



**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K



VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

**AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR
2022**

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
APRIL 2022



AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K



VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT

AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

2022

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
AZAD GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
APRIL 2022



TECHNICAL TEAM

- **Mr. Muhammad Shamoan Hashmi**
Chief Economist, Planning and Development Department, AJ&K, GoAJ&K.
- **Ms. Mahnaz Kunt**
Chief Foreign Aid, Planning and Development Department, GoAJ&K.
- **Ms. Rubina Zulqarnain**
Project Manager, Federal SDGs Unit, MoPD&SI
- **Mr. Nadeem Ahmed**
Social Policy Advisor, Federal SDGs Unit, MoPD&SI.
- **Mr. Raziq Shinwari**
Economic Policy Advisor, Federal SDGs Unit, MoPD&SI.
- **Mr. Umer Akhlaq Malik**
Policy Analyst, DPU - UNDP Islamabad.
- **Mr. Syed Ali Husnain Gillani**
SDGs Coordinator, Planning and Development Department, AJ&K.
- **Mr. Syed Azaz -ul- Hassan Gardezi**
Planning Officer, SDGs/R&D Section, Planning and Development Department, GoAJ&K.
- **Mr. Adnan Nasim Khan**
Planning Officer, Planning and Development Department, GoAJ&K.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jasim Anwar is an international development consultant and an applied scientist, specialized in Policy Formulation, Strategic and Sustainable Development, Socio-Economic Assessments, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, Mortality Estimations, Information Systems and Demography. The author is qualified with an MBBS, a Masters in Applied Sciences from the University of Sydney and a Ph.D. from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.



CITATION

The document may be cited as:

Planning and Development Department, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 2022. Voluntary National Review Report 2022.



COPYRIGHTS

© 2022 Planning and Development Department, Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, All rights reserved.

This report, or any part of it, may not be reproduced in any form, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission of the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, GoP, Planning and Development Department, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and UNDP Pakistan.



REPORT DESIGN

Jasim International Consulting Pvt. Ltd. Islamabad, Pakistan.



Dr. Sajid Mahmood Chauhan (PAS)

Additional Chief Secretary Development
Planning & Development Department, GoAJ&K

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure for me to introduce the valuable Azad Jammu & Kashmir second Voluntary National Review Report 2022. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir has committed to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. In line with the Provincial Governments, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) has also developed its Voluntary National Review Report 2022 which highlights the background of SDGs, policies, legislations, regulatory regimes, progress, challenges, success stories and innovations in localization of the SDGs in AJ&K. The report also highlights the leveraging on partnerships with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report has been prepared by considering the guidelines of Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Government of Pakistan.

Government of AJ&K has integrated the SDGs into its plans, policies, frameworks, annual development programmes and created a dedicated institutional mechanism to provide an enabling environment for implementation of SDGs in the State. AJ&K has also successfully developed its own SDGs framework through robust consultations with all the relevant stakeholders.

Government of AJ&K has made progress in terms of social, economic and environmental development which include better access to basic services (Education, Health, Water, Sanitation, Social Protection), enhancing institutional capacities in service delivery, climate change adaptation and mitigation, addressing rapid and unplanned urbanization, reducing unemployment, increasing social safety nets, improving digital transformation, increasing revenue generation capacity, private sector engagement, and disaster risk reduction.

I would like to appreciate the valuable contributions and efforts made by the Planning and Development Department, GoAJ&K and its SDGs Unit, UNDP Pakistan, the Federal SDGs Unit, MoPD&SI and the author, Dr. Jasim Anwar for bringing this report together. I am also thankful to officials of all departments of AJ&K and other stakeholders who participated in consultative sessions and gave their valuable inputs for preparation of this important report. I am very hopeful that the Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir and other stakeholders will capitalize on the findings of this report and integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development to accelerate socioeconomic and environmental development in AJ&K. I assure that Planning & Development Department is available for any cooperation needed for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Sajid Mahmood Chauhan (PAS)
Additional Chief Secretary (Dev)



In a time when the world is striving to make the ideals of development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda into a global reality, the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir reiterates its commitment to the principles and targets set forth under the SDGs framework. The Report in hand, Voluntary National Review 2022, manifests these commitments. In our endeavor to make the second Voluntary National Review an inclusive, democratic and participatory process, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, valuable insights from the engagements and consultations with all the relevant stakeholders were drawn.

Our special appreciation goes to Mr. Ch. Muhammad Rasheed, Minister for Planning & Development AJ&K, Mr. Shakeel Qadir Khan, Chief Secretary GoAJ&K, Dr. Sajid Mahmood Chauhan, Additional Chief Secretary (Dev.), GoAJ&K and all Administrative Secretaries of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for their patronage and ownership of the AJ&K VNR Report 2022. Our special acknowledgment to the team of the Planning & Development Department led by Mr. Muhammad Shamoan Hashmi, Chief Economist, including Ms. Mahnaz Kant, Chief Foreign Aid, Mr. Syed Ali Husnain Gillani, SDGs Coordinator and Mr. Syed Azaz-ul-Hassan Gardazi, Planning Officer, SDGs Section, for technical support and guidance in the process to formulate AJ&K VNR Report 2022.

The team also acknowledges the efforts and contributions of officers, civil societies, academia, women, youth, media, marginalized segments of the society challenged with disability, private businesses and other stakeholders who actively participated in the AJ&K VNR consultative workshops, focus group discussions, interviews and the provision of relevant data.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT	III
LIST OF TABLES	VI
LIST OF FIGURES	VIII
LIST OF BOXES	IX
ABBREVIATIONS	X
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2

1 Introduction	5
1.1 Localization of SDGs in Azad Jammu and Kashmir	5
1.2 SDGs Data Status.....	6
1.3 Institutional Arrangements for SDGs in AJ&K	7
2 Methodology and Approach	10
2.1 Policies and Legislation	11
2.2 Fiscal Analysis of Annual Development Program	15
2.2.1 Productive Sectors.....	18
3 Goals-wise Progress	22
3.1 SDG-1 No Poverty	22
3.1.1 Progress.....	22
3.1.2 Challenges.....	25
3.1.3 Way forward	26
3.2 SDG-2 Zero Hunger	27
3.2.1 Progress.....	27
3.2.2 Challenges	28
3.2.3 Way Forward	28
3.3 SDG-3 Good Health and Well-Being	29
3.3.1 Progress.....	29
3.3.2 Challenges	33
3.3.3 Way Forward	33
3.4 SDG-4 Quality Education	34
3.4.1 Progress.....	34
3.4.2 Challenges	37
3.4.3 Way Forward	37



3.5 SDG-5 Gender Equality	39
3.5.1 Progress	40
3.5.2 Challenges	41
3.5.3 Way Forward	41
3.6 SDG-6 Clean Water and Sanitation.....	42
3.6.1 Progress	42
3.6.2 Special Intervention by Environment Protection Agency	44
3.6.3 Challenges	45
3.6.4 Way Forward	45
3.7 SDG-7 Affordable and Clean Energy	46
3.7.1 Progress	46
3.7.2 Challenges	47
3.7.3 Way Forward	47
3.8 SDG-8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	48
3.8.1 Progress	49
3.8.2 Challenges	51
3.8.3 Way Forward	51
3.9 SDG-9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	52
3.9.1 Progress	52
3.9.2 Challenges	53
3.9.3 Way Forward	53
3.10 SDG-10 Reduced Inequalities	54
3.10.1 Progress	54
3.10.2 Challenges	55
3.10.3 Way Forward	55
3.11 SDG-11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	56
3.11.1 Progress	56
3.11.2 Challenges	58
3.11.3 Way Forward	58
3.12 SDG-12 Responsible Consumption and Production.....	59
3.12.1 Progress	59
3.12.2 Challenges	59
3.12.3 Way Forward	59
3.13 SDG-13 Climate Action	60
3.13.1 Progress	60
3.13.2 Challenges	60
3.13.3 Way Forward	61
3.14 SDG-14 Life below Water	62
3.14.1 Progress	62
3.14.2 Challenges	62
3.14.3 Way Forward	62
3.15 SDG-15 Life on Land	63
3.15.1 Progress	63
3.15.2 Challenges	63
3.15.3 Way Forward	64





3.16 SDG-16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.....	65
3.16.1 Progress.....	65
3.16.2 Challenges.....	67
3.16.3 Way Forward.....	67
3.17 SDG-17 Partnerships for the Goals.....	68
3.17.1 Progress.....	68
3.17.2 Challenges.....	68
3.17.3 Way Forward.....	68
4 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Mechanisms for SDGs.....	71
4.1 MICS in AJ&K.....	74
5 Innovation.....	79
6 Conclusion.....	82
References.....	83
Annexes.....	85
Annexe-1. List of Participants Consultation session for AJ&K, VNR Report 2022.	85



TABLE 1 Page 12

SDGs Cluster-wise Distribution of Legislations and Policies for localization of SDGs in AJ&K

TABLE 2 Page 16

ADP 2017-18 and 2021-22 allocations aligned with SDGs in AJ&K

TABLE 3 Page 20

Cluster-wise total allocations and expenditures, from 2016 to 2021

TABLE 4 Page 24

Region-wise Human Development Index of Pakistan, 2020

TABLE 5 Page 32

Summary of air quality index of five major districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 2021

TABLE 6 Page 33

Range-wise categorization -of air quality index in AJ&K

TABLE 7 Page 72

Goal wise availability of data for SDGS in AJ&K, 2021

TABLE 8 Page 73

Department wise available data for SDGs in AJ&K, 2022 (145 Indicators)

TABLE 9 Page 73

Available data for SDGs through Surveys in AJ&K (68 Indicators)

TABLE 10 Page 74

Status of Missing SDGs Data through Admin in AJ&K (29 Indicators)



كشمير LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Map of Azad Jammu and Kashmir	6
Figure 2. Localization of SDG indicators in AJ&K	7
Figure 3. Institutional Arrangements for SDGs in AJ&K	8
Figure 4. Methodology for the formulation of AJ&K VNR Report 2022	10
Figure 5. Overall Development Budget FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22	15
Figure 6. Sectoral allocations of the development budget for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22	17
Figure 7. Allocations of Development Budget in Social & Environment Sector of AJ&K, FY 2020-21 and 2021-22	17
Figure 8. Allocations of Development Budget for Productive Sector, AJ&K, FY 2020-21 and 2021-22	18
Figure 9. Allocations of Development Budget for Productive Sector, AJ&K, FY 2020-21 and 2021-22	18
Figure 10. Allocations of Development Budget for Productive Sector of AJ&K, FY 2020-21 and 2021-22	19
Figure 11. Composition of Thematic Clusters of SDGs for AJ&K	20
Figure 12. Key Health Indicators of Azad Jammu & Kashmir	29
Figure 13. Overall and District-wise Neonatal Mortality Rate of AJ&K, 2020	30
Figure 14. District-wise mortality of children under age five per 1,000 live births in AJ&K, 2020	30
Figure 15. Air Quality Index of major five districts of AJ&K, December 2021	32
Figure 16. Literacy Rate, Technical Courses & School Enrolment in AJ&K, 2019-20	34
Figure 17. Gender-wise literacy rate of AJ&K 2014 to 2019	35
Figure 18. Comparison of Enrolment in Educational Institutions of AJ&K (2017, 2019)	36
Figure 19. Improved Drinking Water Sources, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 2020	43
Figure 20. District-wise drinking water supply from improved sources in AJ&K, 2018	43
Figure 21. District-wise drinking water accessibility, AJ&K, 2018	44
Figure 22. Status of toilets in schools of AJ&K, 2020	44
Figure 23. Sector-wise distribution of waged employees, AJ&K, 2019	49
Figure 24. Employment in Manufacturing Industries in AJ&K, 2016-17 & 2020-21	52
Figure 25. Deaths and Injuries due to disasters in AJ&K, 2016-17 & 2020-21	56
Figure 26. SDGs indicators addressed through MICS in AJ&K	74





شمیر LIST OF BOXES

Box 1. Kashmir Orphans Relief Trust	23
Box 2. Shelter Homes	25
Box 3. Engaging Religious Scholar to promote Family Planning	31
Box 4. A Story of Community Participation	35
Box 5. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in AJ&K	39
Box 6. Shelter Homes	40
Box 7. Shelter Homes Women Development Department	55
Box 8. Using Satellite Imageries for Land Use Planning	57
Box 9. Mapping of State-Owned Land Assets	57
Box 10. Geographical Information System in AJ&K	58
Box 11. Strengthening Communities for Environment Protection	61
Box 12. Local Bodies Election AJ&K 2022	65
Box 13. Establishment of First-ever Women Police Station in AJ&K	66
Box 14. Petroleum Oil Lubricants Quality Control and Weights & Measures Labs with Mobile Unit at Mirpur	66





شمیر ABBREVIATIONS

AJ&K	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
ADP	Annual Development Programme
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
FY	Fiscal Year
GIS	Geographic Information System
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MW	Megawatt
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene



**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K



EXECUTIVE Summary



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with the national strategy, the AJ&K VNR reflects the Government's efforts to "Leaving No One behind" in four dimensions of sustainable development, including social, economic, environmental and governance. The government's efforts to achieve SDGs are built on the basic principle of inclusiveness and sustained efforts through the engagement of all stakeholders.

Given the importance of creating an enabling environment for sustainable development, the Government of AJ&K has taken sustainable measures by approving several legislations and policies, supporting and integrating the State's development. Efforts are being made to improve the investment environment. With the key objective to leave no one behind, efforts are being made to improve coverage of social protection programs. The Government has redirected its fiscal resources to programs that support producing clean and renewable energy to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. The Government focus on access to basic services (education, health, WASH, nutrition), climate change and disaster risk reduction, urban management and urban development, economic growth and decent work, gender equality, good governance, digital transformation, generating reliable data for evidence-based policy making, and expending social protection nets reflects the Government's serious efforts toward achieving the SDGs in the State.

Over the last few years, the Government has approved several projects for efficient use of water resources, increased availability of freshwater resources and improved water quality. Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir recognizes State's development plans, policies, actions and sectoral strategies need to be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Vision 2025 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 12th Five-Years Plan (2018-2023) have been explicitly linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure continuous implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the State. The SDGs framework was prepared in consultation with districts and State level SDGs focal persons, including line departments and other stakeholders, led by the Planning and Development Department to identify development priorities and categorization of SDGs that will support in achieving the 2030 agenda in the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

To sustain the efforts needed to institutionalize SDGs, the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has established SDGs Support Unit at the Planning & Development Department in June 2018 with the support of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir also established a dedicated SDGs section in Planning & Development Department in September 2021 with regular staff. The SDGs support unit, along with the coordination of the SDGs Section of the Planning & Development Department, helps create an enabling environment for implementing the 2030 Agenda in the State.

Creating an enabling environment through laws and regulatory regimes plays an important role in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The legal framework enables pro-poor, gender-sensitive and human rights-based legislation. Specific laws were promulgated in Azad Jammu and Kashmir that would support the implementation of SDGs.

In its efforts to end extreme poverty and reaching the furthest behind first, the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir implemented several projects with a socio-economic potential to reduce poverty in the region. The Prime Minister Community Infrastructure Program in Azad Jammu and Kashmir to reduce poverty provided essential facilities to people in rural and urban areas, including access to water, sanitation, link roads, walkways and public washrooms. Social Welfare Department of the Government of Azad





Jammu and Kashmir recently formulated Azad Jammu and Kashmir Social Protection Policy, emphasizing the coverage of safety nets to a hundred percent by 2030.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir has recently formulated the first-ever Education Policy with the technical support of the UNDP under the National Initiative for SDGs Project. Steps are being taken to improve the quality of education through capitalizing on public-private partnerships. The improvement in educational attainment in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is evident as various surveys reported a score of 73 percent, followed by Islamabad Capital Territory at 70 percent. The Gender parity in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is also much better than in other provinces, with an overall Gender Parity Index at 0.97, indicating that for every 100 boys, there are 97 girls in school. Violence against women remains an issue for the region. Women are often married young, experience early childbirth and risk physical, sexual, or psychological violence by intimate partners and others.

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Department of Health is conducting integrated community nutrition activities and interventions in 05 districts with the support of the World Food Program and planning to extend to all ten districts of the State. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir health system is making progress on key health indicators, including reducing neonatal (36 deaths per 1000 live births) and maternal mortality rates (104 death per 100,000 live births) and improving antenatal care and immunization coverage.

The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir approved the State Environmental quality standards for drinking water in July 2018. In addition, National Water Policy formulated in 2018 advocates provincial strategies and plans for water conservation, development, and integrated water management with regulatory frameworks (water contamination, water treatment, open defecation). Similarly, protecting water ecosystems may help conserve the rare fish species below the water. International investment and support is needed to ensure innovative technological development, fair trade and market access, especially for developing countries. The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is currently working to build a partnership with the international community and with seven United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programs working in the State. These including the United Nations Development Program, International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, World Food Program, World Health Organization, International Organization for Migration, within the thematic areas of Nutrition, Health, WASH, agriculture, Education, Social Protection - Conditional Cash Transfers (EHSAAAS Nashonuma), climate change, gender equality, inclusive economic growth and decent work, governance, inclusive policies, strategies, plans and regulatory frameworks and others. United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programs are working closely with the Government of AJ&K at the local level directly and through implementing partners (Non-Governmental Organizations/Civil Society Organizations) in areas where the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programs have no physical presence in the region.

