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“The world needs to recognize that humanitarian aid for saving the lives of poor women, children and people is reflective of the collective conscience and is a universal norm of the humanity much beyond the narrow considerations of ethnicity, race, color or religion.

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Highlights

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Shahid Javed Burki
Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

China's handling of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

The way Beijing defined its position with respect to the Russian invasion of Ukraine disappointed the United States and Western Europe, but there is no doubt the Chinese position came as a relief to Putin's Moscow. Beijing abstained from casting a vote against Russia in the United Nations' Security Council and in the General

Assembly. China's leadership did not issue a statement condemning what Russia had done, maintaining that the problem would not be resolved by speeches or votes in international fora. The world noticed China's sitting-on-the-fence stance. There were several appeals directed at China to get involved and provide Putin an off-ramp that he could take. "I think the first thing is that China has enormous influence on Russia, both politically and economically", the Singaporean minister Vivian Balakrishnan, said in a forum organized by Bloomberg News. Those who pleaded for China's involvement recognized the personal relationship the Chinese president Xi Jinping had with Putin, the Russian president. The war in Ukraine had strained but not broken those relations. Putin attended the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Beijing on February 4, 2022.

There were voices even in China, urging the government to do more, arguing that bolder efforts should be expected of a country that aspires to global leadership. "We need to get everybody together," said Wang Huiyao, the president of the Center for China and Globalization in Beijing who called for China to mediate and give the Russian leader a way to save his face while stopping the Ukraine moves. "That's where something is missing right now." However, some in China saw the war as an opportunity for China, if handled carefully. At a meeting of Chinese foreign policy and security scholars in late March 2022 in Beijing convened to discuss the Ukraine crisis, several participants concluded that there was "no urgency in bringing an end to the war," according to a summary that was posted. "The war is sapping the national strength of the old powers of the United States, Europe and Russia," the summary described the scholars as saying. "China needs to watch the fire from the opposite bank and stay out of the war."

Beijing was carefully watching the realignment that the Ukraine war had brought about. The United States by working closely with the nations of Western Europe had sent a message to the world that it was in the interest of all nations to adopt western democratic

liberalism as the approach to governance. This was the message delivered by Joe Biden in a powerful speech given in Poland after concluding a visit to Europe. While in Europe, the American president attended several summits to develop a common understanding of what Putin had done to the world. His message on the structure of politics could be viewed as a counterpoint to what the Chinese president had been saying. He had advanced the view that the Chinese system of governance was succeeding in delivering for the country's citizens while the American-style democracy had resulted in government inaction in several areas including addressing the issue of global warming.

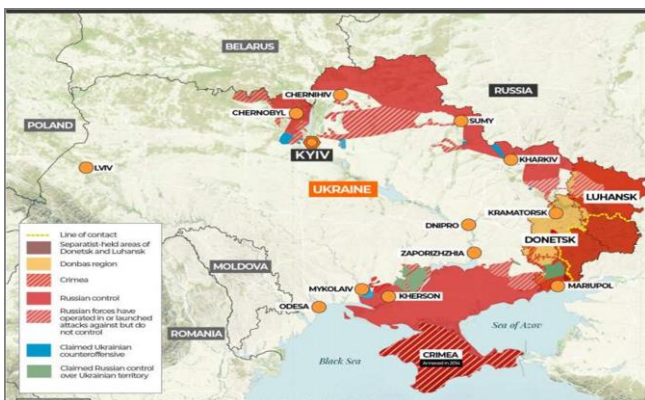
As two observers noted in their analysis for *The New York Times*, Beijing's has tried to keep its distance from the Ukraine conflict initiated by Russia. "It has urged peace but not stepped up to mediate or organize talks, leaving such efforts to far smaller powers, including France, Turkey and Israel." Beijing has noted that Europe has "has shown remarkable unity against the Russian invasion ahead of a planned meeting of the European Union and China on April, 1. It has also prompted warnings from the United States that explicit economic or military assistance to Russia would prompt harsh punishment against China."



Shahid Najam
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The Russo-Ukrainian War- the Pathology of Humanitarian Assistance

The Russo-Ukrainian conflict which has been ongoing since February 2014 after the annexation of Crimea culminated into a full scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24 February 2022. It is more than 5 weeks that the Ukrainians are facing the brunt of Russian onslaught. While the talks between the two countries are in progress, the various rounds of negotiations for peace as from 28 February 2024 have not led to a breakthrough in cessation of hostilities. Russia is insisting on recognition of independence of Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk- the territories which according to Ukraine are integral part of the country. Added to these demands is the “de-militarization” and “de-Nazification” of Ukraine. The unprecedented sanctions imposed by 27 countries including NATO and EU, though hurting the Russian economy, do not seem to have diluted Russia’s stance and may indeed negatively affect the daily lives of ordinary Europeans who are heavily dependent on Russia for their energy needs.



