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**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on SDGs Implementation in Pakistan

**Webinar – 3
Report**

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LEAD for

Local Empowerment, Advocacy and Development for
SDGs Localisation in Pakistan

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Webinar – 3 Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on SDGs Implementation in Pakistan

Introduction

While exercising social distancing, to facilitate the immediate exchange of information regarding response to the COVID 19 outbreak in Pakistan and to understand the impact of COVID 19 on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan, what are the current challenges and opportunities to backtrack its progress, the LEAD for SDGs programme organised a webinar on the theme “Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on SDGs Implementation in Pakistan”, held on Tuesday 9 June, 2020 at 1130 to 1330 PKT, in collaboration with National and Provincial Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs.

The webinar was attended by 50 plus participants with an international and 5 national experts who presented insights on the situation. The agenda of the webinar were comprised of three sessions; 1. Learning from regional experience, 2. Understanding the impact of COVID-19 at national and provincial levels and 3. Opportunities and challenges, followed by an open discussion, Q&A, recommendations and chat-based feedback shared by the participants.

This report presents an overview of the webinar proceeding, learnings and experiences, insights of impact and challenges and opportunities with a few recommendations to share outcome and findings with stakeholders and relevant institutions.

Background

The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) of 2015 are a set of 17 consolidated goals that form a comprehensive framework for holistic global development. It brings together the five pillars: people (Goals 1-6), planet (Goals 12, 13, 14, 15), prosperity (Goals 7-11), peace (Goal 16) and partnerships (Goal 17).

The COVID-19 disaster has undoubtedly infected the SDGs’ Agenda 2030 at the very core. Hence the pandemic poses a major threat and challenge of delaying the whole process, which was already facing tremendous hardships in its implementation in the first place due to issues of scarce financial resources, technological impediments and monitoring loopholes.

The SDGs, with their universal scope, interlinked nature and focus on **“Leaving No One Behind”** will be more essential than ever during and after this crisis. The challenge for improving people’s lives after this crisis will be greater than ever, but the SDGs could help guide the path forward to ease suffering through the post pandemic recovery plans. SDGs can work as catalyst to change the development approach after pandemic crises.

Similarly, the response to the pandemic cannot be de-linked to SDGs. The Covid-19 pandemic pushed the countries to aggressively pursue the SDGs for leaving no one behind and help in prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable persons for economic development and social protection. The COVID-19 also provides an opportunity of adopting new path by adjusting the practices adopted during the crises that are good for sustainable development. For example, less international and domestic transport are having a positive near-term impact on improved air quality and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Innovation and use of modern technology in health sector will impact the future healthcare services, beyond pandemic period. There is an increased focus on social safety nets for poor and most vulnerable to provide them basic and essential support for their livelihood.

To facilitate the immediate exchange of information regarding respond to the outbreak, UCLG ASPAC prepared a brief guide on what local governments should know about the COVID-19, which compiled the practices from cities and regions. It is available at <https://uclg-aspac.org/en/what-local-governments-need-to-know-in-tackling-covid-19-challenge/>. It provides information on what city leaders have done and the steps they have taken in protecting the people’s lives from the pandemic.

COVID-19 has a strong impact on SDGs localisation and implementation in Pakistan. Government of Pakistan has developed its National SDGs Framework in 2018 which requires national target’s translation into provincial and then ultimately district level SDGs frameworks and allocation and alignment of resources to achieve the goals and targets.

This 3rd webinar was a part of its web discussion series by LEAD for SDGs Programme to discuss the long and short term implications of COVID-19 on SDGs, and to generate dialogues on negative implications as well as the practices, experiences and systems that contribute to economic support and social protection of vulnerable people amid COVID-19 crises as a path forward to achieve some specific goals and targets in Pakistan. Participants of the webinar were included the representatives of members of Parliamentary Taskforces on SDGs, officials from Ministry of Planning and

Development Departments, SDGs units, local government institutes (elected and officials), media and civil society organisations.

Webinar Objective

The webinar session aimed to generate dialogue on COVID-19 Outbreak's impact on implementation of SDGs in Pakistan and to seek recommendations from key experts and stakeholder to respond to the challenges and build on the opportunities created through the pandemic to achieve SDGs and its targets in Pakistan.

Webinar Proceedings

1. Inaugural Session

a. Welcome Remarks by Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, SG, UCLG ASPAC

Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, the Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments, Asia Pacific inaugurated the session through her welcome remarks. She appreciated the support of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan in localising and implementing SDGs in Pakistan. She said that she is happy to see the SDGs champions, national and provincial parliamentary taskforces on SDGs, the ministry of planning, development and special initiatives, and provincial planning departments, federal, provincial and state SDGs support units, local government representatives, civil society, media and partner members of local councils in Pakistan, ADLG, LCAB, LCAS, LCAP and LCAKP, all coming together for a common objective to implement SDGs in Pakistan.

She mentioned that SDGs core objective "Leaving No One Behind" is more relevant in today's COVID-19 pandemic situation, as it is impacting all SDGs target, globally and especially in the Asian-Pacific countries. SDGs and COVID-19 are interconnected and it is important to discuss how COVID-19 will change the future of the SDGs. The pandemic has brought both challenges and opportunities to the implementation of SDGs, so it is important for the countries to strengthen their policies and strategies in all areas to support SDGs progress and development.