The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is strengthening the links both horizontally amongst sectors and vertically amongst levels of government departments to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The absence of horizontal and vertical linkages between the different tiers of government and line departments was one of the reasons Azad Jammu and Kashmir could not achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, integrated, interdepartmental coordination and multi-sectoral involvement for SDGs implementation with a clear awareness strategy are essential in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K

Section 1



INTRODUCTION



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





INTRODUCTION

1 Introduction

Growing social, economic, environmental, and governance challenges put sustainable development at the core of the global agenda and induce the international community to strengthen and share worldwide sustainable development commitments. The implementation of sustainable development is crucial for balancing the social, economic and environmental requirements of the present-day globalized society, facing several challenges such as poverty, hunger, unemployment, migrations, climate change, gender inequality and security threats. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. VNRs allow the countries to share their experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Identifying and sharing policy solutions through VNRs can revive growth and make it sustainable for the global world.

Pakistan has committed to submit its second Voluntary National Review Report by mid-2022 at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) to highlight its progress, experiences, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned with a view to strengthening policies and institutions to mobilize multi-stakeholders support for achieving 2030 Agenda of SDGs. The VNR Report 2022 will highlight the SDGs context, review legal and regulatory regimes for SDGs, regulations for the localization of SDGs and highlight the achievement of SDG targets and indicators. As part of the preparatory process, other provinces and regions also prepared their VNR reports covering enabling environment, socio-economic growth, inclusive development and “leaving no one behind” for the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives to compile a National VNR Report 2022.

In line with the national development agenda to support the implementation

of SDGs in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and to catalyze the process of providing an enabling environment, a dedicated SDGs Support Unit was established at the Planning and Development Department, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), through the technical and financial support of the UNDP and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Government of Pakistan.

1.1 Localization of SDGs in Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the land renowned for its scenic splendors, has been endowed with rich culture, intellectual advancement and religious diversity coexisting in an atmosphere of tolerance. In AJ&K, out of the 4.17 million total population, 83.17 percent live in rural areas (AJ&K At a Glance, 2020). The majority of the population is directly or indirectly linked with agriculture, a low income-generating sector due to small landholdings, large rain-fed areas, scarcity of cultivatable land and low productivity of mountain ecosystems. The economy in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is primarily a rural economy. It relies on agriculture, livestock, tourism, small cottage industry, hydropower, services and foreign remittances. Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir adopted a similar approach to Pakistan to enhance economic growth while improving human well-being through the sustainable development framework. Therefore, AJ&K's 12th Five-Year Plan (2018-23) has been explicitly linked with the SDGs to ensure proper and continuous implementation of the 2030 Agenda.



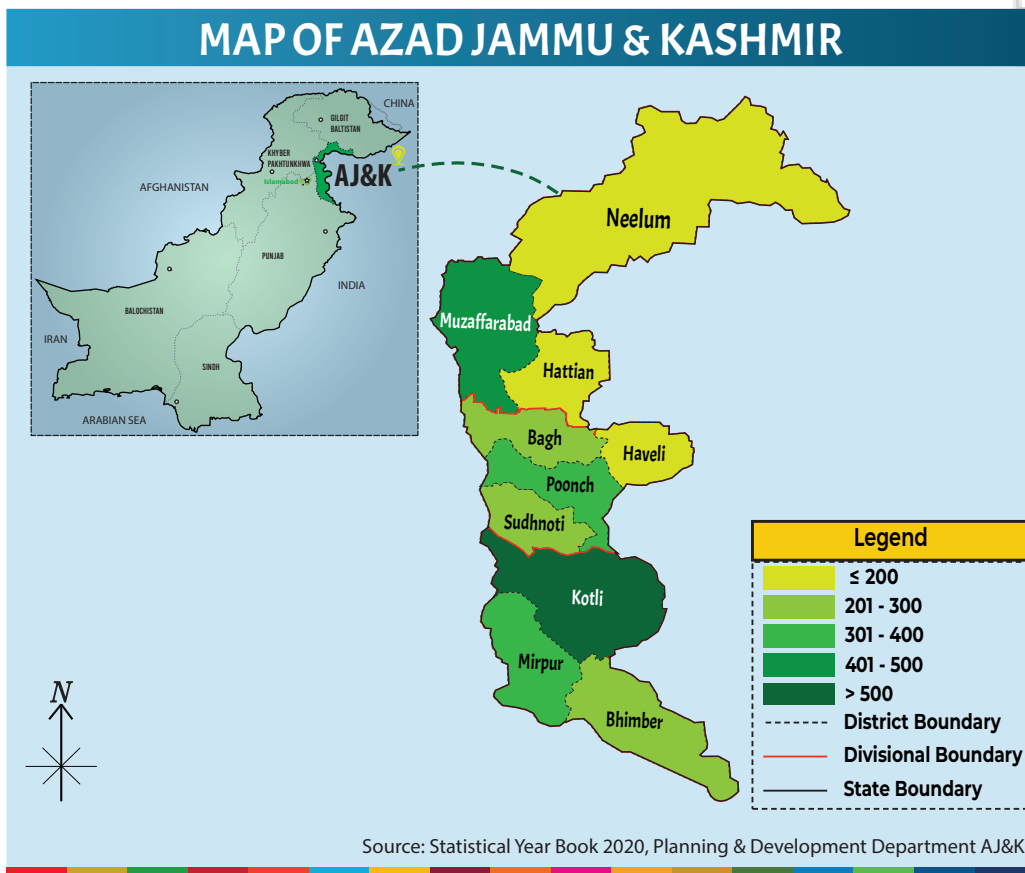


Figure 1. Map of Azad Jammu and Kashmir

1.2 SDGs Data Status

The scope of the 2030 Agenda is wide-ranging, inter-linked and comprehensive. Achieving SDGs requires mainstreaming at the local level according to local needs in policy, planning and budgeting processes. SDGs framework of AJ&K was prepared in consultation with district and State level SDGs focal persons, including line departments and other stakeholders and Planning & Development Department. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir SDGs framework was categorized to serve the purpose based on the width and depth of a particular issue affecting people, multiplier impact, resource requirement, structural change, and relevance of the issue in each district of AJ&K. As a result of this categorization, the 169 SDGs targets were reduced to 55 key issues, which is a significant progress towards the achievement of 2030 Agenda. Out of 247 Global Indicators, 145 Indicators have been localized in AJ&K. Of these 145 Indicators, 68 are survey-based and 77 are admin-

based. Of the 145 Indicators pertaining to AJ&K, data is available for 103 indicators. Of those, 55 are survey-based, while 48 indicators are admin-based. Data on 42 indicators is still required for AJ&K. Of these, the source of 13 indicators would be survey data and 29 would be administrative data.

Although 28 Government line departments are regularly involved in SDGs coordination and implementation processes at the State level, a range of other departments, institutions and agencies have a direct or indirect impact on the success of development initiatives in AJ&K. In development projects, departments have proper monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism. Project activities are monitored by visiting the project events and getting progress reports on both physical and financial progress on a monthly and quarterly basis. Project activities are evaluated after the completion of the project. Departmental development projects are aligned with SDGs in AJ&K. Monitoring and evaluation

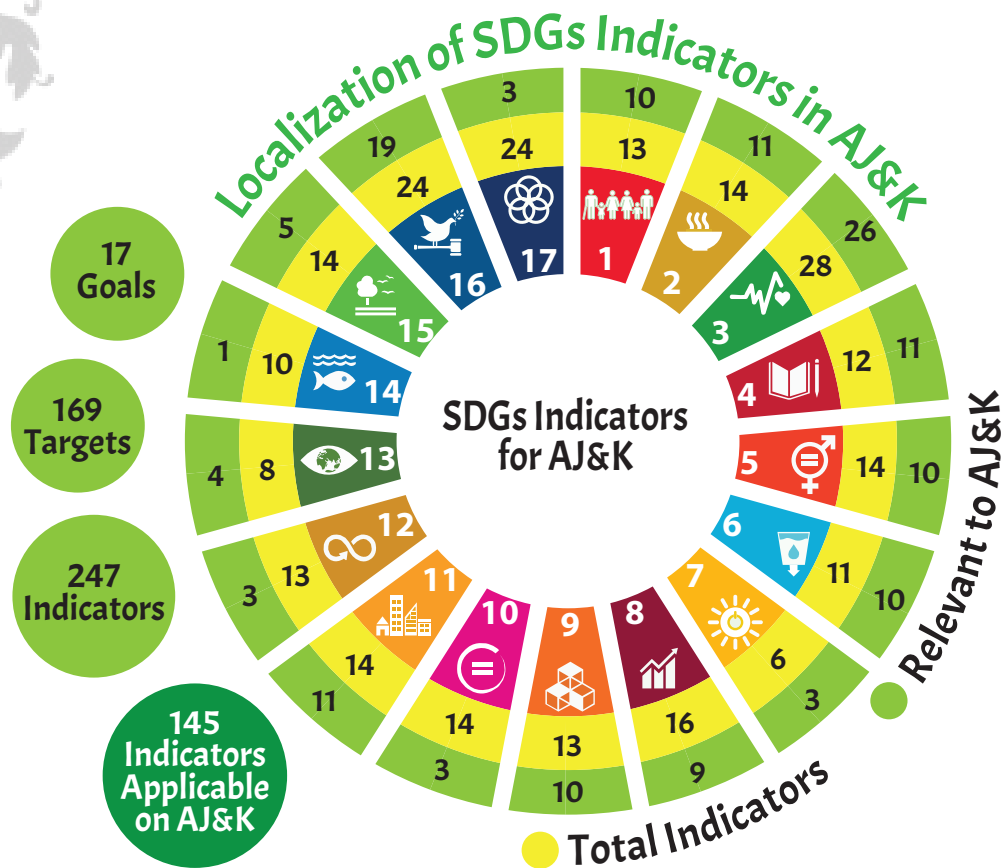


Figure 2. Localization of SDGs indicators in AJ&K

wings can be strengthened in departments to improve the quality of data and pace to achieve the targets of SDGs set by the line departments.

AJ&K is trying to ensure institutional solid linkages and participation of all relevant stakeholders for SDGs. However, coordination is likely to be a pressing challenge both within and across departments in AJ&K. The current landscape, demographic strengths, environment and governance system of AJ&K provide an excellent opportunity to implement SDGs. This includes increasing the development budget, aligning new policies with SDGs and increasing awareness about environmental and sustainability issues at the governance and grassroots levels.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir recognizes the challenges that exist for SDGs implementation, including improving cooperation and coordination between departments, institutionalizing data

collection, strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, realigning finances and bringing other stakeholders, including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society organizations (CSOs), private businesses and other international organizations into the conversation to ensure holistic development (Planning and Development Department Government of AJ&K, 2020).

1.3 Institutional Arrangements for SDGs in AJ&K

The Government of AJ&K is fully committed in implementing the SDGs. The Planning and Development Department plays a central role in coordination and implementation efforts. AJ&K Legislative Assembly Taskforce on SDGs was established to facilitate and monitoring the implementation of the 17 Goals. This is especially true in case of Goal 16 which aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build



effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels". MLAs responsibility emerges through their mandate to make laws, oversee the government and represent people's interests alongside ensuring accountability and inclusion in institutions.

A State Steering and Coordination Committee for SDGs under the Chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Government of AJ&K, was established, including all relevant Secretaries and other concerned stakeholders as members for strategic guidance on SDGs. Moreover, the AJ&K SDGs Unit was established, and it performs the following functions:

- Ensures that all plans, policies, strategies, actions and resource allocations in AJ&K are aligned with SDGs
- Supports GoAJ&K in strengthening SDGs monitoring and reporting systems
- Ensures that financing flows are increasingly aligned with the 2030 Agenda
- Applies innovative approaches to accelerate progress on priority SDGs

District SDGs Focal Persons (Government Officers and other stakeholders) were nominated and District Thematic Working Groups were established in each district to coordinate and oversee activities at the district level.

Four thematic working groups were also established at the State level to engage stakeholders for improved decision-making and generate public acceptance for SDGs implementation. The thematic groups were created keeping in view the SDGs indicators and their reporting departments to ensure ease of implementation. The SDGs focal persons from line departments, representatives from academia, CSOs, media, private businesses, youth, persons with disabilities, women and other relevant stakeholders are part of these thematic working groups. The SDGs Support Unit of the Planning & Development Department regularly holds meetings or informal consultations with stakeholders to seek inputs on development issues and feedback on SDGs targets and indicators in AJ&K. New modes for participation, to reach the marginalized and the poor are being considered as part of AJ&K SDGs implementation framework.

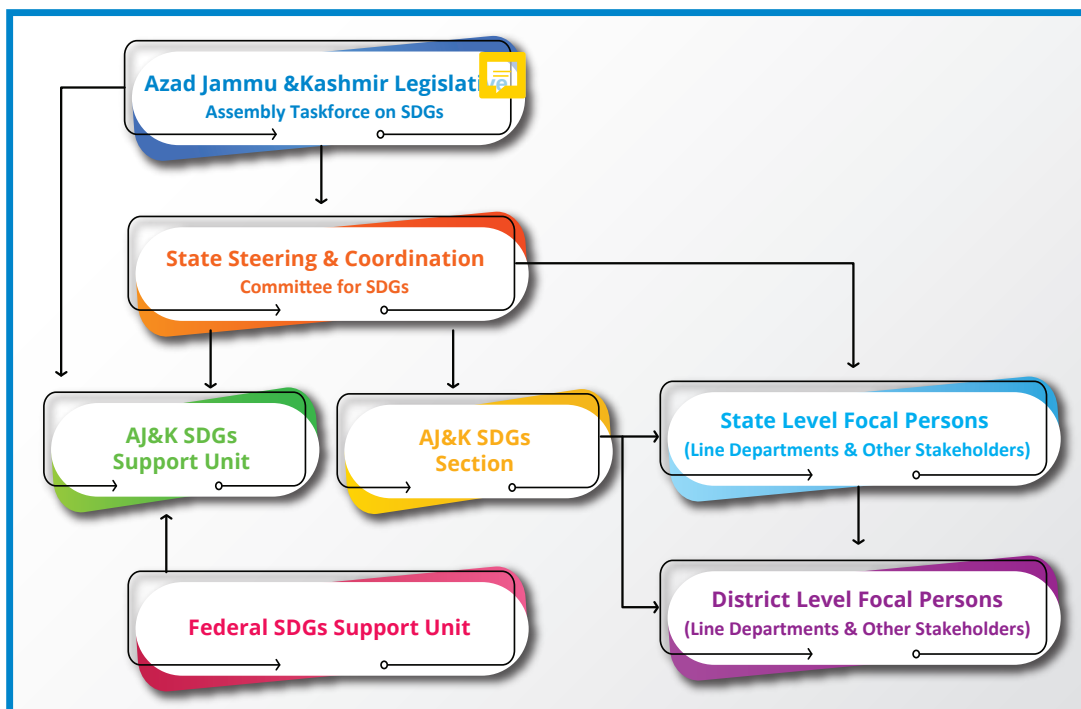


Figure 3. Institutional Arrangements for SDGs in AJ&K





**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K

Section 2



METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

2 Methodology and Approach

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development incorporates a comprehensive follow-up and review mechanism intending to encourage all member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels. The voluntary multi-stakeholder reviews facilitate knowledge sharing, identify challenges, devise solutions based on the lessons learned and mobilize multi-stakeholder support. Minister of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Government of Pakistan, decided that Federal and all Provincial/Area governments, including Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) will develop their own VNR Reports and submit them to the Ministry. MoPD&SI will extract the information from Provincial/Area VNR Reports to compile and produce a national level VNR Report 2022 to present at the UN-HLPF.

The Voluntary National Review Report, 2022 of AJ&K was prepared by collecting

information from primary sources and reviewing secondary information, such as official documents and data led by the SDGs unit of the Planning and Development Department. The review process included collecting data from primary and secondary sources through desk reviews, key informants' interviews, departments' briefs, and consultative workshops. The primary sources included extensive stakeholder engagement and intergovernmental consultations. Since the nature of SDGs calls for a collective effort, the Government encouraged the participation of all stakeholders, such as NGOs, private business sector associations, academia, women and persons with disabilities, youth and CSOs. Secondary sources included desk reviews of sectoral reports, budgets, sectoral policies, Annual Development Programmes (ADPs) and relevant legislation documents.

The consultative workshops were organized by inviting all the relevant stakeholders hosted by the Planning and Development Department Government of AJ&K. During the sessions, inputs and

Methodology

Voluntary National Review of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 2022



Figure 4. Methodology for the formulation of AJ&K VNR Report 2022





required information from representatives of the line departments and other key stakeholders based on thematic working groups were collected.

The report summarizes AJ&K's efforts to achieve the SDGs and the net value gained by implementing SDGs. It highlights initiatives that AJ&K has undertaken due to SDGs and discusses successes and snags through thematic or story-building exercises. It also mentions the challenges and opportunities AJ&K faces in achieving the SDGs and underscores policy issues requiring immediate action. Figure 4 shows the process adapted for VNR in AJ&K.