UN estimates that up to 5 million of population of 44 million of Ukraine could become refugees. As of 31 March, more than 4 million have already sought refuge in the neighboring countries while 6.5 million have been displaced majority of whom have gone to Poland (more than 2.3 million) followed by Romania, Moldova, Hungary, Russia and Slovakia. The US and the EU member countries have extended generous humanitarian assistance to Ukraine – life saving food, shelter, blankets and medical supplies and even allowed the refugees for temporary residence. The 50.1% of the Ukraine Flash Appeal of \$1.1 billion has already been funded with major contribution from USA (\$169.8 million), European Commission (\$80.3 million) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (\$59 million). EU has assigned \$547 million for humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

While the huge sufferings and toll of the war on the life and livelihood of the people of Ukraine cannot be condoned, tragically the West seems to have forgotten the misery and plight of millions of Afghanistan ever since the takeover of the country by Afghan Taliban in August 2021. In the wake of ominous uncertainty about the future of the country, the economic crisis is rapidly worsening as the US has frozen Afghanistan’s US Dollar reserves and many international donors have suspended aid. Over half a million people have fled from their homes and more still have lost their livelihoods. More than 23 million Afghans have no access to food with 2 million children malnourished. Drought, pandemic and civil unrest further aggravates the food security challenge.

The situation for the women and girls is of serious concern. The Taliban have wriggled out of the promise to allow tens of thousands of schoolgirls to resume classes above grade 6 - aged about 13 pending the formulation of a plan in conformity with “Islamic law”. Afghanistan has the second highest maternal mortality rate in the world. The majority of the public health facilities are on the verge of closure.

Concerns are being articulated internationally as to the

“deep-rooted racist discrimination based on race, color, religion etc.,” of the West in favor of Ukrainian/European ethnicities vis-à-vis non-European Afghans. The world especially the West needs to recognize that humanitarian aid for saving the lives of poor women, children and people is reflective of the collective conscience and is a universal norm of the humanity much beyond the narrow considerations of ethnicity, race, color or religion. The humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan must not be stopped or made “conditional” to squeeze the cash starved economy to the great detriment and erosion of economic life and livelihood of the people.



Tariq Hussain
Member, Board of Directors
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Climate Change and the Ongoing Food Waste

If economic activities and population growth continue at the current rate, the world will need to produce an **additional 53 million tons** of food in 2050 (Scientific American, October 2021). If food consumption and production practices are not changed an additional **440 million hectares** of grassland and forests will have to be converted into farmland over the next 30 years. This combination of practices will add an **additional 80 billion tons of carbon dioxide**—which will be 15 times the current annual contribution by the entire US Economy. Further, about 35 % of the food currently produced is not consumed by humans.

Recently, an international research group (Project Drawdown) completed an exhaustive study of existing technologies of production and consumption practices

concluded that “reducing food waste” is one of the top five means of reducing the carbon impact. The conclusion of the team was that doable adjustments to current production, consumption and conservation practices can provide nutritious food without conversion of forests and grassland to farmland.

The Research team studied the entire supply chain from food production to delivery and storage in homes for consumption. It concluded that regenerative agricultural production and healthier diets can reduce food waste between 10% to 40%.

Three scenarios were presented for the period 2020-2050: -

- I. Current Practices Continued Food wasted 40 %
- II. Plausible Effort Half the world population consumes 2300 kilo calories food consumed per person per day; more plants; less meat; supply chain losses reduced Food waste cut to 20%.
- III. War Path Effort Three quarters of the population does the Plausible level effort. Food waste Reduced to 10%.

The substantial savings will result from efforts in the full supply chain with education about healthy diets; and conservation focused production, transport, and storage practices. The projections incorporate the needed increase in caloric and protein intake in developing countries as well as the needed reduction in consumption amounts and its composition in developed countries.

Reducing food waste will have a direct beneficial impact on the environment. Different types of foods, such as grains, vegetables, fish, meat, and dairy have widely different carbon footprints. For example, growing and harvesting one kg of tomatoes creates about 0.35 kg of carbon dioxide emission. Producing one kg of beef emits 36 kg of Carbon dioxide. Extrapolating across the entire supply chain (packaging; transporting; storage) the average

greenhouse gas impact of vegetables and fruits is 10 to 50 times lower than for animal-based products.

Regenerative agriculture can increase yields 5 to 35 %, restore soils and extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. For example, agroecological pest management practices such as planting different crops together and smarter crop rotation can suppress weeds and pests. In some situations, the practice of regenerative agriculture can have a zero-carbon footprint.

