarding persons with disabilities (PWDs). The Article 13 of the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018 deals with ‘Right to live independently in community’. It requires the government to take “necessary measures to enable persons with disabilities (PWDs) to have access to a range of in-house, residential and other community services etc. [Article 13 (4)].” It further requires the government to provide necessary equipment and assistive technology to persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Mr. Khalid Sherwani, a representative of Sindh based DPO said:

*The Sindh Empowerment of ‘Persons with Disabilities’ Act, 2018 provides right of access to people with disabilities in multiple spheres of life. Specifically, clause number 6 mentions access to facilities, transport and information. The act itself is a great benchmark in legislature regarding persons with disabilities (PWDs), but it is yet to be implemented.*

The provinces of Khyber Pukhtunkwa and Punjab have yet to come up with exclusive legislation on disability and accessibility. Although there is no exclusive legislation on disabilities in KP and Punjab, however, different codes favouring persons with disabilities (PWDs) are being practiced in both of the provinces.

### 3.54 Rules, Regulations, and Policies Favouring Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. National Policy for Persons with Disabilities 2002
2. The Accessibility Code of Pakistan 2006
3. Higher Education Commission (HEC) Policy for Students with Disabilities for Higher Learning Institutes in Pakistan (2016)
4. Digital Pakistan Policy 2018
5. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Model Building Bye-Laws 2017
6. Building and Zoning Bye-Laws for Metropolitan Corporation Lahore 2017
7. Building Codes of Pakistan 2007

### 3.55 Analysis of Rules, Regulations, and Policies Favouring Accessibility of (PWDs) in Pakistan

The National Policy for Person with Disabilities, 2002 provides for disabled-friendly design of building, parks, public places. The policy recommended a collaborative effort between Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education, Pakistan Council of Architects and Planners (PCAP) and Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for devising accessibility codes for new buildings, parks, and public places and improving the existing structure for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

In line with this, the government introduced Accessibility Code for Pakistan in 2006. The code-booklet (48 pages) provides technical guidelines for modifying existing buildings, parks, and other public places to make them accessible for persons with disabilities (PWDs)particularly for physically and visually-impaired ones. The booklet provides guidelines for external and internal environment of the buildings. It took special care of allocated space, toilet facilities, kitchen and work counters, assembly seating, doors, handrail and grab bars, lifts, and switches and controls. Since then, most of the new buildings and public sector projects are taking measures to improve structure of buildings. The accessibility codes have been incorporated in new projects such as Lahore and Islamabad Metro Bus Project, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Peshawar.

The HEC policy, regarding students with disabilities on campuses of higher education institutes, provides for physically accessible environment to persons with disabilities (PWDs). The HEC has constituted Building Review Committees which shall monitor the implementation of the Accessibility Code at campuses around the country. The HEC policy also requires universities to draw accessible time-tables for the students. It further provides equal access to university students’ accommodation, such as hostels.

Commenting on the overall situation of accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs), Mr. Khalid Naeem, CEO of Socio-Economic Development Association (SEDA) said:

*Laws favouring the disabled are fewer in number. On top of that, implementation of the existing laws is very weak in every field. If someone sees a person on wheelchair on road, no taxi/bus driver takes him/her with them. It is the attitude of the people which is a problem.*

The Digital Pakistan Policy, 2018, which was recently approved by the Federal Cabinet, proposes “compliance of universal standards in development of websites that allow inclusiveness of community with disabilities (Clause 7.3).” It also encourages local development of software tools accessible to persons with disabilities (PWDs) along with consideration of all national level IT schemes in Ministry of Information and Telecommunication. The policy objective of the Digital Pakistan Policy also focuses on bridging the digital divide between various categories including inequality for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and reducing barriers in online access to persons with disabilities (PWDs). The policy proposes establishment of Software Technology Parks (STPs) where the disabled will have equal easy and unlimited access to all the facilities. None of the DPOs, however, knew of the Digital Pakistan Policy, 2018.

Besides rules, policies and regulations, different national, provincial and city authorities have enacted ‘building codes’ for proper town planning and management. For instance, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province enacted Model Building Bye-Laws in 2017 vide notification no. SOG/LG/18-133/Advertisement/2017[[62]](#endnote-62). The model building bye-laws makes many provisions for ‘ease of access to physically challenged persons’. However, the bye-laws have paid no attention to other forms of disabilities such as visually impaired persons.

Similarly, Building and Zoning Bye-Laws for Metropolitan Corporation Lahore 2017 make special provisions for persons with disabilities (PWDs)[[63]](#endnote-63). These provisions include ramps, toilets, parking, lifts, doorways, emergency exits and alarms etc.

Nonetheless, at national level, the Building Codes of Pakistan 2007 makes no special reference to persons with disabilities (PWDs)[[64]](#endnote-64).

### 3.56 Impact of and Challenges to SDG 11 in Pakistan

Besides a few measures to improve the accessibility of persons with disabilities (PWDs)in Pakistan, numerous challenges still persist. Ms. Najm-us-Saqlain, a representative from Dar-ul-Sakun, said:

*Have you ever seen a Pakistani train? Can any normal person climb those stairs? [Of course not]. Now think about a person on wheelchair or with crutches. So accessibility, whether it is an infrastructural accessibility or access to education remains a standing point both in tangible and intangible terms. We need to consider it not only at a government level, but at social and family level as well. The doorways of our houses do not allow any guest with a wheelchair. We do not have washrooms which can cater to their needs and even we do not have ramps in buildings. We do have Braille tactile and sign language interpreters.*

After pointing out environmental accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities (PWDs) at different level of society, she also shared her experience at the University of Karachi where one of her classmates was a wheelchair user. She pointed out that neither the classrooms of the mass communication department nor the washrooms were accessible to her wheelchair user classmate.