2.1 Policies and Legislation

Laws and regulatory regimes play a key role in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in AJ&K by building a legal framework that enables pro-poor, gender-sensitive and human rights-based legislation. Specific laws have already been promulgated in AJ&K that can support the implementation of SDGs in the State. Under the work of the Social Welfare Department, important

Legislations, including the AJ&K Child Rights Act, the Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, AJ&K Subsistence Allowance for Widows and Orphans Act, and the Juvenile Justice System Act have been introduced to provide legal cover to the most vulnerable groups in society. To take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts under Goal 13, AJ&K Climate Change Center was established at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a Climate Change Policy has been developed to mainstream environmental considerations in development projects. The Government has engaged with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to implement environmental protection guidelines. The Government created an enabling environment to implement the 2030 agenda of sustainable development through the approval of the following legislations.

Table 1. SDGs Cluster-wise Distribution of Legislations and Policies for localization of SDGs in AJ&K.





Table 1. SDGs Cluster-wise Distribution of Legislations and Policies for localization of SDGs in AJ&K.

SOCIAL CLUSTER: LEGAL AND REGULATORY REGIMES



- The AJ&K Subsistence Allowance for Widows and Orphans Act, 2021
- The AJ&K Zakat and Usher (Amendment) Act, 2021
- Divorce Registration Act 2021
- The West Pakistan Epidemic Disease (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021
- 12.5 percent Women Representation in LG Bodies. (LG (Amendment) Act 2021
- The AJ&K Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Act, 2020.
- The AJ&K Charities Registration, Regulation, and Facilitation Act, 2020
- Juvenile Justice Act 2020
- The AJ&K Medical Colleges (Governing Body) Act, 2020
- The AJ&K Clinical Laboratories Regulatory Authority Act, 2019
- The University of Kotli AJ&K (Amendment) Act, 2019
- The AJ&K Textbook Board (Amendment) Act, 2019
- The AJ&K Compulsory Teaching of the Holy Quran Act, 2019
- Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 (Badal-e-Sulh)
- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 2018
- The AJ&K Allopathic System (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 2018
- The AJ&K Restriction on Employment of Children Act, 2017
- The AJ&K Food Authority Act, 2017
- The Child Rights (Care and Protection) Act 2016.
- The AJ&K Employees Old-Age Benefits Act, 2016.
- The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 2016
- The AJ&K Family Planning and Primary Health Care Program Employees (Regularization and Standardization) Act 2016.
- The AJ&K Emergency Service Rescue 1122 Act 2016.
- AJ&K Cultural Academy Act 2016
- The AJ&K Textbook Board Act, 2016
- The University of Kotli AJ&K (Amendment) Act, 2016.

POLICIES

- AJ&K Education Policy 2021-30
- AJ&K Health Policy 2021 (In Process)
- WASH Policy (In Process)
- AJ&K Intersectoral Nutrition Strategy, 2021-2025 (In Process)
- AJ&K Social Protection Policy 2020
- AJ&K Agriculture and Livestock Policies (In Process)
- Intersectoral Nutrition Strategy for AJ&K (2016-2020)
- Women Development Strategic Plan 2016-2020
- Women Parliamentarian Caucus
- Established - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Section in PP&H, P&DD 2018.



ECONOMIC CLUSTER: LEGAL AND REGULATORY REGIMES



- ▶ The Bank of AJ&K (Amendment) Act, 2021
- ▶ The AJ&K Travel Agencies, Tour Operators and Tourists Guide Act, 2021
- ▶ The Companies (Adaptation) Ordinance, 2021
- ▶ The AJ&K Regulation of the Service of Certain Categories of Contractual, Adhoc, or Temporary Government Employment Terms and Conditions) Act, 2021
- ▶ The AJ&K Recruitment (Through Third Party) Act, 2021
- ▶ The AJ&K Distressed Persons Relief (Amendment) Act, 2020
- ▶ The AJ&K Cease-Fire Line Incidents Relief (Amendment) Act, 2020
- ▶ The AJ&K Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2020
- ▶ The AJ&K Cease-Fire Line Incidents Relief (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- ▶ The Power Development Organization (Amended) Act, 2019.
- ▶ The AJ&K Tourism Promotion Act, 2019
- ▶ The Bank of AJ&K (Amendment) Act, 2019
- ▶ The AJ&K Board of Investment Act, 2018
- ▶ The Bank of AJ&K (Amendment) Act, 2018
- ▶ The AJ&K Factories Act, 2018
- ▶ The Power Development Organization (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017
- ▶ The AJ&K Payment of Wages Act, 2017
- ▶ The AJ&K Public Service Commission (Amendment) Act, 2017
- ▶ The AJ&K Prohibition of Child Labour and Regulation of Labour at Brick Kilns Act, 2017
- ▶ The AJ&K Restriction on Employment of Children Act, 2017
- ▶ The AJ&K Cross-LoC Travel and Trade Authority Act, 2016.
- ▶ The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 2016.
- ▶ The AJ&K Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 2016.
- ▶ The AJ&K Industrial Relations Act, 2016.
- ▶ The Companies Profit (Workers Participation) Act, 2016
- ▶ The Trade Organization (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2016
- ▶ The AJ&K Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2016
- ▶ The AJ&K Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2016
- ▶ The AJ&K Overseas Commission Act, 2016.
- ▶ AJ&K Employees Service Association (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2016.

POLICIES

- ▶ AJ&K Youth Policy 2021
- ▶ Rethinking the Industrial Policy of AJ&K, 2019 (In Process)
- ▶ AJ&K Tourism Policy 2018
- ▶ AJ&K Power Generation Policy 2016 (Adopted from Pakistan Power Policy 2015)



ENVIRONMENT CLUSTER: LEGAL AND REGULATORY REGIMES



- The AJ&K Hotels and Restaurants Act, 2021
- The Timber Trade (Nationalization) (Repeal) Act, 2020
- The AJ&K COVID-19 (Prevention of Hoarding) Act, 2020
- The AJ&K Factories Act, 2018
- Environmental Management Framework 2017
- The AJ&K Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Act, 2017
- The Marriages (Prohibition of Wasteful Expenses) (Amended) Act, 2016.
- The AJ&K Emergency Service Rescue 1122 Act, 2016
- The AJ&K Forest Regulation Act, 2016.
- The AJ&K Forest Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2016

POLICIES

- AJ&K Climate Change Policy 2017
- National Wildlife Policy (In Process)
- AJ&K Forest Policy (In Process)

GOVERNANCE CLUSTER: LEGAL AND REGULATORY REGIMES



- The AJ&K Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2021
- AJ&K Commission for Human Rights Act, 2020
- The Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Act, 2020
- The AJ&K Central Board of Revenue Act, 2020
- The AJ&K Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2019
- The AJ&K Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2019
- The AJ&K Information Technology Board (Amendment) Act, 2018
- AJ&K Interim Constitution (13th Amendment) Act, 2018
- The AJ&K Press Foundation (Amendment) Act, 2017
- AJ&K Rented Premises Buildings (Inspection and Security) Act, 2016.
- AJ&K Prohibition of Wall-Chalking and Affixing Hoarding (Amended) Act 2016
- AJ&K Sound Systems (Regulation and Control Act) 2016
- AJ&K Vulnerable Establishment (Management and Security) Act, 2016
- The AJ&K Mangla Dam Housing Authority (Amendment) Act, 2016
- The AJ&K Electoral Roll (Amendment) Act, 2016
- The AJ&K Legislative Assembly (Elections) (Amended) Act, 2016
- The AJ&K Service Tribunal (Amendment) Act, 2016
- AJ&K Arms and Ammunition Act, 2016.
- AJ&K Subordinate Judiciary Service Tribunal Act, 2016
- AJ&K Legal Practitioners and Bar Counsels (Amended) Act, 2016
- AJ&K Special Economic Zone Act, 2016.

POLICIES

- Established - Human Rights Cell at the Central Police Office, Muzaffarabad 2018
- Human Rights Directorate at Law Department (In Process)



2.2 Fiscal Analysis of Annual Development Program

The Government's commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda is evident from the fact that a substantial increase in the ADP allocation is noted for good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities and responsible consumption and production for the fiscal year 2021-22 compared to 2017-18.

The ADP for AJ&K for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 was approved at PKR 28,000

million, indicating an increase of PKR 3,000 million compared with the previous year. The foreign aid component was reduced from PKR 2,500 million to PKR 2,000 million in FY 2020-21 (Figure 5).

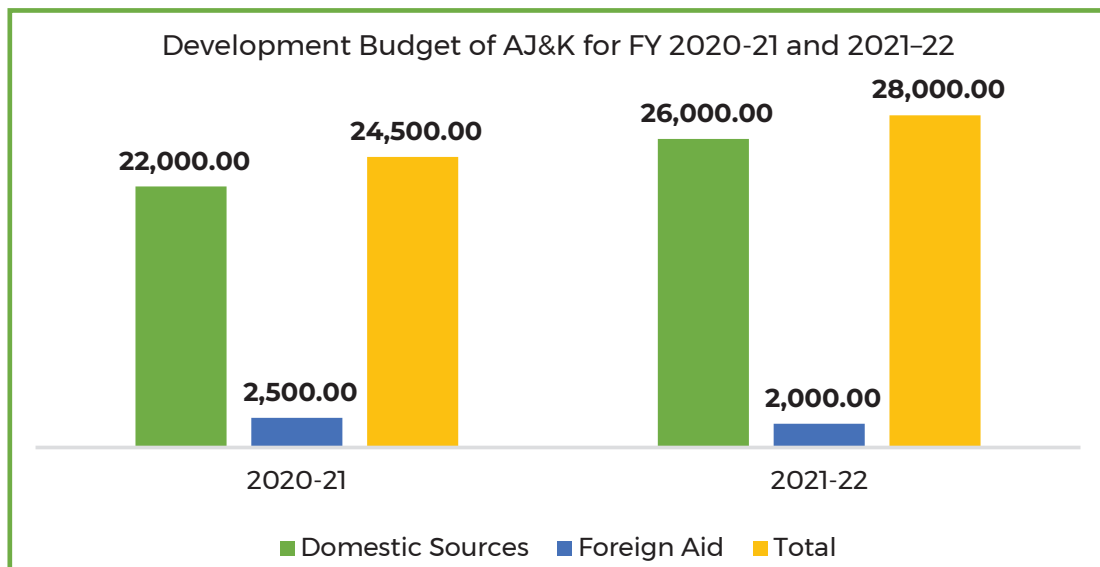
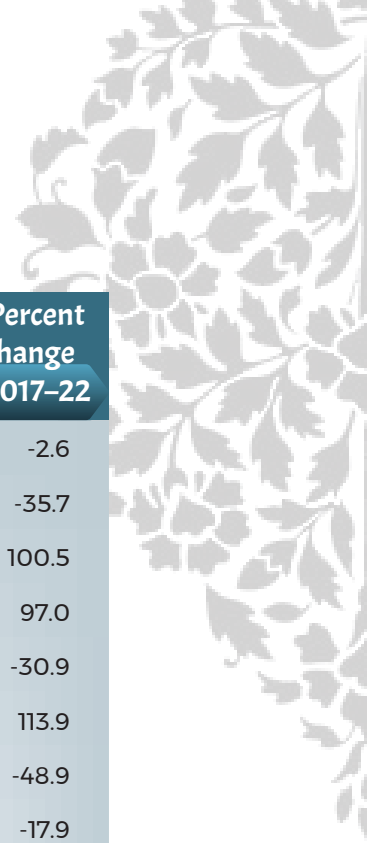


Figure 5. Overall Development Budget FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22

The financial comparison of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) allocations by the Government of AJ&K from the fiscal year 2016-17 to 2021-22 for each SDG is shown in Table 2.



SDGs	Allocation (million PKR)				Percent change 2017-22
	2017-18	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
1 No Poverty	148.90	400.69	992.48	145.07	-2.6
2 Zero Hunger	262.01	270.91	126.54	168.56	-35.7
3 Good Health and Wellbeing	936.96	1017.98	1,053.92	1,878.60	100.5
4 Quality Education	1728.34	2,774.47	3,675.54	3405.00	97.0
5 Gender Equality	136.31	65.00	43.90	94.12	-30.9
6 Clean Water and Sanitation	823.26	1,419.74	1,549.21	1,760.75	113.9
7 Energy	3,571.13	2,129.36	1,292.80	1825.00	-48.9
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	780.98	502.41	345.99	641.44	-17.9
9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	10,188.91	12,570.71	12,428.62	15,085.97	48.1
10 Reduced Inequalities	105.00	176.06	122.01	212.63	102.5
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	1,602.25	2,079.50	1,905.56	1,416.36	-11.6
12 Responsible Consumption and Production	9.00	12.00	10.62	30.26	236.2
13 Climate Action	360.00	84.19	68.07	304.77	-15.3
14 Life Below Water	39.31	35.00	0.00	8.32	-78.8
15 Life on Land	510.69	515.00	304.84	335.69	-34.3
16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	499.66	574.80	548.84	632.47	26.6
17 Partnership for the Goals	1,577.30	15.00	31.07	55.00	-96.5
Total Yearly Allocations (PKR)	23,280.01	24,642.82	245,00.01	27,945.01	16.6

Table 2. ADP 2017-18 and 2021-22 allocations aligned with SDGs in AJ&K

A sectoral comparison indicates that the allocation of ADP has increased for all sectors between FY 2020-21 and 2021-22. The highest growth was observed in the social sectors at PKR 1,758.145 million (34.3 percent), with allocations rising from PKR 5,132.193 million in FY 2020-21 to PKR 6,890.338 million in 2021-22. The second-largest increase was in the infrastructure sector at PKR 1,475.049 million (8.8 percent), from PKR 16,739.941 million to PKR 18,214.990 million between the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22. The productive sectors observed the smallest increase in allocations at PKR 266.806 million (10.2 percent) between FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22.



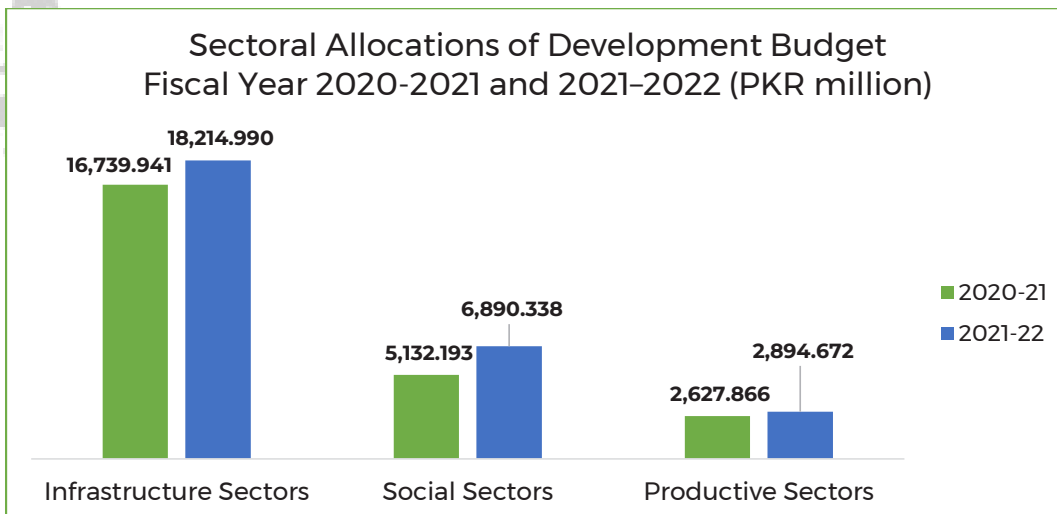


Figure 6. Sectoral allocations of the development budget for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22

A review of sectoral allocation indicates that the highest proportion of the ADP budget was allocated for infrastructure, followed by Social Sector and productive sector. Within the social sector, the health sector allocation was 75 percent of the total social sector budget (PKR 750 million). An increase in allocation was also observed in the Education sector of PKR 621.49 million (24.1 percent), in the Civil Défense and Disaster Management sector of PKR 157.834 million (29 percent) and in Information Technology of PKR 95 million (40 percent). Social Welfare sector

allocation has shown an increase of PKR 50 million in its allocation (33 percent), whereas Sports showed a smaller rise at PKR 30 million (14 percent) and Research and Development a higher one at PKR 82 million (30.6 percent). The lowest increase was observed for Information and Media of PKR 3 million (8.1 percent). There was no change in allocations to the Environment sector between the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 and various foreign aid allocations in this sector showed a decline of PKR 31.179 million (-94.4 percent).