UCLG ASPAC and its members are concerned of COVID-19 impact on economy, which is resulting in unemployment and small business losses, hitting the poor of the poorest. It is observed that the COVID-19 situation has given a rise to the domestic violence, which is of grave human rights concern. Food security is another key area which the regional and local governments must work on to ensure as the COVID has hit the food production & supply chain system as well as it has severely impacted the buying power of the poor and low- and middle-income households. She feared that the COVID-19 situation may result in increased inequalities and un-sustained growth.

She also mentioned that the COVID-19 has brought some positive impact such as low carbon emission, innovations and use of modern technology for service delivery. The countries and cities must build on the positive impact of COVID-19.

She highlighted the Cities for Global Health Programme by UCLG, UN-Habitat and Metropolis which is supporting 593 initiatives in 93 cities of 32 countries to help in developing plan, strategies and policies as a reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak. Initiatives are designed to face other health emergencies such as sanitary crises or epidemic. She said that UCLG ASPAC has prepared a guideline on what local governments need to know in tackling COVID-19 challenge. UCLG ASPAC is developing city to city cooperation and many Chinese cities (Xian, Yiwu, Haiko etc.) has sent medical equipment including PPE, surgical masks, sanitisers and safety googles to many cities across Asia-Pacific. She said that the city of Guangzhou has committed to send 20,000 masks to the Metropolitan Corporation of Lahore, a Pakistani city worst hit by Corona Virus and has the highest number of effected in the country. She also highlighted some city led initiatives like by Iriga City to respond to COVID-19 crises.

As a way forward, she highlighted that there are 5 key players in catalysing the SDGs in local governments which includes the government, communities, private sector, academia and media. She said that this is a matter of happiness that these stakeholders are part of this webinar and will come up with strong recommendations, specific to the local context.

In the end, she extended her gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Riaz Fatyana, the Convener National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Member National Assembly of Pakistan for his leadership to steer the SDGs Agenda in Pakistan and to the SDGs lead ministry, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Federal, provincial and state SDGs Support Units, UN agencies, member local governments, civil society, media, corporate and private sector and CSOs for their contribution and participation to the webinar.

b. Opening Remarks by H.E Mr. Riaz Fatyana, Convener, National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Riaz Fatyana, the Convener, National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs of Pakistan and the Member National Assembly of Pakistan, in the webinar opening remarks briefly shared background of the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan. He shared that Pakistan reported its first 2 cases in the mid of February 2020 . In its response the national government prepared an immediate action plan, after a month when number of cases started rising due to return of pilgrims from Iran, the government announced a countrywide lockdown in the 3rd week of March

2020, that remained until the 2nd week of May 2020. He added that the Government of Pakistan realising the immediate economic, food crisis and livelihood crisis, especially for the people living below the poverty line and those are in lower income cadre provided them food ration supplies and cash transfer through Ehsaas Programme. He mentioned that PKR. 12,000 to each household and around 12 million families with more than 144 Billion rupees with the support of international development partners and aid agencies including the European Union Delegation in Pakistan contribution at this pandemic.

Setting the tone of the webinar, he further mentioned that as being the lead of Pakistan's National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, which is responsible to monitor progress, support through conducive policies and legislative measures and provide political and leadership support for grassroot implementation of SDGs in Pakistan. He also shared that the National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs also in the phase of development of SDGs District Scorecard to make the relevant authorities, institutions and elected representatives of national, provincial and local governments and political leadership accountable.

He added that he would be profoundly looking forward to hearing some productive dialogue and discussion at this webinar to know and understand the insights and challenges from the participants and stakeholders as well as how to improve the SDGs localisation and implementation process to achieve the set targets while in the COVID-19 pandemic situation. He said that previously Pakistan remained failed to achieve the MDGs targets and now as we are left with only less than a decade to fast pace our work to express some tangible progress on SDGs target and indicators. He shared that keeping in view the Goal 17, Partnership for Goals, we all need to combine our efforts to work in more effective and synergise manner.

In the end of his opening remarks, he reiterated that the recommendations and feedback of this webinar discussion will help in better understanding the challenges and opportunities for SDGs localisation and implementation occurred due to COVID-19 pandemic. The feedback will also help in making a robust response action plan and way forward not only to control the pandemic but also to improve economic and social indicators and to achieve SDGs. He also added that he will keenly listen to the discussion and recommendation and will provide every possible support to accelerate the progress of SDGs implementation in Pakistan and in the end of the webinar he will also reflect with key intakes and discussion.

2. Session 1: Insights Sharing of COVID-19 Impact of SDGs in Pakistan

a. Mr. Muhammad Saleh, Assistant Chief – SDGs, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives

Mr. Muhammad Saleh, Assistant Chief – SDGs from the national Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, presented insights and progress on SDGs implementation in Pakistan with the key facts of COVID-19 impact on economic, social and environmental sectors of Pakistan. He explained to the participants that before the pandemic where we were and how the lead ministry was expecting acceleration in the implementation of sustainable development Goals, Targets and Indicators.

He mentioned that due to the pandemic economic situation deteriorated after March – April 2020 and a visible decline of 55% in exports was observed only in the month of April. He stated that FBR's tax revenue collections reduced by 13.4% only in the April. The economic activities were remained lower due to closure of service, industry and trade sector for nearly 3 consecutive months which also reduced the overall productivity of the country that resulted in the loss of income and revenue collections. He highlighted that currently Pakistan is already in an IMF programme and the government must prepare itself to deal with expenditure side and loan payments burdens. He shared that country's current foreign and national debt burden is almost equivalent to 80% to 85% of the total GDP, which is a high concern. Whereas in the next fiscal year government also must manage several huge interest payments.