However, as mentioned previously, the state has taken special measures for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in its Digital Pakistan Policy. Further, Pakistan Television (PTV), the official television channel of Pakistan, has begun sign language interpretation in its major morning and evening bulletins. For architectural designs, the state has placed/check this verb the accessibility code of 2006, which is a part of building code of Pakistan. However, these initiatives are not bound by the law and the problem of implementation still persists. With regard to transportation, the new mass transit systems, such as Lahore Metro, Islamabad Metro and Peshawar BRT, have taken special measures for accessibility of bus stations and buses for persons with disabilities (PWDs). In short, accessibility for persons with disabilities (PWDs) to the environment, communication and transportation is gradually increasing in Pakistan.

## 3.6 CONTEXTUALIZING SDG 16: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

CRPD Article 13: Access to Justice

1. States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, including through the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodations, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages.

2. In order to help to ensure effective access to justice for persons with disabilities, States Parties shall promote appropriate training for those working in the field of administration of justice, including police and prison staff.

### 3.61 Access to Justice in Pakistan

The concept of ‘access to justice’ recognizes the fact that justice is a right of every citizen. But we may be victims of a miscarriage of justice any time. The SDG 16 provides for ‘access to justice’ and ‘accountable and inclusive institutions’ at all levels and for everyone. In order to promote the rule of law and access to justice for everyone, the state institutions ought to be inclusive and accountable. In terms of Institutions Quality Index, Pakistan stands at 152 out of 191 countries, with New Zealand at the top and Somalia and North Korea at the bottom of the Index[[65]](#endnote-65). A 2015 survey conducted in Pakistan reported that 98% poor in the country have no or very limited access to justice[[66]](#endnote-66) despite the fact that police stations and courts have been established in each district of Pakistan. Though anyone with a complaint may approach the court of justice for protection of his/her rights.

Besides courts, federal and provincial ombudsperson offices have also been appointed across the country. The office of the ombudsperson provides free justice to all without financial burden on the complainant. However, the lack of awareness about the ombudsperson’s office renders this service least effective. Now persons with disabilities (PWDs)have to fight harder for justice in this context.

### 3.62 Legal and Constitutional Framework for Access to Justice for Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. The Constitution of Pakistan 1973 [Article 10, 10(a), and Article 37(b)]
2. Special Person Special Card Scheme 2009
3. The Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017 [Article 17]
4. The Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018 [Article 18]
5. Federal Ombudsmen Institutional Reforms Act, 2013

### 3.63 Analysis of Legal and Constitutional Framework for Access to Justice for Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 states that “The state shall ensure inexpensive and expeditious justice (Article 37b).” Furthermore, Article 10 and 10A of the constitution also consider justice as a fundamental right of each and every citizen of Pakistan (including persons with disabilities (PWDs)). However, no special constitutional provision exists for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Every constitutional provision applies to every Pakistani including persons with disabilities (PWDs) especially regarding inexpensive and expeditious justice. The preamble of the constitution further provides for guaranteeing ‘fundamental rights, including equality of status and opportunity before law’. It can be said that constitutionally, persons with disabilities (PWDs) have been provided with equal access to justice and recognition before the law. The term ‘equality of status and opportunity before the law’ requires special attention. Equality of opportunity and status before the law can be assured to persons with disabilities (PWDs) only through special provisions.

The Baluchistan Persons with Disabilities Act, 2017 requires “the government [to] ensure that the persons with disabilities (PWDs) have unhindered access to justice system in the country including courts of law, tribunals, police and other law enforcement agencies [Article 17(1)].” It requires the cases of persons with disabilities (PWDs) to be given priority. It further requires training of all those involved in dispensation of justice. It also ensures free legal aid to persons with disabilities (PWDs) and that it shall be the duty of presiding judicial officer to ensure that the aid is provided to persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Likewise, the Sindh Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018 also makes similar provisions regarding access to justice to persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The ‘Special Person Special Card Scheme’ of 2009 was initiated to provide Special Computerized National Identity Cards (SCNIC) to persons with disabilities (PWDs)in Pakistan. The SCNICs have the wheelchair mark, issued by the Government of Pakistan, for persons with disabilities. The purpose of the card, as described by the then President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, at the launching ceremony of the scheme, was “to address the needs of disabled and special persons[[67]](#endnote-67).” The holder of SCNIC has been given numerous facilities including:

1. 50 % concession in air and rail fare
2. Provision of insurance cover to handicapped persons without guardians or without source of income
3. Entitlement for micro-credit finance to handicapped persons in any trade
4. Duty free import for vehicles for handicapped persons (except the visually impaired)
5. Immediate amendments in building control regulations to ensure easy /special access to the handicapped
6. Provision of wheelchairs on streets for the handicapped.
7. Provision of special parking space for vehicles used by the handicapped in all buildings
8. Free medical treatment for a disabled person, for his children and parents in all government hospitals[[68]](#endnote-68).

The purpose of the Federal Ombudsmen Institutional Reforms Act, 2013 is to “provide speedy and expeditious relief to citizens by redressing their grievances to promote good governance”[[69]](#endnote-69). The law is not exclusive to persons with disabilities (PWDs) but applies to everyone in contact with any federal agency. The office of the ombudsperson provides free justice to anyone with a complaint against any federal agency. Besides federal ombudsperson, many of the provinces have provincial offices of the ombudspersons which deal with complaints against any provincial government department/agency.