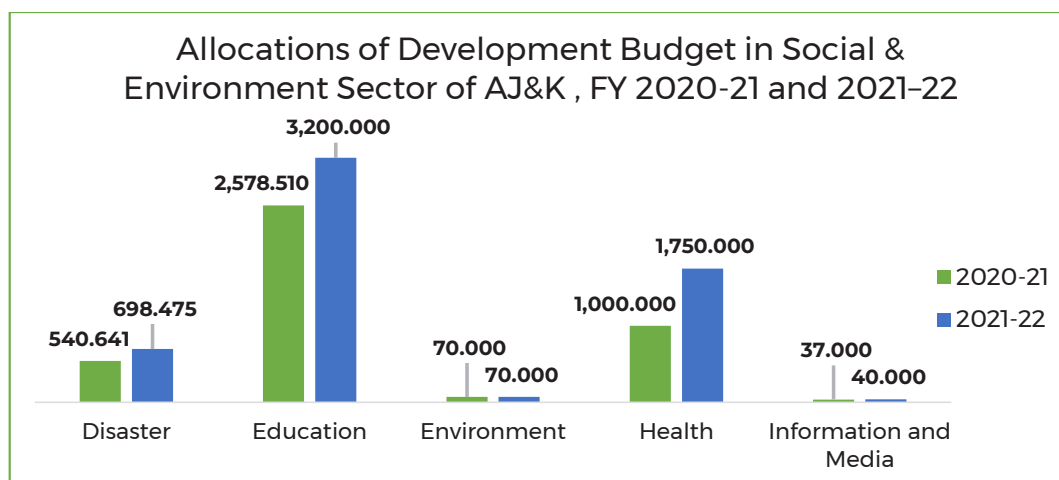


Figure 7. Allocations of Development Budget in Social & Environment Sector of AJ&K, FY 2020-21 and 2021-22

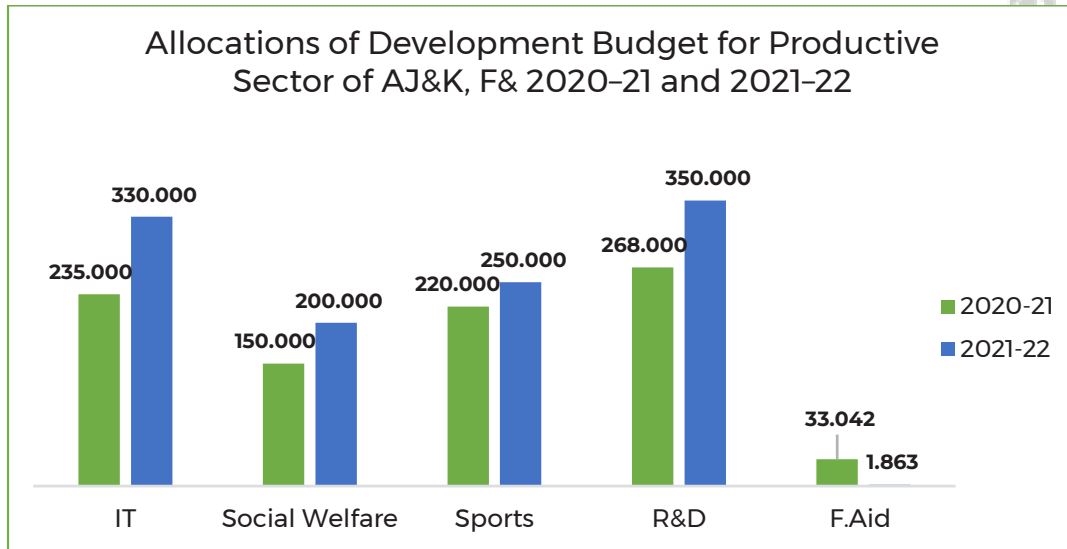


Figure 8. Allocations of Development Budget for Productive Sector, AJ&K, FY 2020-21 and 2021-22

2.2.1 Productive Sectors

The highest increase in allocation between the FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 was made in Tourism at PKR 200 million, followed by Power Development Organization at PKR 139.856 million. Agriculture sector allocations were increased by PKR 50 million, Livestock by PKR 48 million and Irrigation by PKR 20 million for the FY 2021-22. Allocations to Industries and Minerals

also increased from PKR 528 million in FY 2020-21 to PKR 600 million in FY 2021-22, representing an increase of PKR 72.00 million (13.6 percent). The Wildlife and Fisheries showed an increase of PKR 5.00 million in budgetary allocations this year, whereas Forests and Watershed recorded a decrease of PKR 257.109 million (-35.6 percent). These trends are represented in Figure 9 below.

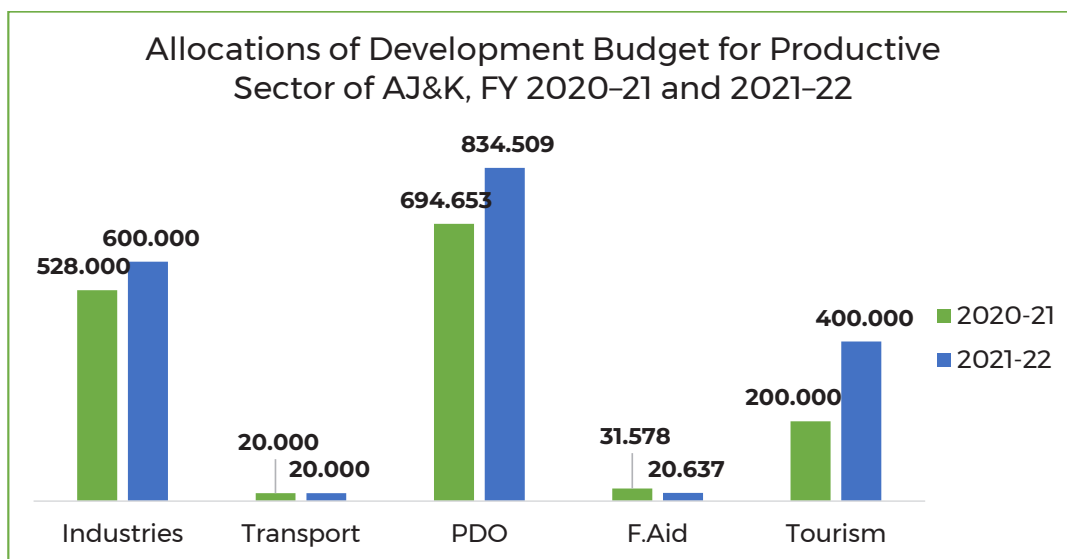


Figure 9. Allocations of Development Budget for Productive Sector, AJ&K, FY 2020 - 21 and 2021-22



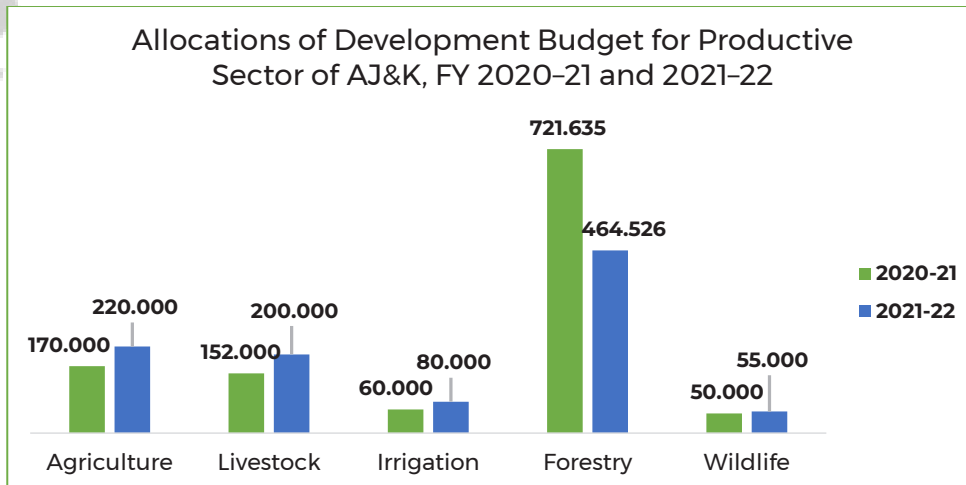


Figure 10. Allocations of Development Budget for Productive Sector of AJ&K, FY 2020 - 21 and 2021-22

Thematic Analysis of Annual Development Programmes

For better clarity of development budgets spending, analysis was carried out into four thematic clusters:

- (i) Social Cluster
- (ii) Economic Cluster
- (iii) Environment Cluster
- (iv) Governance Cluster.

Each of the clusters mentioned above comprises SDGs that collectively contribute towards a specific sector. A detailed composition of these thematic clusters is presented below.





Composition of Thematic Clusters of SDGs for AJ&K



Figure 11. Composition of Thematic Clusters of SDGs for AJ&K

Over the last five years, the highest levels of allocations and expenditures were made under the “Economic Cluster,” followed by the “Social Cluster,” “Inclusivity & Governance Cluster,” and “Environment Cluster” respectively. However, it is important to note that in terms of net divergence from original allocations, the

“Economic Cluster” had a decrease in expenditures (of PKR 5,775.514 million), whereas all other sectors showed an increase compared to their average allocations between FYs 2016-17 to 2020-21. The details are presented in Table 3 below.

Cluster	Allocations	Expenditures
Social	21,115.555	22,927.042
Economic	75,382.630	69,607.116
Environment	4,846.588	6,004.929
Inclusivity and Governance	8,495.197	8,795.773
Total	109,839.970	107,334.860

Table 3. Cluster-wise total allocations and expenditures, from 2016 to 2021



**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K

Section 3



GOAD-WISE PROGRESS



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





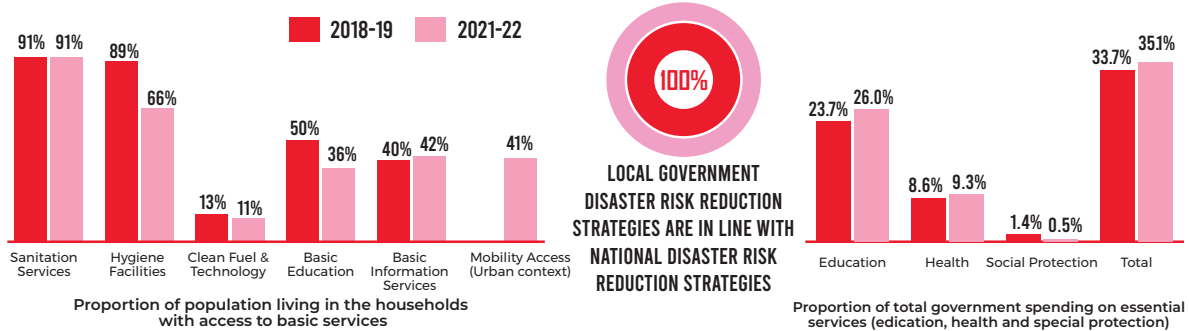
GOAD-WISE PROGRESS

Goal 1



NO POVERTY

ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED



Indicators:

1.4.1:

1.5.4

1.a.2

Data Source: Pakistan Social & Living Standard Measurement 2017-18 & 2019-20; Government of AJ&K

3 Goals-wise Progress

3.1 SDG-1 No Poverty


The AJ&K Government has set poverty alleviation as its prime agenda and has shown its commitment to poverty reduction in the State. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution 1974 highlights that all people are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law. It grants fundamental rights to all citizens without discrimination, including the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property. "Leave no one behind" is an essential commitment of SDGs and the Government of AJ&K recognizes the importance of ending extreme poverty, addressing discrimination, and making fast progress for those furthest behind on the development trajectory. The various sectors and departments ensure that projects with socio-economic potential are identified to reduce poverty in the region.

3.1.1 Progress

The Government of AJ&K is committed to capitalize on the viability of tourism, agriculture and small and medium industry sectors in the region, in light of the principles and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "End Poverty in all its forms everywhere" is the first Sustainable Development Goal and is one of the core objectives of Vision 2025. Azad Government of the State of

Jammu & Kashmir (GoAJ&K) recognizes that in order to successfully localize the 2030 Agenda, the goals, targets and indicators need to be properly aligned with the State's development plans and sectoral strategies. In light of this, Vision 2025 and AJ&K 12th Five-Year Plan (2018-2023) have been explicitly linked with the SDGs to ensure the proper and continuous implementation of 2030 Agenda. Moreover, the State has also re-aligned its Annual Development Programme allocations to better address the poverty issues in AJ&K. Poverty alleviation requires political commitment and determination and this is the reason AJ&K has set poverty alleviation as its prime agenda and has shown its commitment for poverty reduction in the State.

A substantial development budget is spent on poverty reduction directly and via interlinkages with other schemes. The Government of AJ&K, through Azad Kashmir Small Industries Cooperation, in partnership with the service provider organization (SPO) 'the AKHUWAT Islamic Microfinance' launched an interest-free self-employment scheme in AJ&K. The purpose of this magnanimous venture is to create employment opportunities, poverty alleviation and socio-economic uplift in AJ&K through the provision of an interest-free loan. Prime Minister Community Infrastructure Program in AJ&K aims to reduce poverty by providing



basic facilities to people in rural and urban areas, including access to water, sanitation, link roads, walkways, public washrooms, etc.

Department of Livestock AJ&K under Prime Minister Initiative for Backyard Poultry provided a set of six birds (five female + one male) aged 12 week to the farmers @ PKR 1,344 with 30 percent subsidy and 10 sets with 60 birds were also provided for small model farms. Due to this initiatives, selected farmers established their small business entrepreneurship by producing the eggs at household levels and increased their income upto Rs. 20,000 per month (<https://youtu.be/fTvHqOqssh0>). Department of Livestock under poverty reduction through establishment of production units for small land holders in AJ&K with the Public Private Partnership (Phase-II) provided interest free loans for establishment of 300 small dairy units.

The Government of AJ&K has formulated AJ&K Social Protection Policy 2020 using the 'Life Cycle Approach.' The policy

envisions strengthening all components of the social protection system, including developing a population registry. The Government is committed to implement the requisite safety nets and social protection floor. The policy provides a framework and guidelines for undertaking social protection programs and initiatives in the State of AJ&K which require extensive collaborations across the State and federal departments and donors, the UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector. The policy is aligned with the National Ehsaas program. There is a 25 percent increase in the budget for social protection initiatives by the AJ&K Government in the fiscal year 2021-22.

A gender-responsive Social Protection Management Information System is proposed to make data available for pro-poor policy formulation and target resources to areas needed the most. The Management Information System is designed to provide disaggregated data at district and sub-district levels, mainly for age, gender and disability.

Box 1

Kashmir Orphans Relief Trust

Kashmir Orphans Relief Trust has built 150 houses on multiple locations in Mirpur Division for earthquake affectees and Modern Village Jatlan, Mirpur AJ&K. The trust also provided educational scholarships for the needy and bright students, Marriage Aid (Dowry), Medical Relief in fatal diseases and widow housing plan. Under Kashmir Orphans Relief Trust Clean Water Project, 50 Water Filtration Plants have also been built and handed over to the public in far flung areas over the region to reduce the different fatal maladies which are affecting native areas badly.

Kashmir Orphans Relief Trust is also working on Women Empowerment Program, in which it has distributed more than 3000 sewing machines in different areas of Kashmir and Pakistan among needy and deserving people to reduce poverty. Kashmir Orphans Relief Trust has also established free Vocational school for all in Mirpur AJ&K. In COVID-19 Response, KORT worked on the provision of Ventilators in the District Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters hospitals, provision of Oxygen cylinders, Personal Protective Equipment Kits, Hand sanitizers, Masks, Gloves and Meal Ready to Eat, Ration Packs and Quarantine Centers.





The Social Welfare and Women Development Departments have conducted a large-scale household-level study to analyze vulnerable populations in the State and their access to services. This was the first step toward mainstreaming vulnerable population data for policymaking and appropriate interventions.

A Gender Management Information System was developed to collect and analyze gender-disaggregated data at various levels of operation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Gender Management Information System is linked with all relevant departments to help collect, process and disseminate the information for evidence-based policy making through a decision support system. The Women Development Department has established women's economic empowerment centers in three districts of AJ&K that provide training and facilities to home-based working women. In the FY 2020-21, the social welfare department has completed a hostel facility for 175 orphan girls in nine districts except for Jhelum valley, provision of training and tool kits to 150 widows and rehabilitation of 100 people with disabilities, training of 250 rural girls in trade of income saving skills like kitchen gardening, poultry, essential health, Kashmiri craft under regular budget.

Under the AJ&K social protection program Phase-I, educational stipends to 4,320 orphan students, entrepreneurship training and sewing machines to 1,000 widows, 500 persons with disabilities rehabilitated through assertive devices and marriage assistance to more than 400 orphans deserving girls were given. A Social Welfare Center was established in Neelum and Haveli and distributed 300 wheelchairs among persons with disabilities, 300 sewing machines among widows and provided hearing aid to 42 hearing-impaired persons, and medical support provided to 294 elderly without care, stipends of PKRs 1,000 provided to more than 300 orphan children for three years, Hostel (Kashana) facility provided to 50 orphan girls (residence, medicines and food) for three years and 48 Seminars, meetings and workshops organized on child protection in coordination with local NGOs in 2021, the project has been shifted on a normal budget. In the project, NGO Regulatory Cell distributed PKR 3.00 million among registered NGOs for community development.

The Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has invested in Human Development over the last few years. The AJ&K had an HDI of 0.632 in 2018-2019 (Pakistan National Human Development Report 2020). This is the highest compared to all provinces of Pakistan (Table 4).

Regions	Education Index			Health Index		Income Index
	Adult Literacy Index	Net Enrollment Index	Education Index	Life Expectancy Index	Per Capita Index	HDI
AJ&K	0.768	0.422	0.653	0.677	0.572	0.632
Punjab	0.620	0.429	0.556	0.598	0.563	0.572
Sindh	0.565	0.322	0.484	0.660	0.593	0.574
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0.497	0.321	0.438	0.701	0.529	0.546
Balochistan	0.375	0.221	0.324	0.631	0.518	0.473

Source: Pakistan National Human Development Report, 2020 by UNDP

Table 4. Region-wise Human Development Index of Pakistan, 2020

In the Government of AJ&K's efforts toward empowering communities and economic stability, a project was implemented with the support of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund. In this regard, twenty houses were upgraded to modern standards where the tourists could stay as guests in Neelum Valley. CSOs provided training to the locals on

basic housekeeping and serving etiquette. Basic training on tourist handling was also provided to the owners of the houses. This intervention has provided access to decent and respectable job opportunities to the community of Neelum Valley, particularly the women who have been empowered and motivated to adopt tourism as their future career. Interest-free





loan for self-employment through Azad Kashmir Small Industries Corporation, with the collaboration of the AKHUWAT Islamic Microfinance, has provided the

loan to 82,443 beneficiaries amounting to PKR 3,064.596 million against the target of 1,31,655 beneficiaries up to June 2023.