He also highlighted the impact of COVID-19 impact on the Pakistani labour workers who were also a major source of remittance-based income for the government. As these most of this labour are semi-skilled and facing immediate layoff circumstances after the pandemic and around 70,000 plus have registered to return to their homes and it would be another challenge to how to incorporate this labour force in the economy. He concluded that due to these constraints and limitation mentioned earlier, the government will be left with a very narrow space for liquidity on the social development side. As the foremost priority for the government now is to strengthen the health system and improve facilities and increase capacity to manage COVID-19 pandemic.

While sharing the other challenges due to pandemic, Mr. Saleh mentioned that to some estimates made by PIDE; job losses are expect to 15.54 million to 18.65 million, he added that according to a 2015-16 survey about 24.3% of the population was living under the poverty line and 19.87% was among the vulnerable group. He stated that due to decline in aggregate consumption of

households by 5% leads to rise in poverty from 24.3% to 29%. He said that if we include all these facts and figures by including the ratio of unemployment, vulnerable group and rise in aggregate consumption, it is feared that the overall number of the people living under the poverty line would be somewhere 40% to 45% of the total population, who are now living under the poverty line and need immediate economic and social support.

He further added that now the health sector is in focus of planning and development. He mentioned opportunities to think innovatively, take benefits of technology through digital transformation to initiate tele health and tele education public and private programmes. Cash support programmes can be used to make compulsory immunisation and child education mandatory.

In the end he revealed that the Ministry of Planning and Development is currently working on enablers, to bring in SDGs innovative financing and responsible business frameworks and bring in a SDGs index and dashboard by next year.

b. Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani, Project Coordinator, UNDP, Balochistan SDGs Support Unit

Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani highlighted some of the key achievement of Balochistan SDGs Support Unit, he mentioned that Balochistan SDGs Framework were development in 2019 and 2 District SDGs Plans were also developed. In this exercise Data Gaps found huge capacity issues in the province and we were working to improve the capacities of relevant authorities and institutions but the progress on it halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Durrani mentioned that a Social Economic Framework built on 5 pillars were developed with the support of UNDP, which is providing relevant support to the government of Balochistan to address the current economic and social issues in the province.

He mentioned that overall the pandemic situation is worse; the government has diverted its finance towards COVID-19 health emergency response.

c. Mr. Habibullah Nasar, Social Policy Analyst, Balochistan SDGs Support Unit

Mr. Habibullah Nasar, Social Policy Analyst, Balochistan SDGs Support Unit presented brief statistical assessment and projections of COVID-19 economic and social impact in the province of the Balochistan.

He shared that before the pandemic the province has almost 4.2% of unemployment rate and in the projection of high impact it would turn into

48.7% which is quite concerning being the highest poverty rate in comparison to other provinces of the country. He mentioned that baseline of poverty was 42.30% and in case of high impact it is expected to turn 82.20% of the population under the poverty line. Which is in population number is 0.83 million and expected to reach out to 1.61 million.

He mentioned that in this crisis and turning focus of resources to COVID-19 will have straight impact on the SDGs implementation in the province of Balochistan.

d. Mr. Shah Muhammad Azhar, Economic Policy Analyst, Sindh SDGs Support Unit

Mr. Shah Muhammad Azhar, Economic Policy Analyst, Sindh SDGs Support Unit shared that we were expecting this decade as the development decade on SDGs but due to the pandemic situation things are suddenly changed. There are some of the improvements in the climate and resources allocations towards health services. But overall it is going to hit social and economic development.

Mr. Shah shared that 23% of unemployment increase is calculated due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Sindh province only. 5-10 billion-dollar GDP loss is expected according to Shahid Kardar Study 2019. 0.7 to 1.3% reduction is expected is GDP in Sindh and poverty increase are project to 4.7% – 9.7% and unemployment of 2.8 million to 4.4 million people is expected in the Sindh province.

3. Session 2: Open Discussion and Dialogue

a. Mr. Fida Hussain Dashti, Ex-Chairman, District Council, Turbat/Kech

Mr. Fida Hussain Dashti, raised two important points, 1st was the unemployment resultantly increase in poverty due to the pandemic specially in the Kech district of the Balochistan province and requested the provincial and federal government to provide livelihood support to the people living who are living in far-furlong and rural areas.

In the 2nd point he raised the question of delays in the election process of local government in the Balochistan province as a grassroot administrative government mechanism could be the appropriate platform to respond to the pandemic COVID-19 and support in recovery plan. As without the local government support neither the emergency recovery plans nor the local development plans that help and contribute to SDGs achievement, cannot be be accomplished.

Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani, Project Coordinator, Balochistan SDGs Support Unit responded that one of the major reason of unemployment in Balochistan province is that most of the economy is dependent on formal and informal trade and due to COVID-19 crises the northern and southern borders of Pakistan with Iran and Afghanistan were immediately closed, which halted all kind of economic activities and other linked actions resultantly SDG-8 was primarily and other SDGs relate to Poverty, Food, Health and Development were among the most affected ones. He added that no one can deny the importance of the local governments for SDGs implementation, it is just like a building standing on four pillars and you remove one of them. Local government is prerequisite for local development. He stated that UNDP is supporting local government and election commission through “Strengthening of Legislative Reforms programme” but somehow now we presume intention of provincial government for holding local government elections in next year by. 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

b. Mr. Himayatullah Mayar, President/Ex MNA/Ex District Chairman, Local Council Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (LCA-KP)

Mr. Himayat Ullah Mayar, Ex-Chairman of Swabi district in KP province shared that we were not able to achieve MDGs and achievement of SDGs are also in danger due to deteriorated situation of economy and pandemic. He added that COVID19 has brought some challenges for all of us and the overall progress of every single development is disturbed but we should also keep in view some of the constraints of Pakistan to fulfil its commitment on SDGs.

He explained that there are severe capacity, monitoring and delivery issues exists in the system and we should also need to focus on dealing with these unseen challenges to accelerate SDGs implementation in Pakistan. He quoted an example that, (1) there is capacity and governance issues as 70% of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial development budget was remained unspent in the fiscal year 2018-19 and the similar are the case for other provinces i.e Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan.

He highlights (2). second most important issue of the KP province non-existence of local government setup throughout the country. He quoted example that only in Balochistan it is now more than 15 months since the Local government elections are delayed and similar the case of Punjab and KP provinces are waiting for new elections from last 9 months.

He added that the implementation, resources and accountability of SDGS management, localisation and implementation should be addressed at local

governments level for better, improved, localised and inclusive decisions and development.

In his (3) point, he pointed out one of the important pending and delayed issues of merger of tribal areas in the KP province, which still requires legislation, policy and frameworks support to bring in them in the mainstream as those were the areas who were the most affected due to the terrorism and due to negligence these areas are one of the most vulnerable to crisis.

Lastly, (4) he highlighted the need to improvement of coordination mechanism between the inter-government relationship and a well-defined structure of engagement amongst each other so that government writ can't be challenged at any level and smuggling of food supplies and prohibited items can be curtail. As due to federal government ban on food supplies, the 1st and the most immediate impact of COVID-19, people of KP faced is the shortage of food items, wheat and other commodities.

He further highlighted merger of some tribal areas last year in KP provinces but there is still no legislation or formation of local government setup. There are also some areas affected by terrorism in KP provinces and that become more prone in COVID crises. There were some basic food items that KP province was receiving from Punjab province like flour, but that is stopped. How federal government can improve inter-governmental relations in the provinces for basic human rights of people in Pakistan.

c. Mr. Salman Abid, Political Analyst and News Report, Express Media Group

Mr. Salman shared his fears of huge cut over the development budgets in the coming fiscal year 2020-21 budget by the national and provincial governments due to extra spending and investment in the health sector to fight against the pandemic COVID-19. He has the views that the budgets shouldn't be curtailed for social development and protection as it was planned as it makes venerable at further stake and reduces the overall economic activities in the country.

d. Zia-ur Rehman, CEO, AWAZ CDs

Mr. Rehman shared his views while stating that Pakistan always take shelter of natural or man-made disasters like flood, terrorism, earthquake etc. while at failure in the implementation of international commitments and development agenda.

He added that for SDGS case I really appreciate the enthusiasm and commitment of political leadership and the governments for putting a lot of efforts for its implementation. He raised a request for clarification either by

any stakeholder or by any representative of the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs for the followings;

1) SDGs National Framework was developed in 2018 with the understanding that it will be reviewed and receive input from the provincial governments and will be revised, but it still requires some attention of the authorities to be completed

2) He stated that only in the case of Balochistan, the Chief Secretary is Chairing the Parliamentary Committee on SDGs, which we never witnessed before. It requires authorities' immediate action to balance the equation with appropriate chairing authority.

3) In the COVID-19 pandemic situation, National Finance Award (NFC) revision is in the discussion now a days but we never noticed any discussion or debate or efforts on Provincial Financial Award (PFC) that allows some handsome resources allocations to the local government to perform development actions.

4. Closing Remarks by H.E. Mr. Riaz Fatyana, the Convener, National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs

Mr. Riaz Fatyana paid his gratitude to the LEAD for SDGs programme team, its team leader, Mr. Imran Ali, President ADLG, Mr. Rajan Pirzada, President LCAKP Mr. Himayatullah Mayar, Project Coordinator, UNDP, Balochistan SDGs Support Unit, Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani representative of SDGs Units and representatives of civil society from all over the provinces for organising this webinar and their kind participation.

He highlighted that COVID 19 has mostly affected urban areas than rural areas in Pakistan and that's why lockdown did not affect 45 % labour force engaged in agriculture sector. The raise in flour price is not due to lock down but crops are damaged due to thunderstorm or locust attack in Pakistan.

When we talk about COVID 19 pandemic effects on SDGs in Pakistan, Goal 1, Poverty - this goal is linked to certain other goals/ targets, there was already poverty i.e. the estimate is 24% of Pakistan's population lives below the national poverty line; which includes 31% in rural areas and 13% in urban areas. Poverty has increased in pandemic. Civil society has played a vital role here in supply of food item to deserving families.

Goal 2, Zero hunger – It has increased due to lockdown for daily wagers and destitute people . when the whole country was locked down, the government of Pakistan took a bold step and facilitated one corer 60 lacs families with financial support of 12000 PKR/ month through a transparent system in addition to Falah and Zakat programmes

that supported almost half of the population in difficult time other the law and order situation would get worse in country.