The full impact will happen when these adjustments are made across the spectrum. The international research group estimated that implementing the plausible effort can reduce carbon emissions by about 15 billion tons during the next 30 years.

That is the current carbon footprint of the entire US economy in 2021.



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Cost- Effective Water Usage

Pakistan's fresh water resources are mainly driven by the Indus River System. Pakistan's Agri Economy is highly Dependent on the these factors:

- Rainfall
- Snow Melted from Northern Glaciers
- Ground Water

Glaciers in northern areas are main source of water and due to climate change glaciers are reducing. Pakistan should focus on forestation campaign specially in northern areas so that we can save our glaciers. If we will not able to protect our glaciers,

then by 2050 Pakistan will face water scarcity. Pakistan is producing crops which are heavily using fresh water and while the cost of water is not accounted for in the country's export.

Two Rivers that are used for the fresh water storage are River Indus and River Jhelum.

Whereas Chenab River is used for irrigation. Chennab is Primarily Identified as snow melt flow from the Laddakh / Kishtwar region of Kashmir and the surface flow of rainfall in Chennab Basin.

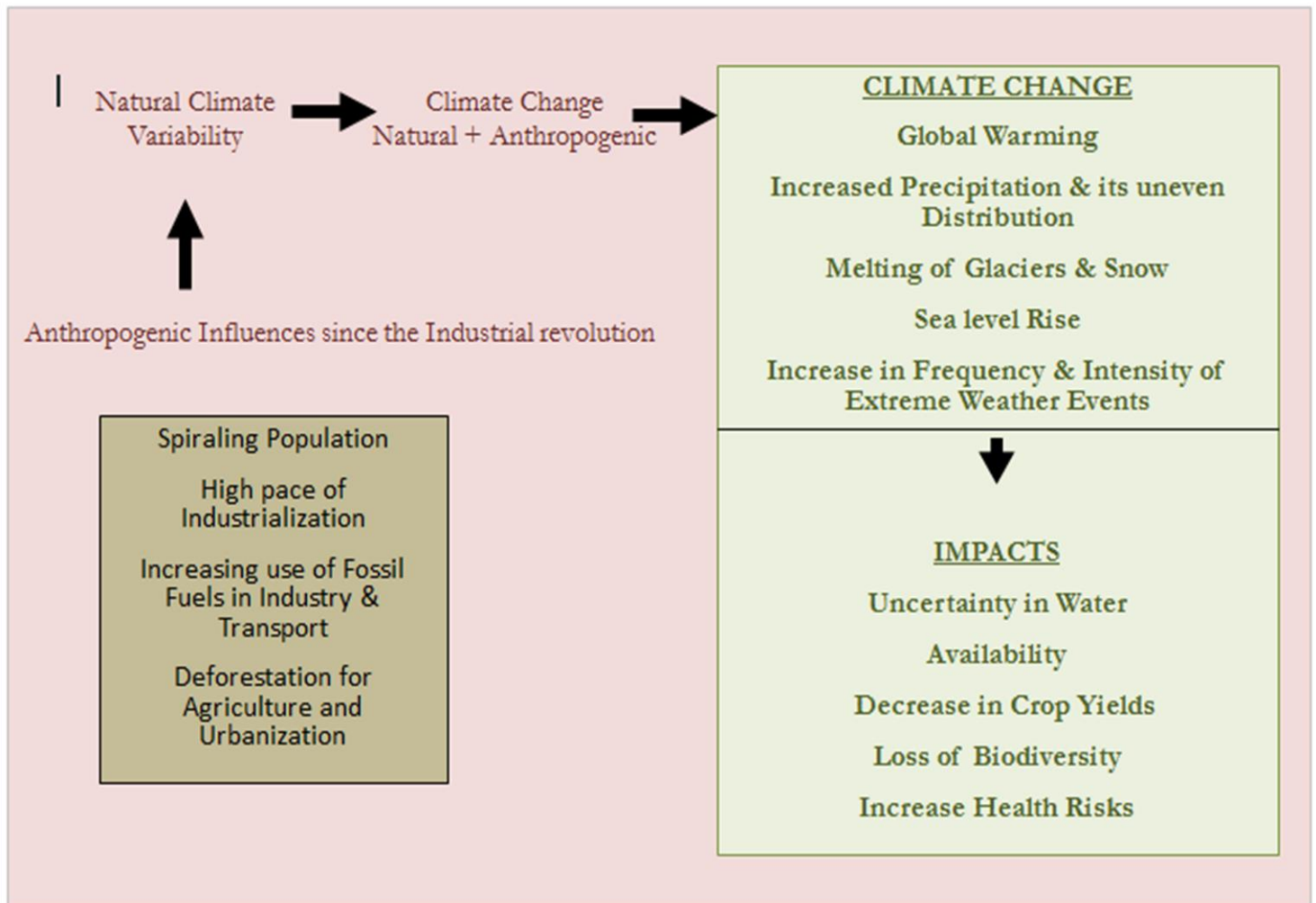
Pakistan's annual water account fall is as below (MAF):