### 3.64 Programmes and Policies Favouring Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

1. Access to Justice Programme, 2002
2. Islamabad Declaration, 2014 of the International Judicial Conference

### 3.65 Analysis of Programmes and Policies for Favouring Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan

For speedy disposal of cases, ‘Access to Justice Programme’ was started in 2002 with the help of Asian Development Bank. The rationale of the programme was to provide free of cost access to the poor in Pakistan in order to reduce financial burden on poverty-stricken people. The programme did not make specific reference for persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, it applied to all the population.

The Islamabad Declaration, 2014 of the International Judicial Conference also showed commitment to providing access to justice at the doorstep through strengthening district judiciary and other judicial forums. It asks for speedy dispensation of justice and curtailing lengthy legal procedures. The declaration also suggested research in causes of maladministration in disposal of justice. The declaration, however, makes no specific reference to persons with disabilities (PWDs). However, its commitments apply to everyone[[70]](#endnote-70).

### 3.66 Impacts of and Challenges to SDG 16 in Pakistan

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) face numerous issues regarding justice in Pakistan. Ms. Najm-us-Saqlain, a DPO representative from Karachi narrated the following story:

*Let me share an experience with you. Recently, a lady has been sent to dar-ul-sukun. She is the resident of Karachi. She is the only child of her parents; her parents died in a car accident. This unmarried lady is in her mid-30s, whose parents owned a building. After the death of her parents, all the tenants of the building abused her and thus she lost her senses and property grabbed by her tenants. We cannot get her justice because she is a woman plus mentally challenged as well. It seems giving her justice is out of the question now, because she cannot tell what happened to her and nobody believes her because she has no proof. There are certain NGOs who are working independently to give justice to people with disabilities.”*

She narrated another case as well:

*In another case, there are 2 children with us from Baluchistan. They are by mentally challenged by birth.. Their parents are dead. Their relatives have robbed them of their possessions and sent them to Dar-ul-Sukun, because they cannot fight for themselves and there is nobody to fight for them. On top of this, our courts and our legal system is pathetic too.*

There are no specific legislative measures for ensuring access to justice for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) have the same access to justice as general population has. Some of the persons with disabilities (PWDs), nonetheless, have become lawyers now. In 2018, a visually impaired lawyer, Yousaf Saleem, was appointed the first every civil Judge in Pakistan[[71]](#endnote-71). However, Mr. Saleem had to fight a long battle for his case. . Those persons with disabilities (PWDs), who are now part of judiciary, have now started advocating barrier-free and accessible environment in the courts and in all other departments including police stations.

In short, securing of job quota, issuance of special CNICs, and the courts’ active role in securing the rights of persons with disabilities have contributed to easy access to justice, recognition before the law, and accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

## 4. 1 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.11 SDG 01: No Poverty

1. Social protection system may be introduced to support the employment schemes of PWDs including shelter, and other business/entrepreneurship initiatives according to the needs and capabilities of PWDs to improve their standard of living.
2. Work of persons with disabilities may be recognized. People with disability need to be motivated for more innovative work. Further opportunities should be explored to enhance their work.
3. Facilitation and motivation of existing safety networks such as Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Baitul Mal, PPAF, and Akhuwat may be planned in a better way for an improved livelihood of PWDs and their families.
4. Provision of advanced technology for capacity building and finding career opportunities as well as micro finance/interest free loans for supporting self-help initiatives are needed for PWDs to support themselves and contribute to the national economy.
5. Promotion of sustainable inclusive economic growth through flexible legislative measures, principles of equity, equality and cooperation in all developmental and social protection programmes are needed to ensure improved standard of living for all.
6. Revision of existing social protection programmes in terms of feasible registration procedure as well as need based categorized data to facilitate large proportion of persons with disabilities (PWDs is needed in their respective areas with proper initiatives.

### 4.12 SDG 03: Good Health and Well-Being

1. In order to ensure healthy lives of persons with disabilities (PWDs) as well as to protecting them from possible health risks the following recommendations are forwarded: provisions of proper medical assessment with minimal or no cost across the country; proper assistive devices according to the individual needs, appropriate rehabilitation services/measures; early detection and intervention programs; disability related health facilities including reproductive health services to woman with disabilities; accessibility and transportation to health units/hospitals in both rural and urban areas; and training on disability to related stakeholders.
2. The government should form or establish separate counters and provide bedrooms in each health unit/hospital, well-equipped labs for proper screening and assessment, proper referral system of dealing with disability. The government should establish rehabilitation centers and special health units also to deal with specific health issues of people with disabilities properly.
3. The government should organize and categorize segregated data of persons with disabilities with well-defined indicators to ensure improve health services as well as other disability services to the disabled in other domains of social development such as education, employment and recreation.
4. The government should initiate health related programmes regarding counseling and genetic counseling, early intervention and possible treatments of various disabilities to educate common masses about expected disabilities and prevention measures.
5. Sensitization of staff in health units and hospitals, policy makers and implementers are needed to deal PWDs in effective manner.
6. Monitoring and evaluation of facilities and services is needed in all health units/hospitals to ensure healthy life of PWDs across the country.