Goal 3, Health and Wellbeing- our health sector has been exposed that it was not strong in past and the government finally requested citizens to quarantine at homes and they will get social support there. There is need to upgrade all DHQ's and other medical labs to increase capacity of coronavirus tests.

Goal 4, Education- Poor children were out of school before pandemic but now all children are out of school because schools are closed for an uncertain period of time. With increase of poverty in our country , we are afraid that poor children will not get back to schools and in that case there is apprehension for increase in child labour . Civil society should come forward with the concept of street or home schooling.

Goal 5, Gender Equality- During lockdown people were forced to stay home, all education institutes, business and offices got closed and women were overburdened of work at home. Couples and family's reunion during lockdown is a positive impact.

There are some other issues that are linked to certain SDGs and raised due to COVID that include devastation of export, recession, workers return from foreign countries, return of students (80,000) from foreign countries, in this perspective framework of SDGs is very important if implemented in real means. There are three major sectors that are affected most i.e. social (customs, tradition & cultural) , economic (personal and country economy) and political. Parliament are open but not functional, 7 MPAs/ MNAs have been died of COVID 19 and almost 20 parliamentarians are COVID positive at the moment. Parliamentarians are not coming, and the standing committees should hold meeting through Zoom as parliamentarians and legislators have an important role of oversighting and legislation while all other business is in the hands of bureaucrats. Once the politicians and management are improved, the whole process and system can be improved.

According to local government Article 140A, it is mandatory for government to hold elections of local government, but LG elections is postponded due to CVID 19 situation. If there would be local government setup in the country, respond to COVID would be in more effective.

One issue is of prisoners, 102 prisoners are COVID positive and locked in prisons and they are going through social and phycological problems. I would recommend releasing those prisoners on bail who are not involved in heinous crimes.

One Missing part of health sector is Phycological support that is needed in COVID pandemic. People are scared and the immunity cannot get strong if they be afraid and no phycological support. There is no national policy for mental health in Pakistan. there is no mental health law in federal or in provinces except in KP and Punjab.

Institutes that are affected more by COVID pandemic are Political institutes (administrative and politicians), Health (doctors and paramedics), Municipal administration (cleaning staff) and civil administration (police, commissioners and deputy commissioners.

In the upcoming budget, Annual Development Plan (ADP) is zero at federal level, in public sector development and at provincial level that will have direct effect on SDGs implementation in Pakistan. we have already failed in MDGs accomplishment and I have now apprehension that SDGs implementation will be halted by COVID response and recovery for a certain period and it is a request to UN (UNDP is also present here) to extend the period of SDGs 2030 to 2035.

Ali Imran, Thanks to Mr. Riaz Fatyana for epitomizing todays discussion, highlighting some new points and directions, and guiding us for our work to contribute SDGs implementation in Pakistan. He further informed the participants that Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq, Convener Sindh Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs is asking to excuse him for not joining today's webinar as he is also chairperson of Law and Justice Committee/ department in Sindh and chairing a meeting where COVID Emergency Relief Ordinance Sindh and Sindh Pandemic and Diseases Ordinance are under discussion.

5. Note of Thanks by Mr. Rajan Sultan Pirzada, President Association for Development of Local Governance (ADLG)

He mentioned his gratitude to Minister Mr. Fatyana, LEAD programme, the speakers and participants from civil society for their active participation, sharing their views and recommendations at the forum. He stated that if we are committed for implementation of international agenda, we should take it as a nation instead of diving ourselves in different political parties and should ensure transparency across all level of the governance. Bureaucracy implement vision of the political leaders unless until political parties have unity and will for wellbeing of country people. We should appreciate strength of any political party or accept if we have any weakness.

This pandemic is blessing in disguise, has opened weaknesses in our system in front of us and we could build back better on these gaps, weaknesses and challenges. We should learn from other countries who developed themselves in last 20- 25 years and where local governments are very strong. We all have witnessed the effective response and control over coronavirus pandemic where local governments are

strong. What impression we are giving to other nations by indulging ourselves in the debates that is there any need for local government or not in Pakistan while at same time countries are busy to strengthen their economy growth and follow their other priorities.

6. Recommendations and Feedback

Webinar concluded with the following key recommendations and feedback;

- It is time for all government levels to revisit their plans of development, policies and supporting legislations to backtrack and turn challenges of COVID-19 pandemic into opportunities for accelerated SDGS implementation
- Thinking out of the box solutions, using modern technology services and use of information technology for education, health, services, employment of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour workers
- Immediate action plan required to revive the manufacturing and export industry, to balance the trade service and trade sector should be facilitated to create jobs in view of changing scenarios
- Use of technology and hybrid agriculture techniques need to improvise to retrieve better crop yield due to climate change implications and or any other disastrous attack like locust etc.
- Stakeholders including corporate and private sector, development partners, civil society and media needs to collaborate to learn, facilitate and partner with each other to create more jobs, work in collaboration for social protection programmes and increase the economic activities in the pandemic
- SMEs are at stake of closure; governments need to facilitate them as best
- Local Governments are the key for local development and social protection
- Formation of local government through electoral process should be the utmost top priority for federal and provincial governments
- Balochistan Data Gap has severe capacity issues and the current data isn't reliable to develop economic empowerment and livelihood programmes
- Impact of COVID-19 in unembellished in Balochistan and Sindh province, result oriented actions and policies needed to improve the economic situation, reduce poverty through inclusive policies and planning and providing support to the services and SMEs sector to create immediate jobs
- Governments need to bring in innovative technology for local services solutions, innovative financing to address the gaps i.e. Public Private Partnership in almost every single sector of services to increase the productivity and reduce the expenditure burden as much as possible to also give a balance share of focus and resources for the social protection and infrastructure development programmes
- Strong coordination mechanism for inter-provincial coordination and response