Average annual volume of water from rainfall and snow melt	154.00
From Western Rivers	144.91
From Eastern Rivers	9.14
Diversion for irrigation	104.73
Flow to see	39.40
System losses	9.90

Water Storage Capacity of Pakistan

Reservoir	Original	Present	Loss Due To Sedimentation
Tarbela	9.69 (1976)	6.77	<u>2.92</u> 30%
Mangla	5.34 (1968)	4.54	<u>0.80</u> 15%
Chashma	0.72 (1971)	0.26	<u>0.46</u> 63%
Total	15.75	11.57	<u>4.18</u> 27%

No. of major rivers	5 (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Satluj)
No. of major reservoirs	3
No. of barrages / HW / Syphons	23
No. of main canal system	45
No. of interlink canals	12
Length of canals	60800 Km
Length of watercourses	1.6 Million Km
Average canal water diversion	104.7 MAF
Groundwater abstraction	41.6 MAF
No. of tube wells	>550,000
Irrigated area	36 Million Acres
Average escape to the sea	39.4 MAF





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Pakistan's Economic Performance (March 2022)

The economy of Pakistan is on the path to economic recovery compatible, with an economic growth target of around 5 percent in the current fiscal year. However, the recent geopolitical risks particularly the Ukraine crisis (external risk factor) and the domestic political situation (domestic risk factor) are playing their respective roles which is portraying a mixed picture of the economic performance of Pakistan. The Ministry of Finance reported that a further escalation of these risks could hamper the positive outlook for Pakistan's economy and may also aggravate the macroeconomic imbalances.

In the real sector, during Jul-Feb (FY2022), the agriculture credit disbursement increased by 3.6 percent to Rs 835.3 billion compared to Rs 806.4 billion same period last year. During Jul-Jan (FY2022), LSM gained the growth momentum of 7.6 percent against 1.8 percent last year with outstanding performance in sub-sectors especially, Furniture, Wood Products, Automobile, Tobacco, Wearing Apparel, and Football. On a YoY basis, LSM witnessed a growth of 8.2 percent in January 2022 and 4.2 percent on MoM basis. During the period, 16 out of 22 subsectors of LSM have witnessed growth as shown in the figure 1.

CPI inflation during Jul-Feb (FY2022) was recorded at 10.5 percent against 8.3 percent during the same period last year. CPI for February 2022 was recorded at 12.2 percent on a YoY basis against 8.7 percent during the same month last year. After the Pandemic, global commodity prices have surged to unprecedented levels especially after January 2021, triggering pressure on currencies and causing inflation

around the world. These inflationary impacts also translated into domestic inflation.

The fiscal deficit during Jul-Jan (FY2022) is recorded at 2.9 percent of GDP (Rs 1862 billion) against 2.4 percent of GDP (Rs 1309 billion) last year. Similarly, the primary balance posted a deficit of Rs 174 billion (0.3 percent of GDP) as compared with the surplus of Rs 416 billion (0.8 percent of GDP). Net federal revenues increased by 6.4 percent to Rs 2152 billion during the year under review, compared to Rs 2023 billion in the comparable period of FY2021. Total expenditures, on the other hand, climbed by 23.9 percent to Rs 4542 billion in Jul-Jan (FY2022), compared to Rs 3665 billion in the previous year. Higher spending is largely due to a 23 percent increase in current spending on the back of higher power sector subsidies and increase in grants for COVID-19, social protection, contingent liabilities, and DTLT (drawback of taxes). Similarly, development expenditures (PSDP) increased by 37.1 percent to Rs 362 billion in Jul-Jan (FY2022), compared to Rs 264 billion in the same period the previous year.

SBP has maintained the policy rate at 9.75 percent in recent monetary policy decision on account of improved inflation outlook. During 1st July – 25th February, FY2022 money supply (M2) shows growth of 0.5 percent (Rs. 123.7 billion) compared growth of 4.59 percent (Rs. 960.1 billion) in last year. Net Foreign Assets (NFA) decreased by Rs 362.3 billion as compared to an increase of Rs 595.2 billion in last year. Net Domestic Assets (NDA) of the banking sector increased by Rs. 486.0 billion as compared Rs. 364.9 billion last year.