### 4.13 SDG 04: Quality Education

1. The government should strengthen mechanism of implementation by adopting clear policies with inclusion of persons with disabilities on planning and execution level followed by measurable and tangible actions are needed for promotion of equal educational opportunities for each category of persons with disabilities.
2. The government should promote quality and inclusive education for persons with disabilities at all levels throughout the country by adoption of need based special education methodologies in inclusive set-up. It should also increase enrolment of persons with disabilities in both private and public sectors, spread awareness about them by sharing success stories, build strong connections between special and inclusive educational institutions , provision of proper assistive aids and devices, adoption of accessibility policy and measures , market oriented technical education/vocational training, teacher training in mainstream educational institutions, modification and production of text/reading material in accessible format such as Braille and sign language for people with visual and hearing impairments. The government should promote need based special education for people with severe disabilities to ensure leave that no one is left behind.
3. The government should prevent or discourage practices of harassment, neglect and abuse in educational institutions to ensure inclusion of children as well as girls and woman with disabilities.
4. The government should prevent attitudinal, communicational, technological and environmental barriers to integrate persons with disabilities in all educational programs.
5. The government should provide proper screening and assessment and feasible examination system for each category of persons with disabilities.
6. In order to ensure education for all with the realization of full potential it is recommended that the political leaders and policy makers should prioritize education of persons with disabilities in terms of sufficient budget, expansion of services as per the growing population of the country and inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all learning opportunities/programs.
7. The government should initiate parental counseling programmes in both rural and urban areas to support and promote the education of children with disabilities especially girls and women without any discrimination

### 4.14 SDG 08: Work and Employment

1. Placement of PWDs according to individual qualification without any discrimination in both private and public sectors as well as implementation of reserved quota and upper age limit for PWDS must be ensured at all levels.
2. Facilitation and motivation from disabled people organizations is needed to encourage both public and private sectors employers to hire PWDs as well as to create understanding among PWDs regarding employment needs.
3. The state should establish of job placement and facilitation centers for persons with disabilities (PWDs) under NCRDP and PCRDP at federal, provincial and district levels to strengthen the process of employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs).
4. The government should introduce internship programmes for graduates, entrepreneurship programmes and self-employment for woman with disabilities, especially with severe disabilities and those who are living in rural areas for a better standard of living.
5. The government should give proper attention to quality education including technical education and skill development programs for both genders, capacity building of both PWDs and employers, feasible transportation, awareness and training of employers regarding employment of PWDs, accessible work places and inclusive policies in both private and public sectors to ensure dignified barrier-free working environment for PWDs.

### 4.15 SDG 11: Inclusive Cities and Communities

1. Adaptation of accessibility including infrastructural, communicational, technological, programmatic and alternate formats is needed to ensure legislation, planning and execution with consultation of PWDs in all walks of life as well as the implementation of existing accessibility codes in all public and private projects/programs.
2. Monitoring and supervision bodies are needed under CDA and PDA or even separate government department to ensure accessibility in each initiative taking place across the country or otherwise apply sufficient penalty.
3. Allocation of budget for accessibility is needed to support various government agencies to ensure and promote accessibility of PWDs in terms of infrastructure, transportation, communication and information, technology, programs and services in both rural and urban areas on equal bases with others.
4. The state should develop of accessibility standards for above-mentioned domains, web accessibility, and national language (Urdu) screen reader apps for people with vision loss, accessible curriculum for people with various forms of disabilities and mobility assistive aids featured with advanced technology like navigation and Artificial Intelligence.
5. Sensitization of masses regarding accessibility issues of PWDs through public awareness campaign by the government is needed to plan a barrier-free environment for all.

### 4.16 SDG 16: Access to Justice

1. Recognition of PWDs in all legislative and judicial processes, attainments of disability rights, proper facilitation by law enforcement agencies according to the needs of PWDs, inclusion in policy making processes and discouragement of discriminatory practices are needed to ensure PWDs are treated as dignified members of the society.
2. Sensitization and understanding of disability movement issues is needed among all stakeholders of legal system through awareness sessions, meetings and share relevant stories of persons with disabilities for better reflection of right based disability perspective in future legislations as well as reforms in the existing laws.
3. Provision of specific legislation regarding access to justice is needed to allow PWDs to hire appropriate advocates with minimal or no cost who plead cases of property or inheritance, justice in employment, acknowledgement of accessibility measures in all governmental and nongovernmental initiatives, implementation of disability laws and policies at each level with correct and clear actions and improvement in laws related to torture and violence.
4. The establishment of separate commission /special courts for PWDs to submit and process applications regarding different individual and collective issues of PWDs is needed to provide ease of access to justice, proceed severe cases of disability, especially cases of intellectual disabilities and influence both federal and provincial governments to implement disability laws and policies properly.
5. Provision of court documents in Braille and sign language interpreters for people with visual and hearing impairments are needed to ensure the right of access to justice to persons with disabilities in an effective manner.

## 5.1 Conclusion

After Pakistan’s ratification of the UNCRPD and adoption of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, there has been a renewed interest in seeking the protection, welfare, rehabilitation, and inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan. The analysis of six selected SDGs shows significant progress by Pakistan on SDGs and persons with disabilities (PWDs). The SDGs have been localized and federal, provincial and district level state units are making efforts to achieve the goals stated in 2030 Agenda.

Major focus in Pakistan is on the education and employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs) ,and debates usually revolve around quota in admissions and jobs for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Accessibility, access to justice, health, and poverty of persons with disabilities (PWDs) are the least focused areas for the government.

Although, persons with disabilities (PWDs) have higher representations in the economically marginalized groups, the social protection coverage provided for the poor, including PWDs, is very low (29% only). Social protection agencies, such as Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Pakistan Baitul Mal (PBM), ought to make it mandatory that all persons with disabilities (PWDs) who are in need of social protection should have the necessary coverage. The process needs be made simpler in this regard.