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- Revision of National SDGs Framework and development of all provincial SDGs framework
 - PFC awards should also be announced and revised as per the roles and responsibilities of the local governments
 - Merger of tribal areas should be completed at provincial level through all legislative and policy support to bring them into mainstream
 - Research and development are integral for innovative actions and approaches.
 - Use of information technology with mobile telephony technology should be adopted into education, health, agriculture, services, trade and manufacturing sectors for improved output
 - Local governments are essential for community development and social protection
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ANNEXURES

1. Webinar Concept Note

COVID 19 and SDGs- Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on SDGs Implementation in Pakistan

Background:

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) of 2015 are a set of 17 consolidated goals that form a comprehensive framework for holistic global development. It brings together the five pillars: people (Goals 1-6), planet (Goals 12, 13, 14, 15), prosperity (Goals 7-11), peace (Goal 16) and partnerships (Goal 17).

The coronavirus disaster has undoubtedly infected the SDGs' Agenda 2030 at the very core. Hence the pandemic poses a major threat and challenge of delaying the whole process, which was already facing tremendous hardships in its implementation in the first place due to issues of scarce financial resources, technological impediments and monitoring loopholes.

The SDGs, with their universal scope, interlinked nature and focus on leaving no one behind will be more essential than ever during and after this crisis. The challenge for improving people's lives after this crisis will be greater than ever, but the SDGs could help guide the path forward to ease suffering through the post pandemic recovery plans. SDGs can work as catalyst to change the development approach after pandemic crises.

Similarly, the response to the pandemic cannot be de-linked to SDGs. The Covid-19 pandemic pushed the countries to aggressively pursue the SDGs for leaving no one behind and help in prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable persons for economic development and social protection. The COVID-19 also provides an opportunity of adopting new path by adjusting the practices adopted during the crises that are good for sustainable development. For example, less international and domestic transport are having a positive near-term impact on improved air quality and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Innovation and use of modern technology in health sector will impact the future healthcare services, beyond pandemic period. There is an increased focus on social safety nets for poor and most vulnerable to provide them basic and essential support for their livelihood.

To facilitate the immediate exchange of information regarding respond to the outbreak, UCLG ASPAC prepared a brief guide on what local governments should know about the COVID-19, which compiled the practices from cities and regions. It is available at <https://uclg-aspac.org/en/what-local-governments-need-to-know-in-tackling-covid-19-challenge/>. It provides information on what city leaders have done and the steps they have taken in protecting the people's lives from the pandemic.

COVID-19 has a strong impact on SDGs localisation and implementation in Pakistan. Government of Pakistan has developed its National SDGs Framework in 2018 which requires national target's translation into provincial and then ultimately district level SDGs frameworks and allocation and alignment of resources to achieve the goals and targets.

This webinar is a part of webshare series by LEAD for SDGs Programme to discuss the long and short term implications of Covid 19 on SDGs, and to generate dialogues on negative implications as well as the practices, experiences and systems that contribute to

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economic support and social protection of vulnerable people amid COVID-19 crises as a path forward to achieve some specific goals and targets in Pakistan. Participants of the webshare include the representatives of members of parliamentary taskforces on SDGs, officials from Planning and Development Departments, SDGs units, local government institutes (elected and officials), media and civil society organisations.

Objective: The Web-Share session aims to generate dialogue on COVID-19 Outbreak's impact on implementation of SDGs in Pakistan and to seek recommendations from key experts and stakeholder to respond to the challenges and build on the opportunities created through the pandemic to achieve SDGs and its targets in Pakistan.

Speakers: The speakers are of the Webshare includes Conveners of the parliamentary taskforces, heads of SDGs Units, Planning and Development Department official, LG representative and CSO expert.

Programme: The programme or agenda including the name of speakers will be distributed soon prior to the Web-Share.

Duration: 2 hours

Date: Tuesday 9th June 2020 | 11:00 – 13:00 Islamabad Time.

Language: Web-Share will be delivered in a mix of English and Urdu. No interpretation is provided.

Technical Connection: The Web-Share will use the Zoom system. Link and Meeting No will be provided prior to the meeting.

Contact: For general questions (Email: south-southwest@uclg-aspac.org) | For inquires related to zooms connection at 0305-5552144

2. Webinar Participants List

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on SDGs Implementation in Pakistan

Tuesday, 9th June 2020 (11:30-13:30h)