The Current Account posted a deficit of \$ 12.1 billion for Jul-Feb (FY2022) as against a surplus of \$ 994 million last year. The current account deficit widened due to the constantly growing import volume of energy and non-energy commodities, along with a rising trend in the global prices of oil, COVID-19 vaccines, food and metals. Exports on fob grew by 28.1 percent during Jul-Feb (FY2022) and reached \$ 20.6 billion (\$ 16.1 billion last year). Imports on FoB grew by 49.1 percent during Jul-Feb (FY2022) and

reached \$ 47.9 billion (\$ 32.1 billion last year). Resultantly the trade deficit (Jul-Feb FY2022) reached \$ 27.3 billion as against \$ 16.0 billion last year.

Inflation and the current account deficit are under pressure. The government is taking measures to limit as much as possible, by further increasing in the cost of living and to stimulate exports and discourage unnecessary imports to constrain the current account deficit.

Figure 1

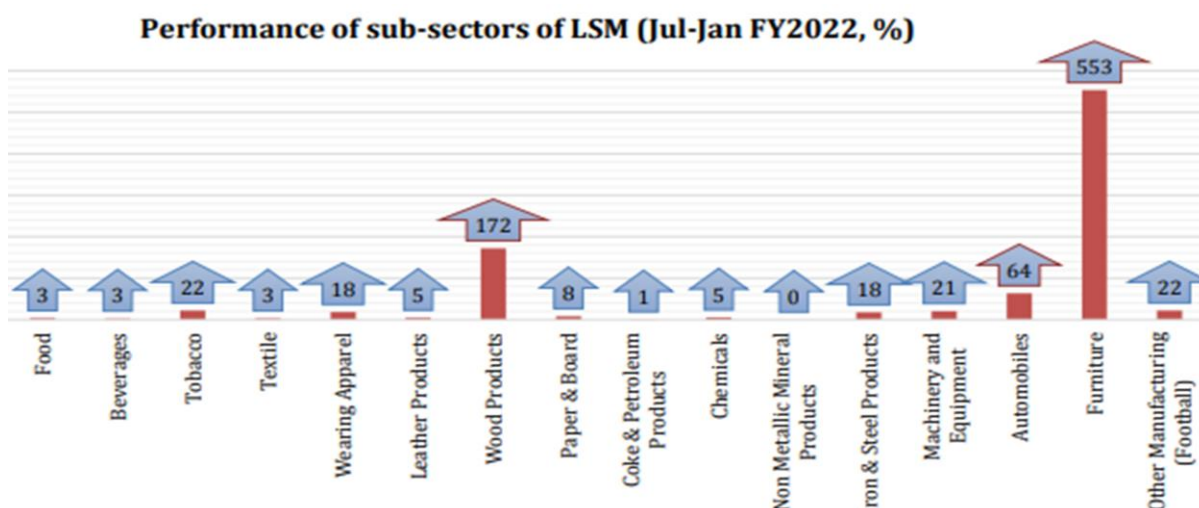
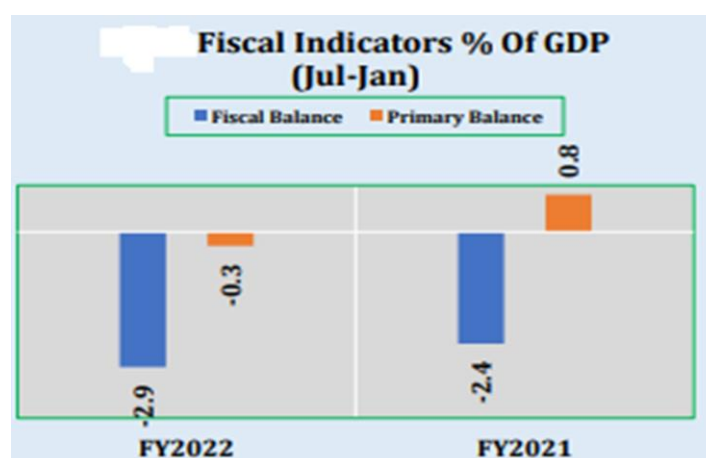


Figure 2

Prices in Pakistan						
Months	Sugar Refined (Rs/Kg)	Cooking Oil Dalda (Rs/5Kg)	Vegetable Ghee Dalda (Rs/Kg)	Wheat Flour (Rs/20Kg)	Petrol (Rs/Litre)	Hi-Speed Diesel (Rs/Litre)
Feb-21	93.0	1479.1	291.3	955.8	112.2	116.4
Feb-22	89.3	2109.1	406.1	1167.2	154.5	150.1
% Change						
Feb-22/Feb-21	-4.0	42.6	39.4	22.1	37.7	29.0