Debates on accessibility usually focus on physical infrastructure, ramps, handrails, chairlifts, etc. However, in this digital age, digital accessibility has recently gained attention of both the persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the state alike. As mentioned earlier, the Digital Pakistan Policy provides SOPs for websites to be accessible to the visually impaired persons. However, the visually impaired persons need access to more than websites. Computer screen readers for persons with disabilities (PWDs) still needs a lot of improvement. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) who work on word processors such as Microsoft Word face a lacuna in the screen-reader software as some of those pieces of software are unable to read the formatting of the text such as the size of the text, its color and alignment, etc. The Ministry of Information Technology ought to mobilize its sub-organs to develop more friendly interfaces for visually impaired persons. Furthermore, access to financial services such as bank loans for start-ups owned by persons with disabilities (PWDs) has been given no or little focus. Financial agencies may be bound by law to allocate loan quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Health of persons with disabilities (PWDs) has generated no specific debate in DPOs circles. Health needs and problems of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and general population are interconnected and almost similar. However, there are gender difference in health needs and problems. Females with disabilities (PWDs) have specific health needs that ought to be included and given special attention in health policies and programs.

Although education of persons with disabilities (PWDs) is always debated, educational services for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan are very scarce. The number of special education institutions may be increased and at least one classroom for special children may be allocated in schools.

Overall, the DPOs feel that the laws and policies are good in many respects. But, the major problem is their implementation. For example, the 2% job quota set by who has yet to be fully implemented. Recently, the Supreme Court of Pakistan issued special orders for the implementation of 02% job quota for persons with disabilities (PWDs) which created 1700 jobs for persons with disabilities (PWDs) only in the province of KPK.

## ENDNOTES

# ANNEXURE

## Annex-I

## QUESTIONNAIRE/INTERVIEW GUIDE

**SDG National Report:**

**Alternative Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Program in Pakistan**

Respected Sir/MS,

This questionnaire is designed to collect information on the progress made by Pakistan on Sustainable Development Goals with special reference to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We are interested in six goals, i.e. poverty, education, employment, accessibility, health and access to justice. The questionnaire has been divided into seven heading. Each heading focuses on a specific SDG and its relevance to CRPD. The first heading is General.

The information collected through this questionnaire shall be used for a report titled “SDG National Report: Alternative Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Program in Pakistan.”

Your participation and response to the questionnaire is purely voluntary. You may respond to all or a few questions at your will. However, if you consent to participate in this activity, kindly send back the questionnaire before January 22nd, 2019.

Your name and other personal information may not be made public unless you provide your consent.

We thank you for taking out time to read this letter and respond to our questionnaire, please.

With Kind Regards

**Muhammad Iqbal** & **Dr. Imran A. Sajid**

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### SURVEY QUESTIONS

**GENERAL**

* Do you know the SDGS?
  + If so, how familiarized are you with the SDGs?
* Do you know if Pakistan is implementing programs and policies in line with the SDGs?  
  If so, can you describe what programs or policies Pakistani government is implementing?
* Does the government have a specific law for persons with disabilities? Is this law in line with the CRPD?
* Does the government have affirmative actions to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities? Such as taxes reduction, provision of assistive aids, cash flow program like pensions or other benefits?

**EDUCATION**

* Do you know any specific legislation for education of PWDs in Pakistan? Please elaborate if any
* As per CRPD, state has to take specific measures for education of PWDs. Are you aware of any specific measures for education of PWDs being taken by Federal or Provincial government after 2011? Elaborate your answer please
* What do you think are the major issues in PWDs education? What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to remedy the issues? In your opinion, what can be done for redressing the PWDs issues regarding education?

**EMPLOYMENT**

* Are you aware of any specific legislation for the employment of PWDs in Pakistan?
  + If so, can you specify and comment on those legislations?
* As per SDGs and CRPD, state has to take specific measures for employment of PWDs. Are you aware of any specific measures taken by federal or provincial government for employment of PWDs? Further, is there any quota for employment of PWDs? if so, please also indicate how much is it practiced in actions.

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| --- |
|  |

* What do you think are the major issues in PWDs employment? What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to remedy the issues? In your opinion, what can be done for redressing the PWDs issues regarding employment?

**ACCESSIBILITY**

* CRPD provides for states to ensure that all PWDs have easy access, on equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, and to other facilities and services open or provided to public, both in urban and rural life area.
* Do you know what steps, including laws and policies, have been taken by federal or provincial government for accessibility of PWDs?
  + If so, please describe and provide your comments on all such measures.
* What do you think are the major issues with regards to accessibility for PWDs? What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to remedy the issues? In your opinion, what can be done for redressing the PWDs issues regarding accessibility?

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL**

* Do you think PWDs problems in access to justice? If so, can you elaborate what problems are they facing?
* Further, what steps (laws/policies) have been taken by federal and provincial governments to remedy the situation, please?
* What do you think are the major issues with regards to access to justice for PWDs? What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to remedy the issues? In your opinion, what can be done for redressing the PWDs issues regarding access to justice?

**POVERTY**

* CRPD and SDGs provide for right of PWDs for adequate standard of living and appropriate social protection system and measures for all including PWDs.
  + What specific facilities/laws/policies are available in Pakistan (at federal or provincial level) for improving the standard of life of PWDs?
    - What social protection systems are available for PWDs in Pakistan?
* What do you think are the major issues with regards to poverty of PWDs? What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to remedy the issues?
  + In your opinion, what can be done for redressing the PWDs issues regarding poverty?