Box 2

Shelter Homes

The Government of AJ&K believes in the concept of social welfare state and is working in different capacities to look after its people.

Yasmin Zaman a beneficiary of department of women development and shelter home office, with her three daughters, came for seeking help in 2019. She came with a complaint of physical abuse and harassment from her brother-in-law for to hand over the property to him after the death of her husband. He also forcefully married his son with one of her daughters and evacuated Yasmin Zaman with her daughters from her home.

The department has helped Yasmin Zaman by providing shelter and psychological counselling. Moreover, department of

women development provided legal help to Yasmin and through the help of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, got the custody of her home and property. The Shelter home office of the women development department is in contact with Yasmin Zaman and takes care of Yasmin and her daughters to ensure that they live with peace, dignity, and prosperity.



3.1.2 Challenges

Factors contributing to poverty are the remoteness of the State, the rapid population growth, small landholdings, and the high cost of living because of the excessive outlay on transportation of goods. Unforeseen expenditures for emergencies and illness within the family

can throw a household into poverty if it has no assets like livestock to sell or is unable to take a loan from relatives or friends. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, the Government of AJ&K remains deeply concerned about its consequences for vulnerable and poor people's well-being, livelihoods and food security.



3.1.3 Way forward

The integrated social protection management information system will serve as a link between the federal national socio-economic registry and various departments in the State of AJ&K, providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable population of AJ&K. The 'Centre for Rural Economy' would fill the essential gap between knowledge and its application and catalyze organized policy-related research to present a set of prioritized options for policymakers for the rural sector. This conceptualization process will base on a comprehensive review of institutions and organizations, which will undertake, to assess them across a broad range of indicators like external interface and strategic positioning in the overall framework of the environment in which they function, shareholder/stakeholder accountability/governance and oversight mechanisms, internal management and reporting systems, structures and procedures, financial and managerial transparency, internal control, operational, institutional and cost-effectiveness, quality of output, impact and success factors independence and autonomy and financial self-sufficiency and sustainability. The agriculture sector is an important economic engine for the up gradation in agricultural investments and women empowerment. It needs continued policy and investment support as almost half

of the labour force is still supported by this sector. Only strong growth in the agriculture sector can dent rural poverty. With good monsoons holding the key to output and productivity, risks in the sector have not reduced over the decades. Target specific interventions (Rural Stimulus Package) would bring long-lasting effects in curbing the issue of poverty. The effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require innovation, new partnerships, knowledge-sharing and scaling up of proven approaches, especially for rural areas.

Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir recognizes that achieving poverty reduction under the Sustainable Development Goals requires coordinated approaches and efforts, interconnected public-private schemes, long-term programmes and the combined role of private and public entrepreneurs. The Government of AJ&K is determined to achieve poverty eradication through the implementation of pro-poor policies, programmes and initiatives in AJ&K. A truly inclusive development process will help AJ&K achieve the most from the sustainable development framework while confronting all the challenges and constraints the State faces in poverty reduction.

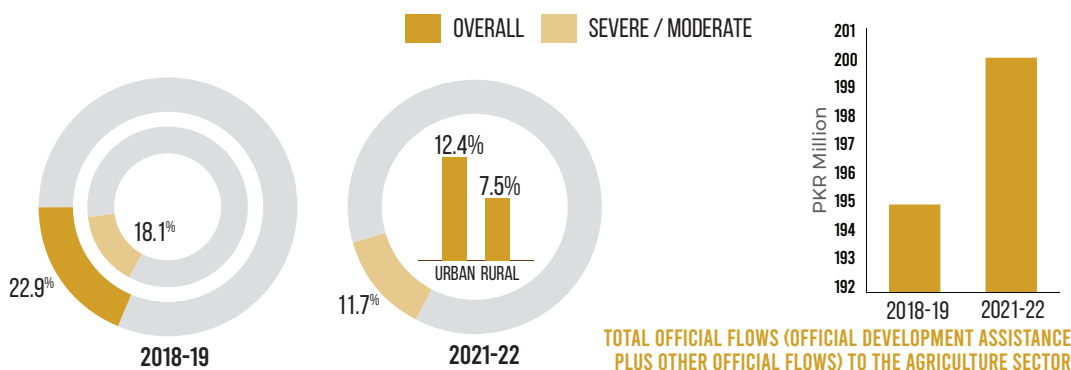


Goal 2



ZERO HUNGER

PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY (% OF HOUSEHOLD)



Indicators:

2.1.2

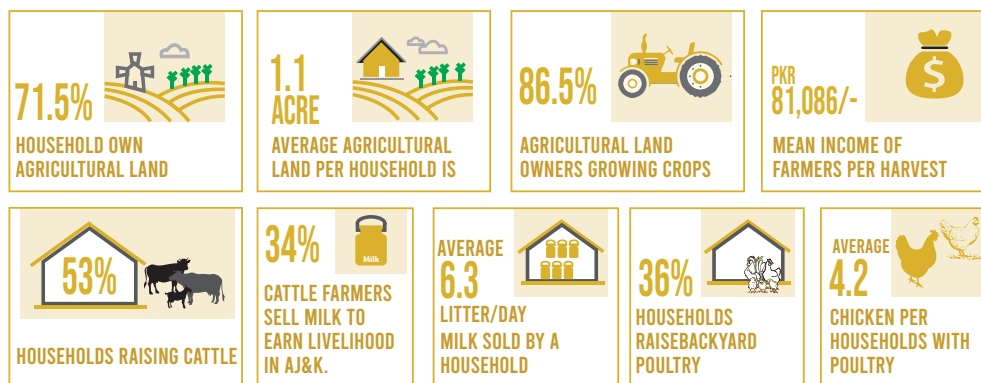
2.A.2

Data Source: Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement, 2017-18 & 2019-20; Government of AJ&K

3.2 SDG-2 Zero Hunger

The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir focuses on ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition in light of the sustainable development goals set by the United

Nations and an integrated plan has been devised to achieve the task. The prevalence rate of severe or moderate food insecurity (percentage of household) reported for the first time in PSLM 2019-20 for AJ&K is 11.7 percent.



Source: Federal SDGs Unit, MoPD&SI, Role of Productive Sector in Socio-economic Development of AJ&K

3.2.1 Progress

39 percent of children under five years of age in AJ&K are stunted, which has both adverse physical and cognitive development effects and is a result of chronic or recurrent malnutrition. 14 percent of children under five years of age in AJ&K are underweight and 4 percent are wasted (NNS 2017-18 and Planning & Development Department 2021). The Department of Health AJ&K initiated the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition Programme with the

support of the World Food Programme in five Districts (Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Jhelum Valley, Neelum and Haveli) having a high rate of stunting and wasting (forms of malnutrition). The World Food Programme is also providing technical and operational support for the implementation and upscale of evidence-based stunting prevention programs through the Ehsaas Nashonuma Programme, Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition program and large-scale fortification program across all ten districts of AJ&K. A



strong coordination network is established with donor organizations and an effective state-level Nutrition Cell is established at the health department.

A Nutrition Stabilization Center is currently being established at the Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences in Muzaffarabad with the support of WHO to treat complicated, severely acute, malnourished children. At the same time, Humanitarian Response Facilities (HRF) with a storage capacity of around 2000 MT of food commodities have been installed in Muzaffarabad with the support of WFP and handed over to State Disaster Management Authority, Government of AJ&K. WFP also provided four flospan (steel structures in District Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Bagh, and Haveli) with a storage capacity of 300 MT for bagged commodities while provided 7 Wiik Halls (Jehlum Valley, two in Muzaffarabad, Plandri, Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimber) with same storage capacity at the district level and five mini trucks were also the part of the support.

WFP is also planning to start livelihoods, climate change and resilience building pilot project in districts Muzaffarabad and Bhimber in partnership with Forest Department AJ&K.

The prevalence rate of stunting among children under five years of age increased from 32 percent in 2011 to 39 percent in 2017-18. Whereas wasting among children under five years of age has reduced from 18 percent in 2011 to 16 percent in 2017-18 (Nutrition Wing, 2018; Planning Commission of Pakistan). The Government has substantially increased the fiscal allocations across all programs that improve the nutritional status of children and women in the State.

3.2.2 Challenges

Azad Jammu and Kashmir has small landholdings, due to which less agricultural land is available for cultivation. This resulted in the State's dependence on Pakistan to fulfill its food requirement. Most of the agricultural commodities are brought from other provinces of the country. This has resulted in increased transportation costs. Extreme weather and rugged terrain are the other major challenges in achieving the Goal of Zero Hunger in the State. This situation is further aggravated due to the unstable geopolitical status. The cultivable land near the line of control is not being utilized.

Moreover, the rural population is finding it increasingly hard to make ends meet, forcing them to migrate to cities. Policies focusing on small-scale and subsistence farming can not only improve food security but also reduce the burden on urban infrastructure due to unplanned migrations. However, there is limited data available on the conditions of small-scale farmers and rural populations in AJ&K and further work is required in order to create coherent policy options. The rising inflation also impacts the ability of people to access nutritious foods; the increase in wages has not kept pace with inflation hitting the urban poor and landless rural population the most.

3.2.3 Way Forward

The Government of AJ&K may transform the agriculture sector by giving a strategic roadmap with clear timelines for the stakeholders and thus supporting the implementation of policies and programs to enhance agricultural productivity. The introduction of modern farming technologies will boost productivity in the sector. This warrants the need for appropriate technologies to counter adverse weather shocks. Investments may be made in introducing new technologies like remote sensing (via satellites) crop and soil health monitoring; farm management may also help increase farm production. Weather advisories at the pre-harvest and harvest stages disease and pest-related assistance at the post-harvest stage may benefit farmers in AJ&K.

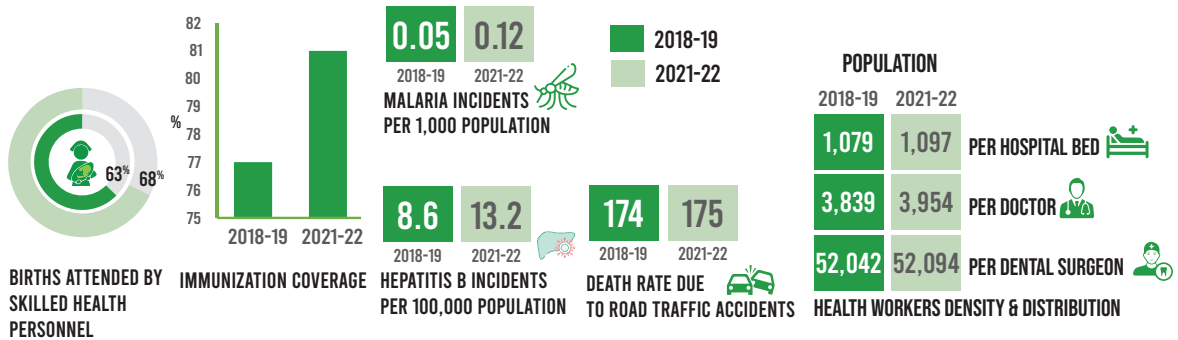
Commercializing smallholder agricultural production is one of the effective ways to boost farmers' income, employ labour and stimulate rural economies. However, small landholder market participation can only be achieved through interventions that increase smallholder production of marketable surpluses by increasing productivity at an affordable cost. The introduction of an insurance program may encourage farmers to invest in fruit and vegetables. More programs are needed to be brought into the State, targeting mainly the vulnerable groups of the society. Some programs related to women were launched in the past, such as the School Feeding program, which can be replicated. In addition, public-private partnerships should be widely encouraged. NGOs, CSOs, private businesses and communities may be involved in achieving the goal of Zero Hunger.



Goal 3



GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Indicators:

1.4.1:

1.5.4

1.a.2

Data Source: Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement, Government of AJ&K

3.3 SDG-3 Good Health and Well-Being

The world has witnessed the devastating effects of COVID-19 on health system. The pandemic has affected vulnerable populations, worsening these population groups' health and socio-economic status. The Government of AJ&K quickly mobilized all the resources to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Special funds were created to respond to COVID-19 quickly.

3.3.1 Progress

Health indicators of AJ&K are better as compared to national levels. The neonatal

mortality rate is 36 per 1000 live births compared to the national level of 42 per 1000 live births (Figure 10). Maternal mortality rates in the State have dropped from 201 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births to 104 maternal deaths in 2018. The proportion of births attended by skilled healthcare increased from 63 percent in 2018-19 to 68 percent in 2020-21 (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a). This reflects that the Government of AJ&K has taken substantial measures to improve service delivery in the health sector. In addition, the percentage of pregnant women who had at least four antenatal visits increased from 44 percent in 2018 to 49.2 percent in 2020-21 (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a).

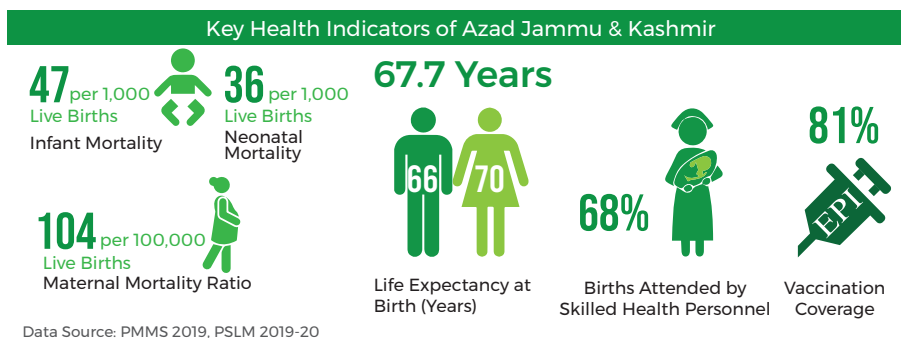


Figure 12. Key Health Indicators of Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Health care facilities are not adequate to cater to the population needs of AJ&K. The population per hospital bed is 1,097, the population per doctor is 3,954, the population per dental surgeon is 52,904.

The total number of doctors are only 1,066, of which 60 are health managers, 302 are arespecialists, 79 dental surgeons and 704 are medical officers.

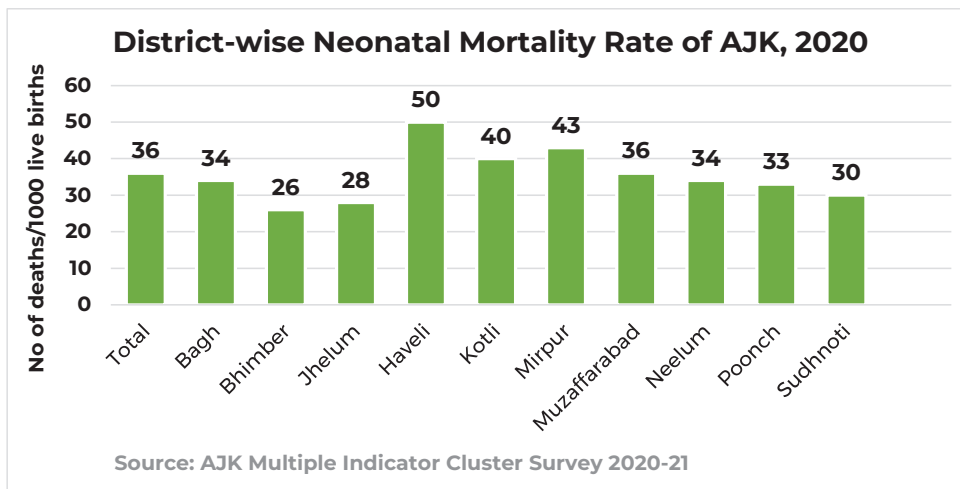


Figure 13. Overall and District-wise Neonatal Mortality Rate of AJK, 2020

Infant mortality rates of AJ&K are 47 deaths per 1000 live births (PMMS 2019). District-wise data of AJ&K shows Sudhnoti with the

lowest infant mortality rates (42 deaths/per 1000 live births) and the highest in Haveli (92 deaths per 1000 live births) (Figure 11).