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Institution/Organisation
1	Honorable Riaz Fatyana	Convener	National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs
2	Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi	Secretary General	UCLG ASPAC
3	Mr. Rajan Sultan Pirzada	President/Ex Distt Chairman Lodhran	Association for Development of Local Governance (ADLG)
4.	Mr. Himayatullah Mayar	President/Ex MNA/Ex District Chairman	Khyber Pakhtunkhaw Local Council Association
5	Mr. Abid Lehri	President	Balochistan Local Government Association
6	Mr. Arshad Rashid	Development Adviser	Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan
7	Mr. Fida Hussain Dashti	Ex-Chairman	District Council Turbat/Ketch
8	Mr. Shahid Naeem	Chief	SDGs Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms
9	Mr. Muhammad Saleh	Assistant Chief	SDGs Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms
10	Mr. Ali Kamal	Economic Policy Adviser	SDGs Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms
11	Mr. Nadeem Ahmed	Social Policy Adviser	SDGs Unit, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms
12	Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani	Provincial Representative	UNDP Balochistan
13	Mr. Habibullah Nasar	Social Policy Analyst	SDGs Unit Balochistan
14	Mr. Shah Muhamamd Azhar	Economic Policy Analyst	SDGs Unit Sindh
15	Mr. Salman Abid	Political/Local Govt Analyst	Express News
16	Ms. Fouzia Viqar	Senior Adviser	Sub-National Governance Programme
17	Mr. Ammar Jaffery	Chairman	SDGs Academy
18	Ms. Mahnaz Rahman	Resident Coordinator	Aurat Foundation Karachi
19	Mr. Nasrullah Kakar	CEO	CPD- Quetta
20	Mr. Ahmed Ali	CEO	ISAPS
21	Ms Sarah Zaman	Regional Director	Shirkat Gah Karachi
22	Giovanni Latuheru	Finance Assistant	UCLG ASPAC
23	Ms. Erum Javed	Senior Consultant	Department of Planning and Development Sindh
24	Ms. Kiran Shahzadi	Country Director	Kindermot Hilfe- Germany
25	Mr. Noor AKber	Programme Officer	CLGF- London
26	Ms. Raheema Panhwar	Provincial Director	WaterAid
27	Syed Raza Ali	CEO	Peace and Justice Network
28	Zia ur Rehman	CEO	Awaz CDS
29	Ms. Uroosa Khatti	Manager Liaison and Coordination	Sindh Rural Support Organisation
30	Ms. Wardah Iftikhar		
32	Mr. Muhammad Azam	District Coordinator	Rural Incubation Center Hafizabad
33	Ms. Sadaf Khalid	CEO	SDGs Academy
34	Mr. yousaf Ayub	Ex-President	LCA KP
35	Ms Tayyaba Aziz	Focal person	PASBAN
36	Mr. Shahzad Khalil		UNDP
37	Ms. Juwairia Sultan	Manager	Migrant Resource Centre Lahore
38	Mr. Sanaullah Khan	Coordinator	LCA KP

39	Mr. Zain ul Abedin		
40	Syeda Shahida		
41	Mr. Kashif Ahmad		
42	Mr. Zulqarnain Rafiq		Media Research Centre
43	Syed Irfan Shah	Economist	University of Faisalabad, Punjab
44	KB		
45	Mr. Ali Imran	Tcal Leader	LEAD for SDGs Programme
46	Ms. Sabina Gul	South Southwest Coordinator	LEAD for SDGs Programme
47	Mr. Hammad Ahmed	Knowledge Management and Communication Manager	LEAD for SDGs Programme
48	Mr. Jahanzeb Javed	Finance and Admin Manager	LEAD for SDGs Programme
49	Mr. Adil Raza	Logistics Officer	LEAD for SDGs Programme
50	Mr. Hassan Hakeem	Adviser	Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs
51	Mr. Fayyaz Yasin	Director	Accountability Lab

3. Picture Glimpses

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SDGs and COVID-19 are Connected

COVID-19 has real challenge of the SDGs progress

How COVID-19 will change the future of SDGs?

Positive impacts of COVID19 on the environment aspect

What COVID teaches us

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Zoom Meeting LIVE on Facebook Speaker View

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Zoom Meeting

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Progress on selected SDGs indicators

Goal 1: No Poverty

- 26 percentage points decline in poverty in terms of the national poverty line, and of over 16 percentage points in terms of the multidimensional poverty headcount

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

- Stunting declined by 7.2 percentage points in the last five years. While malnutrition fell by 8.1 percentage points during the last five years

Goal 3: Good Health & Well-Being

- Infant mortality rate (IMR) declined from 74 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012-13, to 62 in 2017-18.
- Neonatal Mortality Rate fell by 13 percentage points per 1,000 live births -

Goal 5: Gender Equality

- The proportion of women working in managerial positions has marginally increased from 2.7 per cent in 2012-13, to 4.8 per cent in 2017-18 -

Goal 7: Affordable & Clean Energy

- Proportion of the population who rely on clean fuels and technologies risen by 11 percentage points in the same period.
- Access to electricity increased by 8 percentage points.

Goal 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth

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Speaker View

Ammar Jaffri Chair... Hammad Ahmad Mayar Himayat ... SDGs Secretariat Ali Imran Adil Raza Adil Raza

Syeda Shahida ... Noor SALEH Muham... Mahnaz Rahman AR Ahmad Ali

Far Durrar... Adil Raza Sanaullah khan Uroosa Khatti Raza Ali Syed Irfan Shah

1/2

Fida Hussain Raheema Panh... Adil Raza Jahanzeb Javed Shahzadi Kiran Zia Rehman

1/2

Sarah Zaman Giovanni Latuh... Shahid Naeem Erum Javed KB Shahzad Khalil Juwairia Sultan

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COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Balochistan's Economy Society and SDGs - Read-Only - Saved to this PC

File Home Insert Draw Design Transitions Animations Slide Show Review View Help Search