**HEALTH**

* SDGs and CRPD provides for adequate health services for all. Are you aware of any specific health related services, including rehabilitation services provided at federal or provincial level in Pakistan?
  + If so, please describe them and provide your comments.
* Are there any specific health services for PWDs at federal or provincial level?
  + If so, please describe and provide your comments.
* What do you think are the major issues with regards to health of PWDs? What steps, if any, have been taken by the government to remedy the issues?
  + In your opinion, what can be done for redressing the PWDs issues regarding health?

**Personal:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Name: |  |
| * Designation |  |
| * Organization |  |
| * Email |  |
| * Cell/Tel |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * **I have objection if my name and other personal information is used in this report for reference** | * Yes | * No |

## Annex-II

## SDG-CRPD Framework

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SDGs** | **CRPD** |
| **Goal 04** | **Article 24** |
| **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all** | **Education** |
| 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations  4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all | 1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning directed to: (a) The full development of human potential and sense of dignity and self-worth, and the strengthening of respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and human diversity; (b) The development by persons with disabilities of their personality, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential; (c) Enabling persons with disabilities to participate effectively in a free society.  2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that: (a) Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability; (b) Persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live; (c) Reasonable accommodation of the individual’s requirements is provided; (d) Persons with disabilities receive the support required, within the general education system, to facilitate their effective education; (e) Effective individualized support measures are provided in environments that maximize academic and social development, consistent with the goal of full inclusion. 3. States Parties shall enable persons with disabilities to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community. To this end, States Parties shall take appropriate measures, including: (a) Facilitating the learning of Braille, alternative script, augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication and orientation and mobility skills, and facilitating peer support and mentoring; (b) Facilitating the learning of sign language and the promotion of the linguistic identity of the deaf community; (c) Ensuring that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf or deafblind, is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development. 4. In order to help ensure the realization of this right, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or Braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education. Such training shall incorporate disability awareness and the use of appropriate augmentative and alternative modes, means and formats of communication, educational techniques and materials to support persons with disabilities.  5. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities. |
| **Goal 08** | **Article 27** |
| **Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all** | **Work and Employment** |
| 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value | 1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, including for those who acquire a disability during the course of employment, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia: (a) Prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions; (b) Protect the rights of persons with disabilities, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances; (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others; (d) Enable persons with disabilities to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programs, placement services and vocational and continuing training; (e) Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment; (f) Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one’s own business; (g) Employ persons with disabilities in the public sector; (h) Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programs, incentives and other measures; (i) Ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities in the workplace; (j) Promote the acquisition by persons with disabilities of work experience in the open labour market; (k) Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and return-to-work programs for persons with disabilities. 2. States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour. |
| **Goal 11** | **Article 09** |
| **Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable** | **Accessibility** |
| 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons  11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities | 1. To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia: (a) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces; (b) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services. 2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures: (a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public; (b) To ensure that private entities that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities; (c) To provide training for stakeholders on accessibility issues facing persons with disabilities; (d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in easy to read and understand forms; (e) To provide forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including guides, readers and professional sign language interpreters, to facilitate accessibility to buildings and other facilities open to the public; (f) To promote other appropriate forms of assistance and support to persons with disabilities to ensure their access to information;  (g) To promote access for persons with disabilities to new information and communications technologies and systems, including the Internet; (h) To promote the design, development, production and distribution of accessible information and communications technologies and systems at an early stage, so that these technologies and systems become accessible at minimum cost. |
| **Goal 16** | **Article 12** |
| **Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels** | **Equal recognition before the law** |
| 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all  16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration | 1. States Parties reaffirm that persons with disabilities have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law. 2. States Parties shall recognize that persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life. 3. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to provide access by persons with disabilities to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity. 4. States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person’s circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person’s rights and interests. 5. Subject to the provisions of this article, States Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to ensure the equal right of persons with disabilities to own or inherit property, to control their own financial affairs and to have equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, and shall ensure that persons with disabilities are not arbitrarily deprived of their property. |
| **Goal 01** | **Article 28** |
| **End poverty in all its forms everywhere** | **Adequate standard of living and social protection** |
| 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable | 1. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.  2. States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures: (a) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs; (b) To ensure access by persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to social protection programs and poverty reduction programs; (c) To ensure access by persons with disabilities and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the State with disability related expenses, including adequate training, counselling, financial assistance and respite care; (d) To ensure access by persons with disabilities to public housing programs; (e) To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to retirement benefits and programs. |
| **Goal 03** | **Article 25** |
| **Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages** | **Health** |
| 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all | States Parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender-sensitive, including health-related rehabilitation. In particular, States Parties shall: (a) Provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programs as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programs; (b) Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons; (c) Provide these health services as close as possible to people’s own communities, including in rural areas; (d) Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to persons with disabilities as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of persons with disabilities through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care; (e) Prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner; (f) Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of disability. |

## Annex-III

## Pakistan Association of the Blind (National)

With a vision of “education, training and rehabilitation of visually impaired persons with the prime objective to make the blind person able, self-relying respectable and productive member of the society by creating a sense of equal participation among them in all aspects of life” and with the objective of “collecting and gathering every blind Pakistani at one place for the attainment of happier and independent life by improving their socio-economic standard through self-help and coordinated efforts” Pakistan Association of the Blind was founded by the well-reputed lady Late Dr. Fatima Shah and established on 3rd of January 1960. Later on it was registered under the volunteer Social Welfare Agency Ordinance (Regulation and Control 1961) Govt. of Pakistan and its head office was established in Karachi because of capital of Pakistan at that time.

Now the PAB Head Office Karachi is situated in its own Project Building measuring 2040 Sq. Yards and located in the central district of Karachi city at PAB House ST-10, Sector 11-L, North Karachi.