Source: PBS

Figure 3





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School Khana Program

Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Afghanistan are among the countries with very high level of malnutrition in the world. Pakistan, an agricultural country suffers from the worst form of food security. The regular increase in food inflation is making it go out of the reach of the population. The number of stunted children under the age of 5 is around 38 percent in Pakistan. It is at 30 percent in India, 32 percent in Bangladesh and 35 percent in Afghanistan.¹

Keeping in view the need to alleviate malnutrition in children, stunted growth, enhance their energy levels and mental competency and attendance in class, the School Education Department (SED Punjab) has taken an initiative – “School Khana Program” in collaboration with some private parties’ i.e. Allah Walay Trust (local charity organization) and Honda Pakistan (renowned business). SED has taken this step in an effort to holistically improve the provincial education system. So far 20 primary schools in Lahore are being provided with free midday meal every day.² After Lahore, the same program is initiated in Islamabad inaugurated by the Federal Minister of Education.³ This program is an example of public-private partnership.

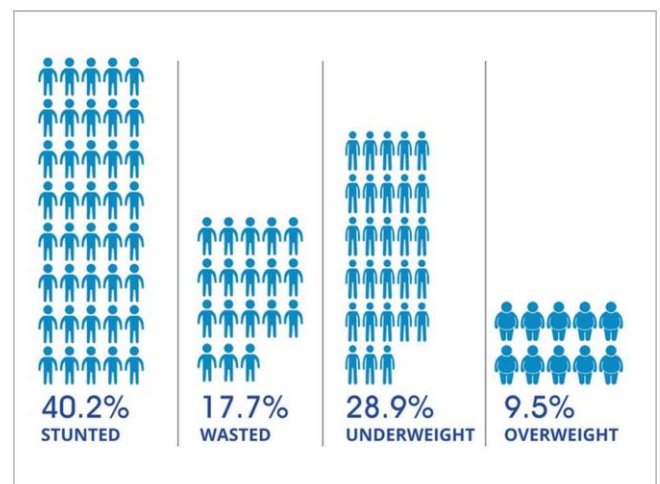
European countries such as England, Sweden, Finland and Estonia provide free school meals to all pupils in compulsory education, regardless of their ability to pay, while countries like France, Italy, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia and the US provides low-cost meals. Free meals in Asia are provided in India and South Korea, while Iran was the part of the same league in the last Shah Pahlavi’s time.

Many of these programs show how the public, private and non-profit sectors can shoulder the responsibility

of development interventions even if larger multilateral organizations like the UNICEF are unable to chalk out holistic strategies due to financial inadequacy or any other factor. It is a way to give back to the society, as one of the ways to move forward is by giving back. It will ensure higher interest to keep up the school attendance, mitigate malnourishment and stunting in children, and a minimum level of literacy set as standard can be achieved in a relatively easier manner.

As a solution, actionable, time-bound plans and progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), food security and ending malnutrition, Pakistan has to develop district-specific and region-specific strategies as this one. With that, a comprehensive data set must be generated to ensure that country’s resources and efforts are on the right track. Individuals and institutions’ partnerships on a micro and macro level will also bear the fruits.

A study on Pakistan by UNICEF conducted in 2020, National Nutrition Survey (NNS) shows nearly four out of 10 children under the age of five are stunted in Pakistan. The survey also found that 12.7% children have a functional disability in one of these six domains: seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, self-care and communication.⁴ The figure below from the aforementioned survey shows nutritional problems among children.





Aida Girma, the UNICEF representative in Pakistan stated at the launch of this survey that nutrition in Pakistan requires high level attention and adequate funding to reduce mortality due to malnutrition and to ensure that every child reaches their full development potential in life.

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2. Report, R. (2022, February 6). 'School Khana Programme' begins at Primary School Bhabara. *Brecorder*. Retrieved March 31, 2022, from <https://www.brecorder.com/news/40152427/school-khana-programme-begins-at-primary-school-bhabara>

3. The News International. (2022, February 24). Islamabad students to get free meal in school. *thenews*. Retrieved March 31, 2022, from <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/936304-islamabad-students-to-get-free-meal-in-school>

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Tourism, Food and Cultural Development

This article focuses on how food, tourism and culture are intertwined for the development of cities in Asian countries. Efforts need to be made on an institutional level, implemented by the state to reclaim public

spaces in cities and towns to not only make them more livable for the people but also to create a joyful experience for tourists. This would include promotion and support for local food, culture and hospitality, so international tourists can experience the organic landscape of the country.