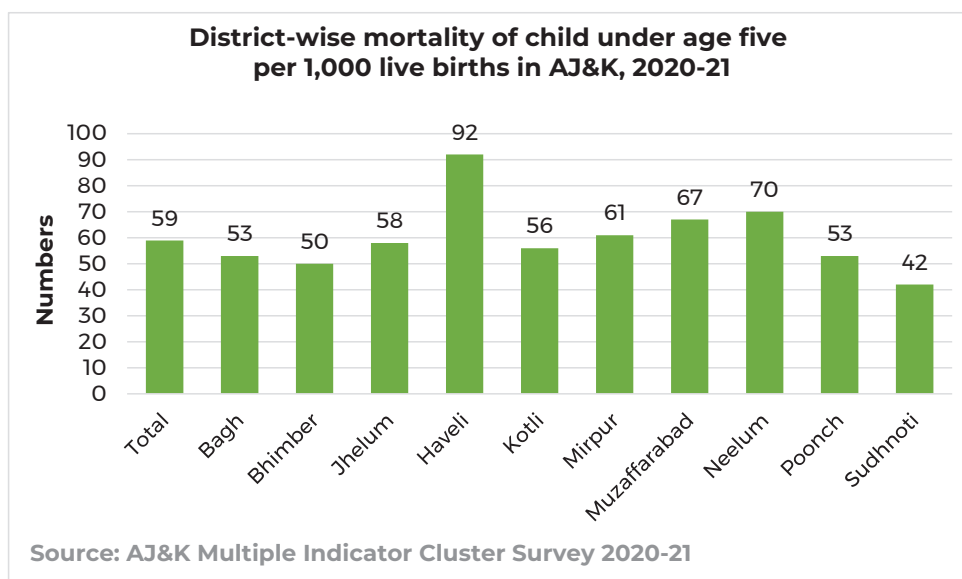


Figure 14. District-wise mortality of children under age five per 1,000 live births in AJ&K, 2020

The maternal mortality ratio is 104 per 100,000 live births in 2019, the lowest among all provinces and regions of Pakistan. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased from 63 percent in 2017-18 to 68 percent in 2019-20. The proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who

have family planning needs satisfied with modern methods has increased from 23 percent in 2010-11 to 39 percent in 2017-18. The target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program has increased from 77 percent in 2018-19 to 81 percent in 2019-20.



Box 3

Engaging Religious Scholar to promote Family Planning

There is a growing recognition that religious leaders play an important role in shaping health seeking behavior as they often act as arbiters of morality, ethics and of what is prescribed or proscribed by faith. Their opinions strongly dictate the behavioral norms of their communities, in particular reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health. Many Muslim countries, such as Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, and Tunisia obtained endorsement from religious scholars much earlier, contributing to the success of their family planning programs. For instance, Morocco organized the Rabat Conference on Family Planning in 1971. Iran issued a national family planning policy in 1989 that the highest religious authorities had endorsed and Egypt obtained edicts supporting family planning from scholars at Al-Azhar University, and Egypt's Grand Mufti publicly proclaimed that family planning was allowed in Islam. A similar strategy was adapted by the Population Welfare Department, GoAJ&K by engaging religious scholars as an agent of change to influence decision of common masses in adopting different methods of family planning and reproductive

health. Seminars and advocacy with the theme "Islam and Family Planning" were conducted during 2019 and 2020. 1,000 Ulema were registered to promote the birth spacing emphasize breast feeding for mother and child health keeping in view the Islamic theories. The impact of this intervention resulted in increase of total demand for contraceptives from 50 percent in 2017-18 to 58 percent in 2020-21 and Contraceptive Prevalence Rate from 28 percent in 2017-18 to 34 percent in 2020-21.



Overall estimates of tobacco use in AJ&K show that 34 percent of the population uses tobacco compared to national estimates (42 percent). Whereas district-wise comparison within AJ&K shows the highest tobacco consumption in Sudhnoti (43.6 percent) and lowest consumption in Bhimber (23.2 percent).

In the ADP 2021-22, funds for a 30-bedded hospital in District Sudhnoti, up-gradation of the outpatient department of district headquarters hospitals of Kotli and Bhimber and provision of emergency medicines in major hospitals of AJ&K have been allocated. Legislations have been passed from the AJ&K Legislative Assembly, which include the approval of AJ&K Family Planning and Primary Health care employees (Regularization and

Standardization Act 2017), Government approval of regulation for implementation of Dengue Control Program in AJ&K and Health Care Commission Act are under vetting process by the Law Department of AJ&K. With increasing concern of drug addicts, a study was conducted to know the exact prevalence of drug addicts in AJ&K which found out that there are 2,800 drug addicts in AJ&K that need proper rehabilitation and care. The intervention is launched and treatment and rehabilitation of 120 drug addicts was achieved in 2020-21. Moreover, the population growth rate of AJ&K is lower than the national average at 1.61percent. AJ&K has been polio-free for the last 21 years.

The Environment Protection Agency, Government of Azad Kashmir lacked access



to the primary data on environmental pollution, particularly Air and Water pollution. In this respect, recently, an “Environmental Monitoring System” has been established comprised of labs related to Ambient Air Quality Monitoring, Water Quality Monitoring, Vehicular Emission Testing and Lab Analysis arrangements for Microcontaminants like Persistent Organic Pollutants.

3.3.1.1 Air Quality Monitoring

A brief report of Ambient Air Quality monitoring of 05 major cities of AJ&K conducted in December 2021, establishing the ‘Air Quality Index at the time, is given below.

District	Sites	PM 2.5 µg/m ³	PM 10 µg/m ³	CO ppm	SO2 µg/m ³	O3 µg/m ³	NO µg/m ³	NO2 µg/m ³	AQI	Category
Mirpur	A1	36.12	13.87	0.23	37.64	109.3	4.44	9.76	102	Moderate
	A2	31.12	105	1.93	42.37	88.86	24.23	43.97	90	Satisfactory
Bhimber	A3	9.5	17.25	1.05	41.5	91.4	14.4	32.92	70.43	Satisfactory
	A4	65.75	23	0.48	40.3	108.9	11.9	16.9	187.6	Moderate
Kotli	A5	36.75	117	1.6	41.6	46.02	32.02	29.91	103	Moderate
	A6	33.5	30.62	1.02	43.8	79.36	23.3	39.24	96.13	Satisfactory
Rawalakot	A7	113.62	74.5	1.09	37.51	79.83	35.5	46.28	262	Poor
	A8	51.75	97	0.88	42.38	88.5	23.96	37.62	147	Moderate
Muzaffarabad	A9	145	160	2.87	34.81	80.31	35.49	71.31	305	Very Poor
	A10	269	154	3.63	41.47	62.65	34.01	70.01	419	Severe
	A11	31.12	3.63	1.93	62.65	88.86	5.04	12.97	90	Satisfactory
	A12	154.6	228.7	1.13	37.3	106.8	8.5	36.8	313	Very Poor
	A13	170.3	425.25	3.05	43.24	35.25	58.31	73.31	328	Very Poor
	A14	224.3	615.25	3.05	43.24	35.25	81.31	73.31	475	Severe
	A15	188.25	171.87	2.72	42.92	59.6	45.36	79.29	343	Very Poor
	A16	208.2	212.1	2.77	39.65	48.71	50.1	102.28	362	Very Poor

Table 5. Summary of air quality index of five major districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 2021

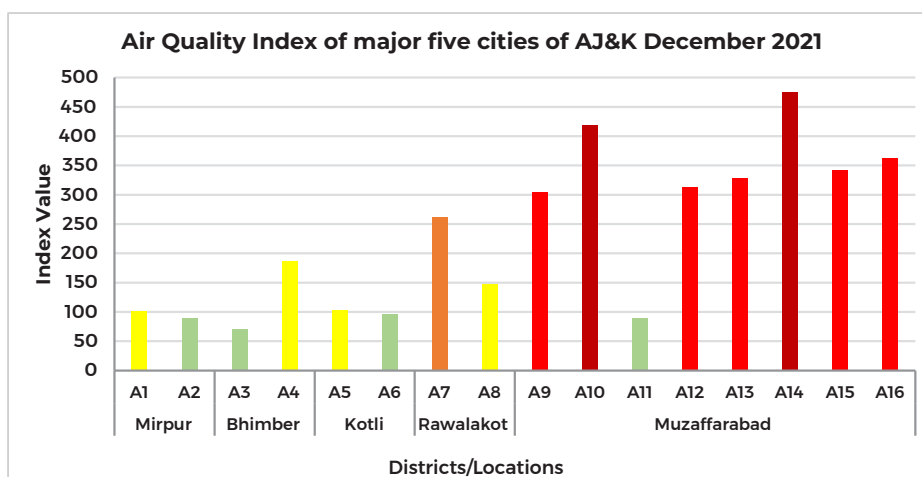


Figure 15. Air Quality Index of major five districts of AJ&K, December 2021





Air Quality Index	Air Quality Index Category	No. of Locations	Locations
0-50	Good	None	None
51-100	Satisfactory	4	A2, A3, A6, A11
101-200	Moderately polluted	4	A1, A4, A5, A8
201-300	Poor	1	A7
301-400	Very Poor	5	A9, A12, A13, A15, A16
401- onward	Severe	2	A10, A14

Table 6. Range-wise categorization of air quality index in AJ&K.

Regular monitoring and reporting will help formulate a better and improved response to address the issue of air quality, which has direct implications for human health. The contribution towards the Target 3.9 of Goal 3 would be gauged by how quickly and efficiently the Poor, Very Poor and Severe categories of the Air Quality Index are improved.

3.3.2 Challenges

Access to the healthcare facilities in AJ&K is limited due to the inadequate number of health facilities. This is further aggravated by the remote and rugged terrain of AJ&K and extreme weather conditions. The lack of a trained workforce further intensifies these challenges of access to health care services. Though poverty-related and communicable diseases are preventable, they continue to remain among the top ten causes of mortality in Pakistan and AJ&K. Women of reproductive age continuously face pregnancy and childbirth complications that are a leading cause of death and disability for specific age groups and a skilled professional in AJ&K attends only 68 percent of births. The ratio of doctors and nurses to the population remains low. There are 1,057 doctors, 79 dental surgeons and less than one hospital bed (0.9) per 1,000 people in AJ&K. Additionally, data on leading causes of mortality, deaths due to water or air pollution and poisoning are unavailable, which is the foremost hurdle in introducing the targeted intervention in the health system. In addition, the tertiary healthcare

facilities are overburdened, which affects the quality of care. Furthermore, data on leading causes of mortality, deaths due to water or air pollution and poisoning remain unavailable. GoAJ&K has begun implementing a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system, which would help meet this data gap.

3.3.3 Way Forward

The new AJ&K Health Policy may provide the direction to the fragmented health system, which can be supported by establishing the Health Regulatory Authority and Drug Regulatory Authority in AJ&K. Introducing a health insurance system and a complete roadmap to achieve Universal Health Coverage can alleviate the out-of-pocket spending in AJ&K, thus ultimately achieving good health and well-being. Further, strengthening the quality standards in the health facilities can improve the situation of the healthcare delivery system. The health system can be further strengthened by establishing Nursing and allied colleges to provide a trained health workforce in AJ&K. The Government of AJ&K should also focus on Preventive Programmes to reduce the burden of preventable diseases from the health system. The private sector should also work with public health sectors to develop cheaper and more appropriate services, especially for maternal and child health; efforts are already being made in some districts of AJ&K.

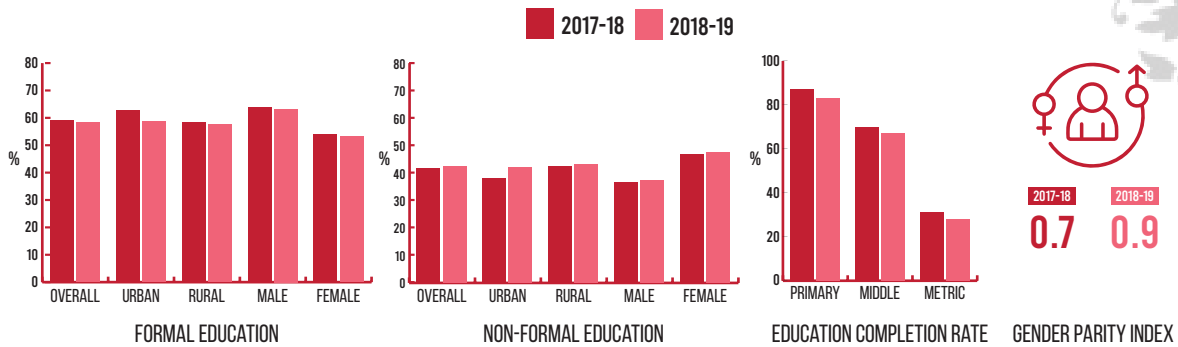




Goal 4



QUALITY EDUCATION



Indicators: **4.1.2** **4.3.1** **4.5.1**

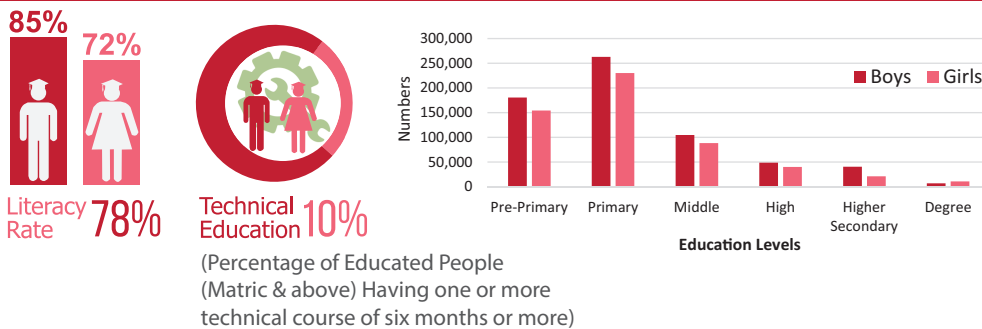
Data Source: Pakistan Social & Living Standard Measurement Survey 2018-19, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2020-21

3.4 SDG-4 Quality Education

Education is intricately linked with poverty. Lack of education or poor education can lead to low productivity and low-paid jobs, thus exacerbating poverty. Poor people are unwilling to send their children to schools due to high education costs such as tuition, books, uniform, stationery, etc. and a loss

of income a child can earn for their family. Additionally, in developing countries, the education share of the budget is less, leading to poor quality education, crowded classrooms and teacher burnout and retention issues. Education governance and management is an area of core importance for the effective functioning of the entire education system working across the State of AJ&K.

Literacy Rate, Technical Courses and Enrollment in Various Levels of Education in AJ&K, 2019-20



Source: Education Department AJ&K, Federal SDGs Unit, MoPD&SI, Role of Productive Sector in Socio-economic Development of AJ&K

Figure 16. Literacy Rate, Technical Courses & School Enrolment in AJ&K, 2019-20

3.4.1 Progress

AJ&K has recently formulated the first-ever Education Policy with the technical and financial support of the UNDP under the National Initiative for SDGs Project. Furniture is provided to 238 schools, science equipment to 171 schools, and Information Technology equipment provided to 111 Schools. After 2018, with the funding

of the Islamic Development Bank, 314 schools have been constructed so far. The Islamic Development Bank funds school construction projects and strengthening of management information system and data collection is in process in AJ&K. Moreover, the education department has completed constructed of 32 high school and 10 middle school buildings and many are still under construction in AJ&K.

Box 4

A Story of Community Participation

Waseela Welfare Organization

Improving the education system is a shared responsibility between government, parents and community. The Waseela Welfare Organization (a local NGO) worked with the education department to publish the merit list of colleges on the basis of result in the board examinations. These efforts resulted in

categorization of the colleges on the basis of result. The department has initiated special programs with a focus on the poor performing colleges for improving the quality of education. This is one of the best examples of community participation in improving the quality of education in Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

The Department of Education has introduced the Bio-metric system in schools and offices to ensure the presence of teachers in schools and managerial staff in offices to improve the quality of education in the State. It also has a positive impact on quality education and improving governance. A public-private partnership has also started to improve education quality with the support of Islamic Development Bank funds. In the pilot project, 38 schools were given to private organizations with significant experience in the education sector. These organizations manage these schools as model schools over the years to come.

computer labs with the collaboration of the AJ&K IT Board. Early Children Education centers are established in cities and started training the teachers, especially in reading skills. Orphan children were enrolled in government schools by supporting the provisions of free uniforms, books and tuition fees waived off. Teacher Foundation and Benevolent Fund provide scholarships for students in AJ&K. Realizing the high drop-out rate in post-primary schooling, the education department has upgraded primary schools to middle schools. Climate change and school safety awareness campaigns are being conducted in schools in all districts.