After registration process and strenuous efforts, the Association spread over its network throughout the country and established Provincial Branches as PAB Dacca and PAB Lahore but after demolishing one unit, 4 Provincial Branches were established in each province of Pakistan with a federal zone, which are as under:

1. PAB Sindh Provincial Branch based at Karachi.
2. PAB Baluchistan Provincial Branch based at Quetta.
3. PAB Punjab Provincial Branch based at Lahore.
4. PAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Branch based at Peshawar.
5. PAB Federal Zone based at Islamabad.

Later on, the PAB formed its network at District level under the purview of its PAB Provincial Branches with full control of PAB Head Office Karachi all over the country. So far the PAB National has 52 (47+5) Provincial and District Branches throughout the country. List of district branches, projects, services and facilities, are given in annexure (Annex—III).

## Status of PAB National and International Level

Since its inception 1960 to date, Pakistan Association of the Blind is working for the welfare and betterment of blind community. It has affiliation with Asian Blind Union and World Blind Union and founder member of the International agencies of and for the blind and have privilege to hold the President-ship of Asian Blind Union and honorary officer-ship of World Blind Union and having affiliation more or less with all the international NGOs of disabled persons as well.

## Strength of Blind Members of PAB National

Pakistan Association of the Blind has strength of about more than 37,000 members all over the country and 10% of the same strength are doing jobs as Professors, Lecturers, Social Welfare Officers, employees in different Govt. departments, Braille Teachers, Musicians, Telephone Operators, Telephone Attendants, Chair Knitter, Packers etc. in different big/small concerns of Private and Govt Sectors, which reveals the sincere efforts of the blind by making them productive member of the society. However, other blind persons are striving to get jobs, for which the Association is struggling hard to accommodate a considerable number of blind in Private/Government Departments against different reserved quota of disabled persons in all provincial branches of Pakistan.

## PAB DISTRICT BRANCHES (35)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S#** | **Branch** | **S#** | **Branch** | **S#** | **Branch** |
| 1 | PAB Karachi. | 21 | PAB Multan. | 41 | PAB Bannu. |
| 2 | PAB Central District Karachi | 22 | PAB Bhakkar | 42 | PAB Mansehra |
| 3 | PAB South District Karachi | 23 | PAB Khaniwal. | 43 | PAB LakkiMarwat |
| 4 | PAB East District Karachi | 24 | PAB D.G.Khan. | 44 | PAB Mohmand |
| 5 | PAB West District Karachi | 25 | PAB Faisal Abad. | 45 | PAB Pasheen. |
| 6 | PAB Malir | 26 | PAB MandiBahauddin | 46 | PAB Quetta. |
| 7 | PAB Jacobabad | 27 | PAB Mianwali. | 47 | PAB Jaffar Abad |
| 8 | PAB QambarShahdadKot | 28 | PAB Jhang. |  |  |
| 9 | PAB Daddu. | 29 | PAB Sargodha. |  |  |
| 10 | PAB Nawab Shah. | 30 | PAB Lahore. |  |  |
| 11 | PAB Thatta. | 31 | PAB Sialkot. |  |  |
| 12 | PAB Nosheroferoz. | 32 | PAB Bahawalpur. |  |  |
| 13 | PAB Larkana. | 33 | PAB Khushab. |  |  |
| 14 | PAB Khairpur. | 34 | PAB Shekhupura. |  |  |
| 15 | PAB Ghotki. | 35 | PAB Abbottabad. |  |  |
| 16 | PAB Sakkar. | 36 | PAB Haripur. |  |  |
| 17 | PAB MirpurKhas. | 37 | PAB Mardan. |  |  |
| 18 | PAB ShikarPur. | 38 | PAB Swabi. |  |  |
| 19 | PAB Jamshoro. | 39 | PAB Swat. |  |  |
| 20 | PAB Bahawal Nagar. | 40 | PAB Battagram. |  |  |

## Projects of Pakistan Association of the Blind

Pakistan Association of the Blind is running a number of Projects in different parts of the country in its own building wherein a number of services and activities are being rendered like:

### PROJECT BUILDINGS

1. Fatima Shah Secondary School for Blind Girls / Resource and Training Centre at PAB House, ST-10, Sector 11-L, North Karachi, Sindh Province.
2. Silver School for deaf & blind children at PAB House, 3-C/28, Nazimabad No. 7, Karachi, Sindh Province.
3. Resource & Training Center of the Blind Women, Latif Abad, Haider Abad Sindh Province.
4. Primary School for Blind, Nosheroferoz, Sindh Province.
5. Computer & Literacy Centre for Blind, Larkana, Sindh Province.
6. Middle School for Blind, Nawab Shah, Sindh Province.
7. Rehabilitation / Vocational Centre for Blind (Male / Female), Quetta, Balochistan Province.
8. Technical & Vocational Centre for Adult Blind, Pishin, Balochistan Province.
9. Muhammad Bin Qasim Blind Welfare Complex, Multan, Punjab Province.
10. Al-Mehfooz Centre for Blind, Bahawalnagar, Punjab Province.
11. Al-Faisal Centre for Blind Children, Faisalabad, Punjab Province.
12. Darakhsan Model School for Blind Students, Jhang, Punjab Province.
13. White Cane Centre for Blind Persons, Sargodha, Punjab Province.
14. Light House Centre for Blind Girls, Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
15. Adult Blind Education & Technical Centre, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

### SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

1. ACADEMIC SERVICES:

Provision of Education-Primary basic, Middle and Higher Education to the Blind Male/Female.