Clipboard Paste New Slide Reuse Slides Layout Reset Section Slides

Font Paragraph Drawing Editing Voice

Share Find Replace Select Dictate Comments

Impact of COVID-19 on SDGs in Balochistan

Human Capital
Social Capital
Natural Capital

1 POVERTY 2 ZERO HUNGER 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 4 QUALITY EDUCATION 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
13 CLIMATE ACTION

Click to add notes

Slide 9 of 9

Zoom Meeting

Speaker View

Bernadia Tjandrad... Hammad Ahmad Ammar Jaffri C... Raheema Panh... Adil Raza Mayar Himayat... Noor

Fida Hussain Rajan Sultan Pir... SALEH Muham... Ali Imran Mahnaz Rahman LEAD for SDGs Jahanzeb Javed

AR Uroosa Khatti Muhammad Az... Adil Raza Sahibzada Arsh... Zain Ul Abedin UCLG ASPAC

Shahzadi Kiran Nadeem Ahmed Irfan Hussain Zia Rehman Syeda Shahida... Sarah Zaman Ahmad Ali

Kashif Ahmad Wardah Iftikhar RIC Muhammad Az... Giovanni Latuh... Shahid Naeem Adil Raza Sadaf khalid CE...

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View Options

Adil Raza

Muhammad Az...

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2.80 Scenario 1 Million Employment Loss

4.39 Scenario 2 Million Employment Loss

4.26 Scenario 3 Million Employment Loss PIDE estimates

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Speaker View

Ammar Jaffri C...

Hammad Ahmad

Mayar Himayat

SDGs Secretariat

Ali Imran

Adil Raza

Adil Raza

Noor

SALEH Muham...

Mahnaz Rahman

LEAD for SDGs

AR

Ahmad Ali

gar Durran...

Adil Raza

Sanaullah khan

Uroosa Khatti

Rajan Sultan Pir...

Raza Ali

Muhammad

Syed Irfan Shah

Raheema Panh...

Fida Hussain

Muhammad Az...

Adil Raza

Jahanzeb Javed

Shahzadi Kiran

Zia Rehman

Sarah Zaman

Giovanni Latuh...

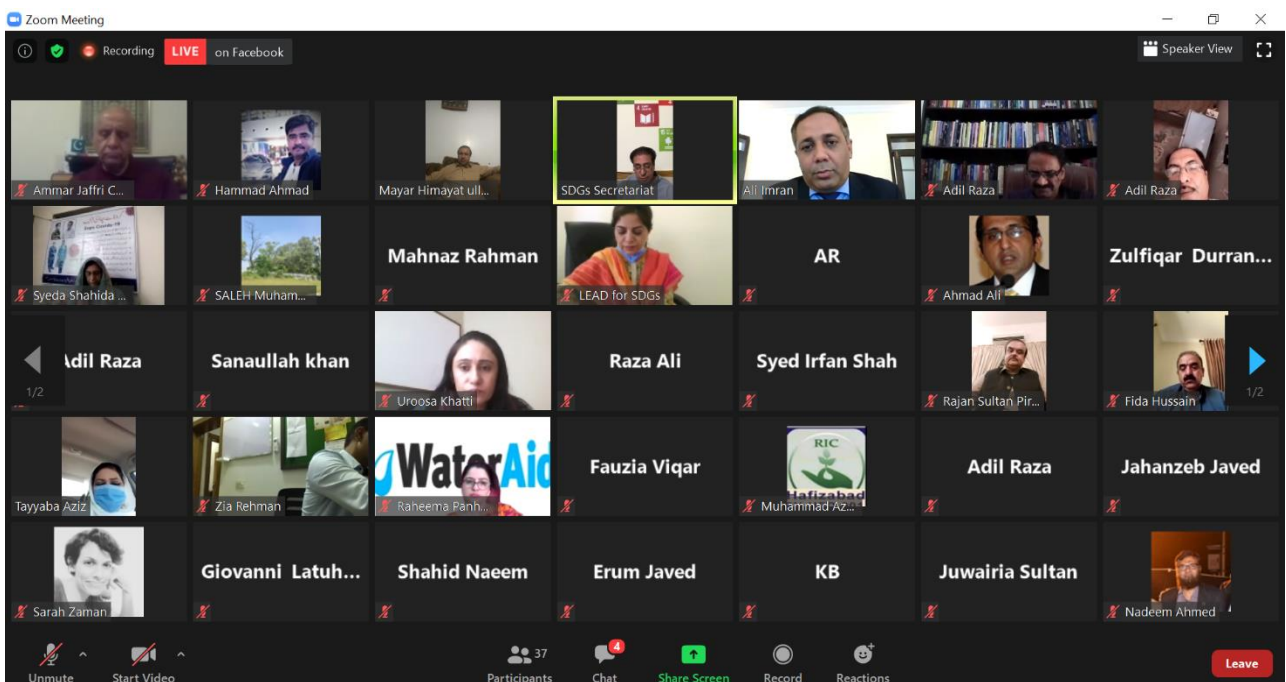
Shahid Naeem

Erum Javed

KB

Shahzad Khalil

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Local Councils Association of
Balochistan



Local Councils Association Sindh

LEAD for SDGs Programme Pakistan

118, Street 81, Sector E-11/2, Islamabad – Pakistan

@LEAD4SDGs | +92 333 4205064

tl-leadpak@uclg-aspac.org