The Government is committed to improving the Information Technology skills of youth through establishing

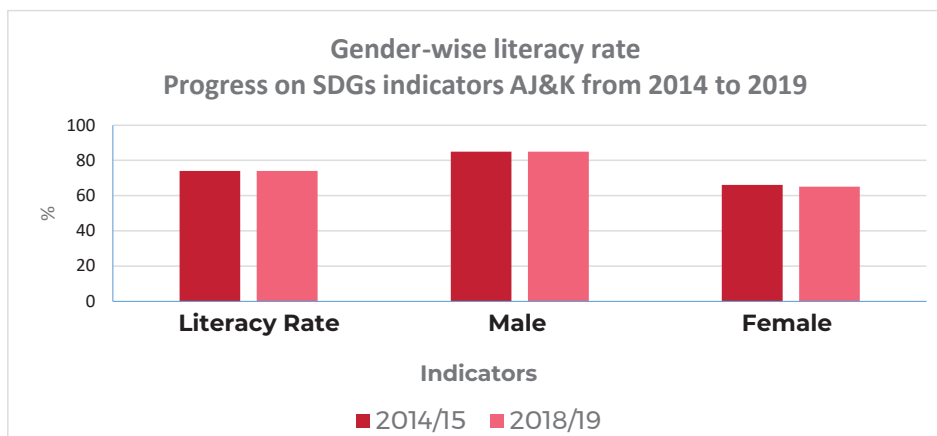
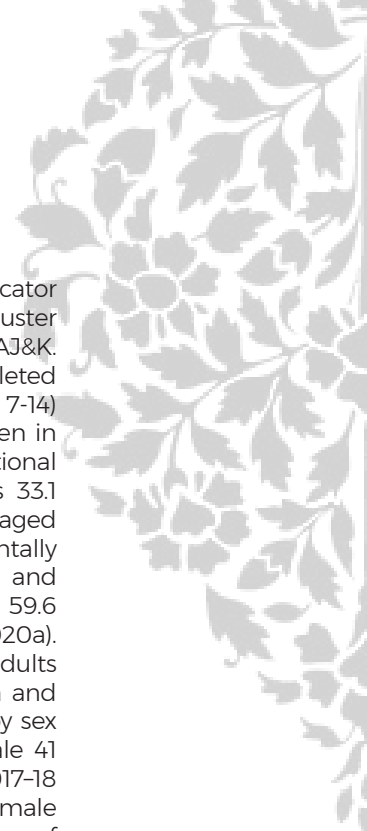


Figure 17. Gender-wise literacy rate of AJ&K 2014 to 2019



Realizing the importance of early childhood development and achieving SDG target 4.2, which sets explicitly delivery of quality early childhood development services, care and pre-primary education as essential elements for successful entry to primary education, the Government of AJ&K trained 574 teachers and 40 Master Trainers were trained on early childhood education by the Directorate of Education Extension with the financial assistance of the UNICEF. The education department has introduced early childhood education classrooms in 845 High and Higher Secondary Schools. The education department has approved Early Childhood Development Program in 300 Middle Schools of AJ&K in ADP 2021-22. Multimedia classrooms are established in 188 schools in the first pilot project.

AJ&K has collected the data on indicator 4.1.1 through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey first time in the history of AJ&K. Percentage of children who completed three foundational reading tasks (age 7-14) is 34.9 percent, percentage of children in AJ&K who completed three foundational reading tasks (age for grade 2/3) is 33.1 percent. The proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being by sex is 59.6 percent (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a). The participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months by sex was increased from 23 percent (male 41 percent and female 6 percent) in 2017-18 to 24 percent (Male 42 percent, Female 6 percent) in 2018-19 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2018).

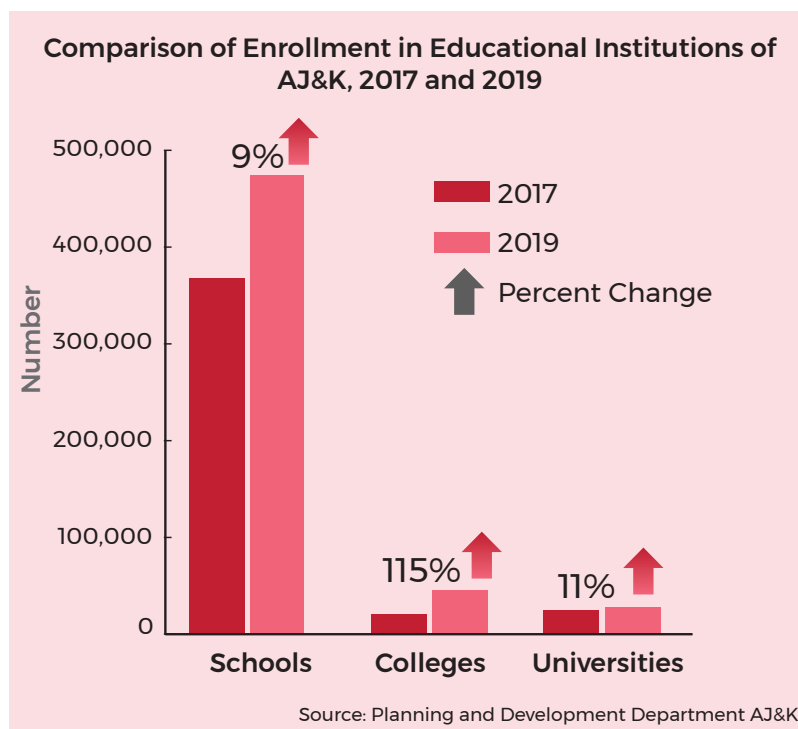


Figure 18. Comparison of Enrolment in Educational Institutions of AJ&K (2017, 2019)

The enrolment in education institutions (primary, middle, high and higher secondary) in AJ&K has increased from 367,788 in 2017 to 474,149 in 2019 and enrolment in colleges (intermediate, model science colleges, degree colleges, postgraduate colleges) has increased from

21,059 in 2017 to 45,381 in 2019 (Planning and Development Department AJ&K, 2019). The enrolment in Universities of AJ&K (the University of AJ&K Muzaffarabad, University of Kotli, Mirpur University of Science & Technology, University of Poonch, Women University Bagh) has





increased from 24,805 in 2017 to 27,529 in 2019 (Planning and Development Department AJ&K, 2019).

Gender parity in AJ&K is also better than in other provinces, with an overall Gender Parity Index at 0.97, indicating that for every 100 boys, there are 97 girls in school. At the primary level, the gender parity index is lower at 0.94, lower than the gender parity index of 0.97 in Punjab. Azad Jammu and Kashmir's gender parity index for secondary education is the highest. Net primary enrolment in AJ&K is 81 percent, which is less than the target of universal primary education, with males (84 percent) at a higher net enrolment rate than females (77 percent). The net enrolment rate drops to 50 percent and 34 percent at middle school and matric levels respectively. However, it is still much higher than the national average of 22 percent for middle school enrolment and 14 percent for matric enrolment. The literacy rate in AJ&K has increased from 74 percent in 2014-15 to 76 percent in 2019-20 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2014-15, 2019-20).

3.4.2 Challenges

Azad Jammu and Kashmir has a high literacy rate compared to other regions and provinces of Pakistan. However, pre-primary education levels are low, age ranges for classes are disproportionate and there is less focus on early childhood development. There are also issues of inclusiveness and access to education in terms of school infrastructure and the quality and relevance of syllabi. The Government of AJ&K recognizes the need for quality education, provision of WASH facilities in schools and the need for vocational education to generate a healthy, high quality and relevant workforce for AJ&K. There is a need to regulate the private sector and set up a proper system of accreditation at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels to improve the quality and output of educational institutions.

The low priority is assigned to Early Childhood Education in the region due to lack of awareness among planners, decision-makers and parents about the need and significance of early childhood education for the children, education system and society. The absence of basic

facilities and services for early childhood education in government schools and the non-availability of trained and qualified teachers is another hurdle for effective early childhood education. There is no mechanism for coordination amongst organizations, institutions and departments working to promote Early Childhood Care and Education. Essential facilities like water supply, washrooms, electricity, boundary walls, adequate infrastructure, Lab equipment, etc., are missing and require heavy investment. Also, some education institutions may have less enrolment and sufficient teaching staff, while others may have more enrolment but fewer staff positions. Thus, the entire system needs consolidation.

Facilities and services to cater to the needs of the ever-growing elementary education age group population are inadequate. Missing facilities in existing schools are a serious issue that needs to be addressed on a priority basis. The teacher's incompetence and lack of commitment, overburdened curriculum, non-availability of teaching-learning and instructional materials, low-quality textbooks are reasons for the poor quality of education in schools at secondary and higher secondary levels. Student-focused classroom observation is rare. The policies implementation, formative assessment of schools and teachers' performance in the classroom affect the quality/outcomes. The majority of management is insensitive about supervision policy and procedures. To address these capacity issues, regular training of the teachers is required to be arranged.

3.4.3 Way Forward

AJ&K needs to improve its net enrolment and retention rates by addressing child labour and economic marginalization. The State will have to ensure that the child's work does not negatively impact their education. In order to do that, State has to provide appropriate educational opportunities and social protection programs. Moreover, AJ&K should develop pathways like vocational education for vulnerable children. Similarly, the State should ensure that all girls and boys have access to schools offering an entire course of education from pre-primary to



lower secondary and where appropriate, consolidate and rationalize services. Accelerate reconstruction, ensuring that all schools meet building standards, with basic facilities (toilets, electricity, water, boundary wall) and secure routes from communities to schools. There is a need to strengthen pre-primary education and integrate it into primary schools.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir needs to sensitize communities and parents on the importance of early enrolment at the right age. Similarly, involve teachers and communities in identifying out-of-school children and bringing them to school. The State should provide alternative pathways for out-of-school children, including developing or adopting compressed curricula for over-age out-of-school children and targeted remedial

and distance learning models. Moreover, it needs to integrate the non-formal education pathways within mainstream education to improve the quality of education. In order to do so, strengthening baseline and real-time data collection mechanisms is necessary.

Moreover, the State will have to increase the quality of and access to pre-primary education and bring excluded children into education. Improve data collection and use the data for evidence-based decision-making. AJ&K Education Policy 2021-30 has been formulated and is fully aligned with SDGs. There is a need to develop the Implementation plans in light of the recommendations of the Education Policy.



Goal 5



GENDER EQUALITY



10.2%

PROPORTION OF WOMEN SEATS IN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Indicators: **5.5.1**

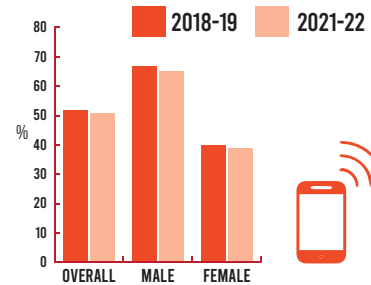


8.1% 9.5%

2017-18 2018-19

PROPORTION OF WOMEN ON MANAGERIAL POSITIONS

5.5.2



PROPORTION OF INDIVIDUALS OWN A MOBILE PHONE

5.b.1

Data Source: Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement, Labour Force Survey, Government of AJ&K

3.5 SDG-5 Gender Equality

Worldwide, nearly one in four girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are neither employed nor in education compared to one in ten boys. The situation is similar in AJ&K, with a female literacy rate of 67 percent compared to 86 percent males (PSLM 2019-20). The female unemployment rate in AJ&K is 22.9 percent compared to males, which is 9 percent. The overall unemployment rate in AJ&K is 10.7 percent (Labour Force Survey 2018-19). The proportion of women employed in the manufacturing sector in AJ&K is only 1.8 percent compared to 9.8 percent of males (Labour Force Survey

2018-19). Around 49 percent of women in AJ&K feel safe walking alone around their neighbourhood area (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a).

The percentage of women aged 15-49 years with a live birth in the last two years whose most recent live birth was attended by skilled health personnel is 68 percent. The percentage of women aged 15-49 years having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law is 20.2 percent in AJ&K (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a).

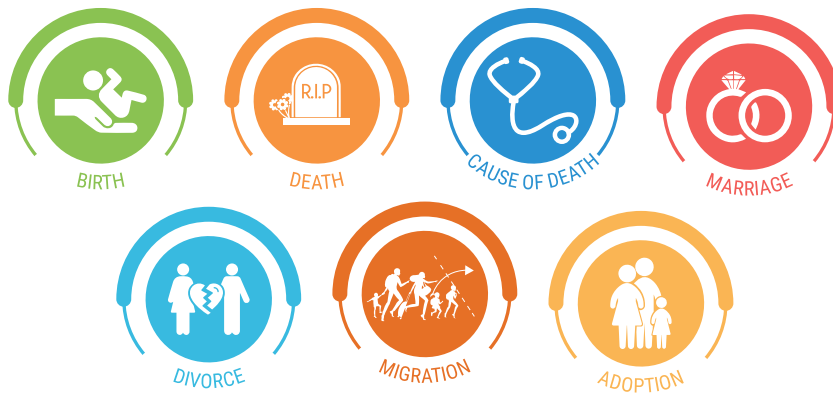
Box 5

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in AJ&K

Recognizing the importance of efficient and a complete Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System with its ability to provide disaggregated data on gender, the Government of AJ&K has developed a computerized system for registering vital events. The system provides a digital registration facility of births and deaths. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to upload registration data in the National Database and harmonize the dataset with national and

international standards.

Civil Registration and Vital statistics system will provide the firm basis and reliable data source for the demographic analyses, informed decision making for economic and social planning, analyses of rates and trends of population growth and distribution and data on health-indicators such as fertility, infant mortality, maternal mortality, life expectancy and the impact of specific acute or chronic diseases in AJ&K.



3.5.1 Progress

The Government of AJ&K is committed to promoting gender equality in the State. In this regard, legal frameworks were prepared that ensure equal access for women to all services and opportunities in the State. Five pilot centers were notified as day-care centers for working women and in the future, all government departments will be required to spare a place as a day-care center for working women. The Women Development Department works for women's social, economic and political empowerment through skill development courses. The State Commission on Status of Women, Harassment at Workplace and Domestic Violence and Protection Act 2014 were approved and implemented

to create an enabling environment that reduces gender inequalities. There is no restriction for women to contest elections on general seats (Article 22). The proportion of seats for women in the AJ&K Legislative Assembly increased from 8.5 percent in 2015 to ten percent in 2021. Five seats have been reserved in the Legislative Assembly for women to be elected by the directly elected members (Article 22 (1) (b)). Now amendment is proposed to increase women's seats in AJ&K Legislative Assembly. Twelve percent of women's representation is made compulsory in the Local Bodies (Local Government (Amendment) Act 2021). The Government has established 45 technical centers for women in AJ&K.

Box 6 Shelter Homes

The Shelter Home of women development department AJ&K is providing support to vulnerable and marginalized segments of society. Maira's example is one of the many. Maira Saleem, the only child of her family, married by her own will. Her uncle harassed and filed an FIR against her and she had to go to jail. Maira was then transferred to Shelter Home Bagh and was provided food, technical, psychological and legal aid. The Shelter Home also helped her for her operation of appendicitis during her stay in the Shelter Home. After decision

of the Appellate court, Maira is now living happily with her husband.



Overall, 46.134 million PKR was allocated for the gender equality goal in the Annual Development Programme 2020-2021. In AJ&K, women in managerial positions have increased from 3 percent in 2014-15 to 9.5 percent in 2018-19 (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2015; Pakistan Bureau of Statistics,

2017-18). The proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care has increased from 38 percent (urban 44 percent, rural 36 percent) in 2014 to 15 to 40 percent (urban 39 percent, rural



40 percent) in 2018-19 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2014-15, 2018-19). The labour participation of females has increased from 5.9 percent in 2017-2018 to 6.4 percent in 2017-18 (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2018). The percentage of mobile phone ownership by women in AJ&K is 58.2 percent. (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a).

3.5.2 Challenges

Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men, primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources threatened by climate change. Moreover, a significant number of women are employed as domestic workers. Many are responsible for household water collection and involve in on-farm and non-farm activities. Given the changing climate, inadequate access to water and poor water quality does not only affect women, their responsibilities as primary givers and the health of their families. It also impacts agricultural production and the care of livestock; and increases the overall amount of labour that is expended to collect, store, protect and distribute water. Furthermore, there has been a rising trend for women to complete high school and enroll in technical courses to get jobs in urban offices. However, it is noted that despite their ability to generate income, money earned by females is often controlled by male members of the household. Therefore, there is a need to improve the status of women in AJ&K, especially when it comes to positions of leadership and financial decision-making.

3.5.3 Way Forward

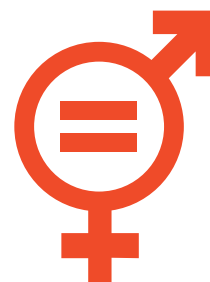
It is essential to improve access to economic opportunities for women in AJ&K. Skill development through training programs keeping in view the sociocultural, environmental and climate change context, encouraging women to participate in the labour force. Encouraging women to work in agriculture, livestock, sericulture and small and medium cottage industries may empower women economically and socially.

There is a need to eliminate gender-based violence through partnerships with local organizations. Increase women's

knowledge of and ability to exercise their rights and access justice. Also, provide life skills training to violence survivors and work with employers to protect against harassment at the workplace. There is a need to implement the already approved laws in true letter and spirit to empower the women in AJ&K.

In addition, it increases women's political and civic participation through mechanisms such as registration for National Identity Cards, which allows them access to services and voting ability. There is also a need to influence policy & legislation and advocacy for greater women's participation in politics and the economy. Encourage the inclusion of women in traditionally male-dominated sectors and on-field missions and ensure evidence-based policy interventions tailored for women of AJ&K.

There is a need to deepen the integration of innovation within the gender equality efforts of the State and ensure that girls and women have equal opportunities and access to learning and training opportunities. A systematic approach may be adapted to strengthen gender analysis of gender data reporting and research to inform evidence-based policies. Special efforts are needed to integrate gender equality programming throughout the life course with enhanced investment in gender equality as a principle and practice across all institutional structures.