1. TRAINING COURSES OFFERED:
   * 1. Telephone Operator’s Training.
     2. Computer Training Course i.e. CIT approved/registered by Govt. Board Male/Female board.
     3. Braille Literacy
     4. Mobility Training.
2. VOCATIONAL SKILLS:
   * 1. Sewing/Cutting, Hand and Machine Embroidery for Blind Female.
     2. Dress Making, Knitting, Macramé, Tissue Boxes/Wall Hangers (Female).
     3. Cooking and ironing etc.
3. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:
   * 1. A number of different types of cultural programs are arranged to promote the potentials of the blind persons.
4. FACILITIES:
   * 1. Provision of free hostel accommodation i.e. Boarding and Lodging for trainees.
     2. Pick and drop facility for the blind female students only.
     3. Library for the blind equipped with Braille/Talking Books with cassette copying facility.
     4. Supply of specialized equipment to the blind free of charge or on subsidized rates.
     5. Medical aid/treatment during training.
     6. 1% Employment Ordinance 1981
     7. Exemption of all sorts of fee in different Secondary Boards, Colleges and Universities on account of Admission Fee, Tuition Fee, Examination Fee etc.
     8. Paved way for Visually Impaired Persons to avail the opportunities to apply / appear for test for CSS, PMS, PSC etc.
     9. Facility of opening single bank account, availing ATM/Debit/Credit Cards after having meeting with Governor State Bank of Pakistan.
     10. 50% discount in Airfare by PIA to Visually Impaired Persons along with 25% concession to his / her sighted guide.
     11. 50% discount in fare for Govt. and Company’s Transport
     12. 50% discount in fare on all classes of Railways along with sighted guide.
     13. 60 to 80 % discount in fare is provided on account of Health Facilities in different Govt. / Private Hospitals i.e. Agha Khan Foundation Hospital, Zia-ud-Din Hospital Karachi, Al-Shifa Hospital Islamabad, Rehman Medical Institute Peshawar.

## Annex-IV

## List of DPOs in Pakistan

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S#** | **DPO Name** | **S#** | **DPO Name** | **S#** | **DPO Name** |
| 1 | Green Land Society of Special Education | 21 | Charkha Welfare Foundation | 41 | Pakistan Disabled People Organization (PDPO) |
| 2 | Anjuman e Islah e Mazooran | 22 | Aziz Jahan Begum Trust For Blind | 42 | Sight Savers International |
| 3 | Al-Sehar Welfare Association | 23 | Pakistan Association of the Blind | 43 | Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness |
| 4 | Deaf Welfare Awareness Foundation | 24 | Al-Ajam Welfare Association | 44 | Infaq foundation |
| 5 | Deaf and Dumb Welfare society | 25 | National Society for Mentally & Emotionally Handicapped Children | 45 | Pakistan Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) |
| 6 | Foundation For Rehabilitation & Education of Slow Children(FRESH) | 26 | Voice Society for Rehabilitation of Special Persons | 46 | Aziz Jehan Begum Trust for the Blind |
| 7 | Lahore Business Association (LABARD) | 27 | Hope Rehabilitation Society | 47 | Pob-Prevention of Blindness |
| 8 | Technical Services Association | 28 | Mother & Child Rehabilitation Society | 48 | Pakistan Association for Mental Health |
| 9 | The Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation of Disabled | 29 | Pakistan Council For Child | 49 | Karwan-e-Hayat |
| 10 | Society for autism awareness | 30 | Danishkadah -Empowering persons with disabilities (PWDs) | 50 | Edhi Destitute Homes and habitats for Mentally ill |
| 11 | Milestone society for Special persons | 31 | ASHDS - Ahmer Social and Human Development Society | 51 | Institute of Clinical Psychology- University of Karachi |
| 12 | Life Welfare Society | 32 | Sindh Welfare Association of the Deaf (SWAD) | 52 | Children Youth and Families Foundation |
| 13 | Marghuzar Welfare Society | 33 | Pakistan disabled Foundation | 53 | Pakistan Society for The Welfare of Mentally Retarted |
| 14 | Pakistan Society for the Welfare of mentally Retarded Children (AmeenMaktab) | 34 | Pakistan Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) | 54 | Bahawalpur Mental Health Society |
| 15 | Rising Sun Education &Welfare Society | 35 | Children Youth and Families Foundation | 55 | The Art of Living |
| 16 | Falah Foundation | 36 | Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled | 56 | Pakistan Disabled Foundation |
| 17 | Roshni Association Society for Welfare of Special Persons | 37 | Dewa Academy for Deaf | 57 | National Disability and Development Forum |
| 18 | IdaraTahaffuz-e-BahaliMazooran | 38 | Association for special society assistance | 58 | Punjab Welfare Trust for Disable |
| 19 | Spirit Welfare Foundation | 39 | PAD-PAKISTAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF | 59 | NOWPDP |
| 20 | Zeest Welfare Foundation | 40 | Friends of Disables Society | 60 | Helpful Organization for Special Talent (HOST) |
| 61 | Breaking Barriers Women | 62 | Awaz e mazuran | 63 | Humdard e mazuran |
| 64 | Dastak | 65 | Dar us Sukoon | 66 | Empower Pak |
| 67 | Socio Economic Development Association (SEDA) | 68 | Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) | 69 | National Forum for Women with Disabilities (NFWWD) |
| 70 | SAYA Welfare Association | 71 | Disabled Welfare Association | 72 | Amigos Welfare Trust |
| 73 | Pakistan Independent Living Centre | 74 | Deaf Education Welfare Association Trust | 75 | Al Sanghar Handicaps Association |
| 76 | Beacon Foundation | 77 | Safia Foundation |  |  |

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