Mere transportation from one point to another is not the goal of the tourist, so we need to understand why tourists travel? This question should tingle the minds of policy makers. A desire that is embedded within, cannot be satisfied if the charm of the city does not reach out to the tourist. Over the last couple of decades, consumer preferences have changed based on globalization and technological expansion. There are changes in lifestyle expectations and buying habits of tourists. A tourist needs to be facilitated with an environment that allows him/her to reconnect with nature as well as experience the local culture of a place in its organic form.

Quality of tourist experience is achieved by satisfying their desire for acquiring experiences with local communities. In this context food, tourism and culture become harmoniously inclined towards full filling this need. Here food and culture both emerge as powerful agents that help create a meaningful experience for the tourist. In this way a bond is created between the tourist and the local community that redefines the whole structure of tourism, especially in the case of Pakistan.

There is a need to promote local food and culture to add quality of experience and consumption as essential aspects of growth for international tourism. The implementation is difficult due to inadequacies of the government to adopt an economic development model that embraces local food and culture and syncs it with the international tourists' experience. In fact, to talk about the tourists' experience requires consideration of the availability of resources at their disposal, awareness of local communities about disposable incomes that international tourists bring with them and equity and justice. Initiatives need to be taken from bottom-up to prompt tourism promotion in the very foundation and its practices by promoting local food and culture.



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Inclusion for Transgender Community

Transgender is an umbrella term used for persons whose gender identity; gender expression or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex.¹ According to the 2017 census, the total transgender population is 21,744 in Pakistan. The law of Pakistan prohibits discrimination and violence against transsexual people in the country. Violence against them is intolerable and law enforcement agencies are liable to provide protection to them.

Pakistan is amongst the first few states to have officially recognized the third gender. The state has successfully passed the “Transgender Protection Act in 2018”. Also, to equip them with education, special schools for transgender started in 2021 in South Punjab (Multan) under the supervision of School Education Minister for Punjab. Another school for transgender community is underway in Lahore. The government of Pakistan recently awarded “Pride of Performance” to two transwomen. Dr. Sarah Gill Khan, the first transwoman to graduate as a medical doctor and Aisha Mughal, first transgender government representative at United Nations Human Rights Council in 2019 as a consultant of the human rights ministry. Moreover, March 31 is celebrated as International Transgender Day of Visibility to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people.

In contrast to government’s efforts for this community, members of transgender community are still under threat, discriminated, killed and sexually assaulted in multiple incidents at various sites.

In 2018, transgender people reportedly experienced 479 violence incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the statistics shows that over 70 transwomen have been killed in KP in the past few years, which translates to 789 killed per 100,000 transpeople. Violence against this community is the extreme translation of discrimination inbuilt in the society. Moreover opening of separate schools is also the visible reason of not having an accepting attitude towards this community.

For a futuristic approach, government needs to take more inclusive measures; criminalize hate speech against this community, reserve seats for transgender in legislative assemblies and provide justice. Instead of stigmatizing, the parents, guardians and teachers need to teach children to respect transpeople not to fear or ridicule them and create an inclusive environment in all walks of life. Inclusion in legislature will provide better platform for transcommunity for enhanced laws and policy.



¹ "Answers to Your Questions About Transgender People, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression," <https://www.apa.org>, accessed March 29, 2022, <https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/transgender>.



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The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy with the collaboration of The Urban Unit Punjab had a successful consultancy workshop on "Climate Smart Green Plan Punjab 2022" on 9th February 2022. The workshop was attended by representatives of Urban Unit, Department of agriculture Punjab, Livestock Department, Water Management Department and other key stake holders. The session ended with a healthy question answer session.



On 14th February 2022, BIPP team visited the Centre for Social Justice, a Research & Advocacy organization based in Lahore to talk to Mr. Peter Jacob (Executive Director-CSJ) on the theme of strengthening institutions to ensure social justice in Pakistan. BIPP also recorded a video for Policy Hub series with Mr. Jacob, where he briefly shared his take on the subject of Social Justice with respect to Pakistan. You may watch the video on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvPYYqaMvTg>



On 18th March 2022, The Center of Social Justice (CSJ) organized a seminar on the topic of “Let Religion not Justify Violence”. CSJ team presented comprehensively analyzed facts and factors rooted in biological, social, psychological and spiritual domains that lead to violation of human rights, increased terrorism and faith-based violence. The BIPP team participated actively and suggested the mainstreaming of provision of psychological therapy for public, along with improving of institutions, reassessment of the NAP and upholding the law could curb incidents of violence & terrorism.



BIPP uploaded another policy hub episode on 8th March 2022 where Ms. Shakeela Bano, (Founder & President Layyah Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry) talked about the participation and role of women in Agriculture (livestock, fisheries, poultry) and SMEs along with the need-based skills required for the rural women to become part of the development process amidst on-going digital revolution. Moreover, she said that there is a direct link between gender, social equity and distributive justice, national development, and a sustainable future. Women in Pakistan are resilient, gifted, frugal, and prudent. They are survivors of tough socio-economic circumstances and the change agents for a better future. Here is the link to full episode: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hpx1SvsEmSU&t=439s>



The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol organized a webinar “Women's Role in Pakistan's Development” on 22nd March 2022. Mr. Shahid Javed Burki (Chairperson BIPP), Ms. Shaheen Attique ur Rehman (Former MPA and Social Worker) and, Ms. Zofeen T. Ebrahim (Award Winning Journalist) shared their views on how inextricable the development of women and the need is to appreciate their role in the development of Pakistan at large. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WjdjunlfEw>

The University of the Punjab hosted launch of BIPP's 14th annual report “The State of the Economy: Changing World – Pakistan Reset” on 24th March 2022 at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS). Prof. Dr. Rubeena Zakar (Director ISCS)

welcomed Mr. Shahid Javed Burki (Chairman BIPP) and other participants. The event was attended by eminent scholars, researchers, member of academia and students of Punjab University. Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar (Pro Vice Chancellor PU), Prof. Dr. Umbreen (Dean Social and Cultural Studies), Ms. Uzma Kardar (MPA PTI) provided their invaluable appraisal of the annual report. The event ended with a healthy question answers session by students.



On March 25, the Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research (CSSPR), University of Lahore hosted Mr. Shahid Javed Burki, for a talk on 'Challenges of Peace and Stability in Afghanistan'. The talk was attended by Chairman, Board of Governors (UOL), Mr. Awais Raoof (Rector, UOL), Dr. Muhammad Ashraf. (Director, CSSPR), BIPP team and students of UOL. Dr. Rabia Akhtar, moderated the session. Shahid Javed Burki sketched the economic landscape of the region and highlighted what could Afghanistan and Pakistan do to reorient their economies for mutual strategic gains.



We are pleased to announce that The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy has decided to empower women by providing 50 merit cum need-based scholarship opportunities for the prospective students enrolling in the following disciplines and programs i.e. 1) MBBS, 2) Doctor of Pharmacy, 3) BS. Nursing, 4) Engineering, and 5) Information Technology. An understanding regarding the same has been reached with the following academic institutions:

1. Fatima Jinnah Medical University for Women
2. Lahore College for Women University
3. University of Lahore

Furthermore, a meeting was held between Mr. Shahid Javed Burki (Chairman- Burki Institute of Public Policy) and Mr. Awais Raoof (Chairperson- University of Lahore) on 25th March 2022 at the University of Lahore Main Campus, where both parties showed commitment towards the promotion, access and affordability of female education. BIPP

has pledged to provide 10 scholarships for women in the discipline of Nursing for UOL students. We are grateful to the UOL Chairperson for assuring us to match the same number by giving 10 more scholarships to the students, which would sum up to 20 scholarships being introduced at the UOL.

The BIPP scholarships will be advertised in the month of April 2022 for the upcoming academic session of September 2022.



On 29th March 2022, BIPP team headed by Mr. Shahid Javed Burki visited Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) to discuss scholarship agenda with Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza (Vice Chancellor LCWU). BIPP team briefed Dr. Mirza about the concept, criteria, and disbursement details of scholarship. Dr. Mirza thanked the BIPP team for choosing LCWU for this scholarship program and showed her full commitment towards it.



On 30th March 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries Gilgit Division (WCCIGD).

The document was duly endorsed with the signatures of Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu (Director, Operations, Education and Learning BIPP) and Ms. Khushnoor Dildar (Founder WCCIGD).

The purpose of this MOU is to modulate a framework of cooperation between the Parties, in the areas of mutual interest. Additionally, cooperative initiatives and exchanges particularly in areas of Education, R&D, Training and Development, Food Security, Women empowerment and Climate Change will be encouraged.



On 31st March 2022, Chairman BIPP, Mr. Shahid Javed Burki conducted the 10th meeting of the Board of Directors (BOD) along with board members Mr. Shahid Najam, Dr. Daud Ahmed, and Mr. Ayub Ghauri in attendance. The annual meeting discussed agendas of the institute's progress report, the work plan of annual report 2022, SJB scholarship initiative, reconstitution of board, institute's financial position, governance, and other matters of importance.



Earlier last month the Planning and Development Department (P&D) Punjab issued a notification of the constitution of the expert committee to review and finalize the Punjab Digital Policy-2022. BIPP is also part of the committee represented by Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu, where BIPP would give comments and feedback on the digital policy draft to be submitted to the P&D board for placing before the cabinet.



Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

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