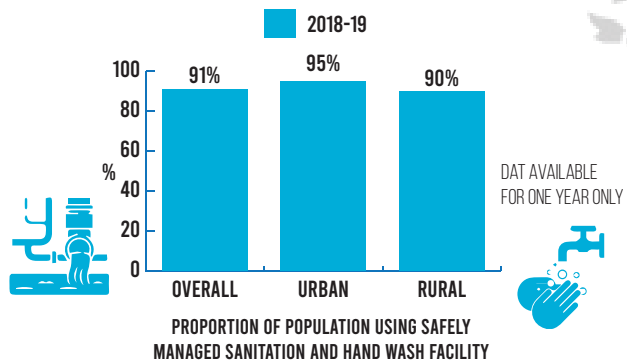
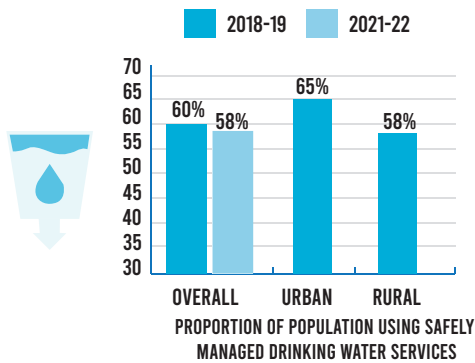




Goal 6



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Indicators:

6.1.1

6.2.1

Data Source: Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement

3.6 SDG-6 Clean Water and Sanitation

Safe drinking water and sanitation are recognized as fundamental human rights, as they are indispensable to sustaining healthy livelihoods and fundamental in maintaining the dignity of all human beings. Improved management of water resources and access to safe water and sanitation for all is essential for eradicating poverty, building peaceful and prosperous societies and ensuring that ‘no one is left behind’ on the path towards sustainable development.

3.6.1 Progress

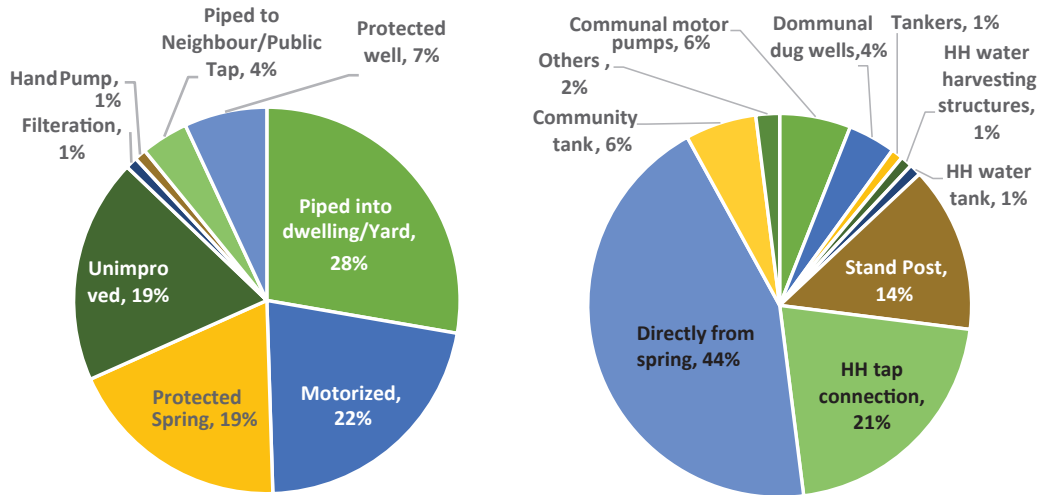
Azad Jammu and Kashmir Public Sector Health Care Services Indicators (2019) show that 6,499,087 OPD consultations were held in AJ&K (Jan-Dec 2019), 166,834 Diarrhoea / Dysentery < 5 years and 165,484 Diarrhoea / Dysentery > 5 years cases were reported in AJ&K from Jan - Dec 2019 (AJ&K at A Glance 2020).

Azad Jammu and Kashmir has proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (improved source with in the premises) is 57.94 percent, proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services and not with other household is 91 percent (PSLM 2019-20). In AJ&K, 87 percent population

have a specific place for handwashing where water and soap or other cleaning agents are present. Due to this cultural norm, the handwashing practices are also very encouraging; 97.3 percent of the household population wash their hands before preparing food, 97.3 percent wash their hands before eating, 69.3 percent wash their hands before feeding a child and 95.5 percent of the household population wash their hands after using the toilets. Only five percent of diarrhea and dysentery cases were reported among all outpatient department hospitals during 2019, indicating improved WASH condition in the state. Open defecation is only 5.2 percent in AJ&K (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a). The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir approved the State Environmental quality standards for drinking water in July 2018, an encouraging step toward implementing and achieving SDG 6 in the State.



Improved Drinking Water Sources, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 2020



Source: National Nutrition Survey 2018, Local Government Department AJ&K, 2020

Figure 19. Improved Drinking Water Sources, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, 2020

According to a recent survey by the Local Government Department, AJ&K, 44 percent of the households use water

coming directly. The majority of the districts have a similar trend on improved water sources.

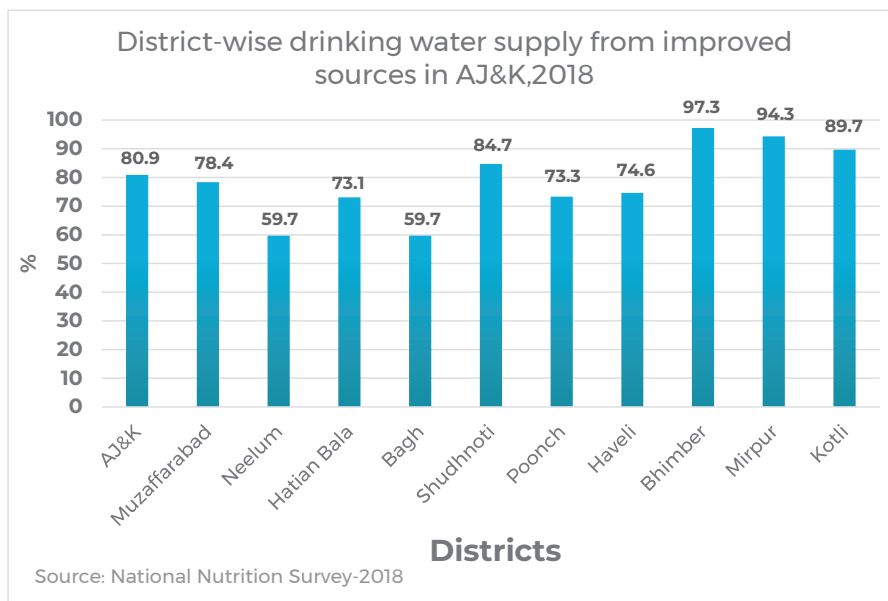


Figure 20. District-wise drinking water supply from improved sources in AJ&K, 2018

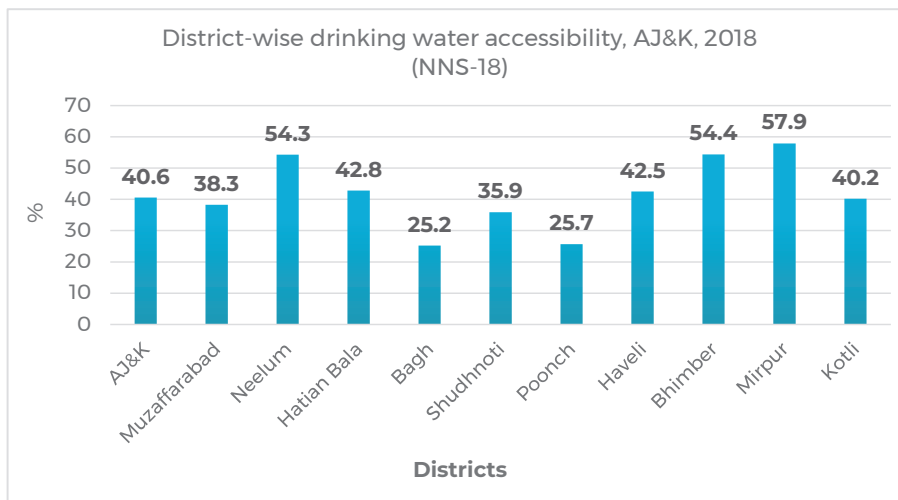


Figure 21. District-wise drinking water accessibility, AJ&K, 2018

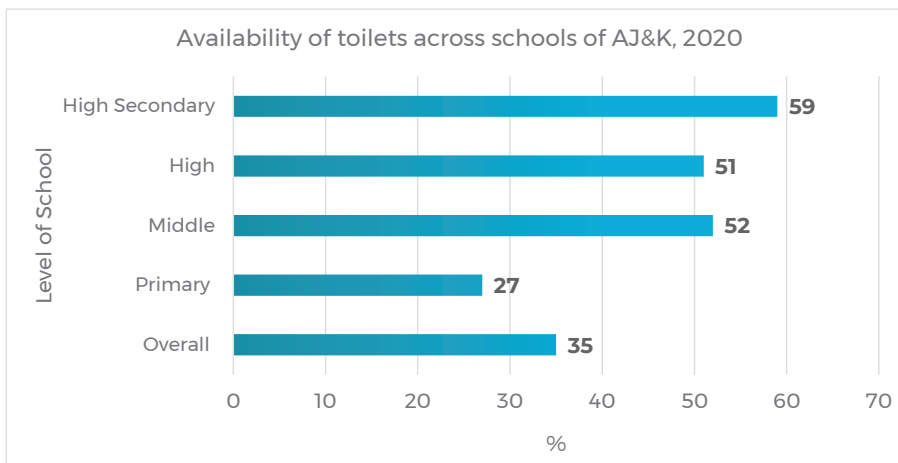


Figure 22. Status of toilets in schools of AJ&K, 2020

3.6.2 Special Intervention by Environment Protection Agency

3.6.2.1 Drinking Water

To monitor the drinking water across AJ&K and to generate a baseline in a more systematic manner covering the two seasons of summer and winter, a development scheme on “Water Quality Monitoring and Source Characterization” has been approved in ADP FY 2021-22, with a cost of Rs. 35.368 million. A ‘water quality baseline’ will be established to enable the concerned authority to

undertake the requisite preventive or mitigation measures and for informed decision making in pursuance of SDG Targets 3.9 and 6.3.

3.6.2.2 Sanitation

In pursuance of sustainable management of sanitation, municipal waste is the area of concern for EPA. Presently 400-500 tons of municipal waste are being generated in urban centers of AJ&K. In view of the environmental hazards of solid waste with health implications, the EPA conducted a Solid Waste (Generation & Classification) Survey in 2018-19, formulated a strategy and developed an action plan for the solid waste management in AJ&K. In the wake





of improper Hospital Waste Management, the EPA also carried Survey, formulating a Strategy and development of Action Plan (2018-19) for the sustainable hospital or medical waste in AJ&K.

3.6.2.3 Waste Management

In response to potential threats to rivers of AJ&K, in the wake of dumping or release of waste and wastewater into the river, the EPA, in pursuance of the direction of the Government, has developed a “Rivers Protection Plan,” in consultation with line departments, which would be operational once approved.

3.6.3 Challenges

Azad Jammu and Kashmir faces the challenge of access to clean and safe drinking water despite abundant freshwater resources, further aggravated by the region’s mountainous topography. Although hygiene practices have improved in recent years, many schools still lack proper WASH facilities. Furthermore, contamination levels are much higher in poorer and rural districts and there is virtually no water treatment at the household level. The waste further contaminates the water by seeping into the surface soil used for crop irrigation. This water contaminates food supplies, which find their way into urban centers, posing health hazards for millions of city dwellers.

3.6.4 Way Forward

Azad Jammu and Kashmir needs to introduce water harvesting, develop water reservoirs, groundwater recharge mechanisms, aquifer recharge, recovery initiatives through freshwater harvesting and a Water Act, which would address the creation and development management of water resources. There is a need for effective, inclusive and systematic planning, monitoring and evaluation of WASH sector

performance to ensure the most effective route to achieve goals. Moreover, mid-and long-term sector performance reviews should also be conducted through multi-stakeholder platforms and sector dialogue and learning mechanisms. Furthermore, the capacity of institutions and individuals should be improved for sustainable service delivery at scale, including the availability of necessary structures, tools, training and incentives to fulfill sector roles and responsibilities.

There is a need for a consistent strategic approach on awareness-raising programs at the community level to improve knowledge, attitude and practices on water, sanitation and hygiene, with adequate funds allocated to this activity. The strategy will need to focus on various target groups/audiences and channels, including youth, religious clerics, women and girls, and mobile companies’ services.

There is a need for appropriate legislation, especially on ground table water, buildings, infrastructure development, water usage and sanitation, to ensure the implementation of standards at all levels. For example, it should be mandatory for all schools and private houses to have toilets. Under this legislation, steps need to be taken to:

- a. Ensure construction and functionality of toilets in educational institutions
- b. Establish Water and Sanitation Management Committees under Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of toilets; and
- c. Encourage school management to construct toilets with motivational packages, including rebates and incentives.

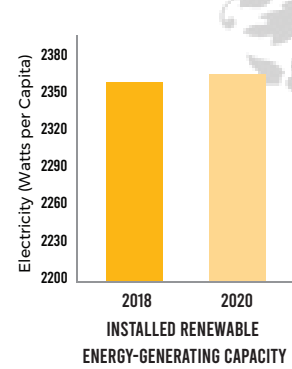
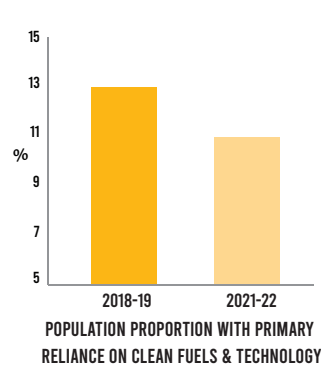
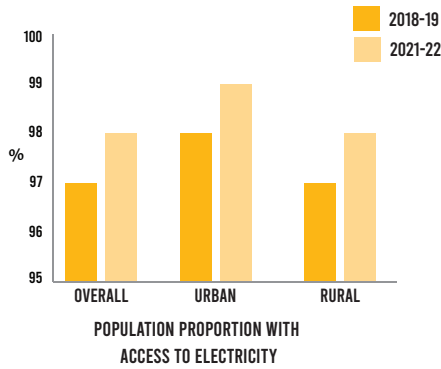




Goal 7



AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Indicators:

7.1.1

7.1.2

7.b.1

Data Source: Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement, Government of AJ&K

3.7 SDG-7 Affordable and Clean Energy

The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is committed to becoming a self-sufficient State in energy. Over the last few decades, the development of hydropower resources in the State has become a priority. Due to the unparalleled benefits of hydropower generation over the other modes of power production, such as being efficient, economical, sustainable and above all, having attainability of carbon credits from the United Nations, water is duly considered next to oil in its power-generating potential. In this backdrop, the State of AJ&K stands abundantly blessed and endowed with water that is pulsating in its three rivers, the Jhelum (the most voluminous river of AJ&K), the Neelum and the Poonch, in addition to numerous perennial nullahs, streams, lakes and brooks stretched along with the territories of AJ&K.

3.7.1 Progress

Access to electricity in AJ&K is 99.2 percent (Bureau of Statistics AJ&K, 2020a). Azad Kashmir's River cascade is the 2nd largest after Indus, with 9,000 megawatts (MW) of the identified electricity generation capacity. Azad Jammu and Kashmir currently produce approximately 2,362 MW of electricity through hydropower, including 1,100 MW at Mangla Dam and 969 MW through the Neelum

Jhelum hydroelectric power project. Other hydropower projects are currently undertaken, including 84 MW at Newbong, 30.4 MW at Jagran and a 102 MW plant at Gulpur Project on River Poonch. The work has also started on a project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Karot of 720 MW. More projects are in the pipeline at Azad Pattan, Kohala and Mahal with 640 MW, 1124 MW and 590 MW, respectively. The Government of AJ&K has established the Private Power Cell, which is the one window facilitator on behalf of the Government and encourages the participation of private investors in hydel power generation. Although Azad Jammu and Kashmir's total energy requirement for household, commercial and industrial usage is about 400 MW, AJ&K makes a net contribution of 2,362 MW to Pakistan's national grid, thus contributing to the national efforts of achieving affordable and clean energy goals. AJ&K's total water requirement is 803,500 acre-feet. Irrigation, household and urban wastewater dilution requirements make up 250,000 acre-feet, 203,500 acre-feet and 350,000 acre-feet, respectively. Thus AJ&K is not only an epicenter of power generation but also contributes to the conservation of water resources through water reservoirs.





3.7.2 Challenges

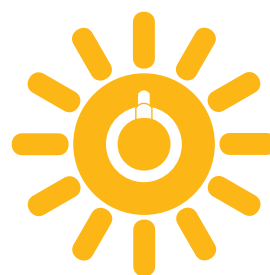
The challenge of population displacement to build new dams is also a hurdle in achieving affordable and clean energy. These financial and displacement challenges and maintenance and up-gradation of the transmission system in AJ&K need substantial budget allocation. Moreover, the region's geopolitical situation also hinders the progress of the projects in AJ&K.

3.7.3 Way Forward

The endeavors of the Government of AJ&K for harnessing 9,000 MW of electricity from its micro, small, medium and large hydropower projects is the way forward for a better and progressive economy of Azad Kashmir. These hydropower projects shall be instrumental in employment generation and socio-economic uplift of remote areas in AJ&K. Moreover, there is also potential for developing alternate energy in Azad Kashmir, especially solar and wind. With the introduction of reverse metering, households can generate solar energy and transmit surplus energy to the national grid, playing an essential role in strengthening the energy sector. The road map for achieving this goal results from

the combined effect of Pakistan's Policy for Power Generation 2002 and WAPDA's Vision 2025 - Hydro Development Plan.

Furthermore, power generation in AJ&K directly helps Pakistan redress its energy deficit and contributes to its economic development. In the years to come, it will turn around Pakistan's energy sector, rejuvenate its industry and help attract private investment. Hydropower is an indeed cheaper, clean and green mode of power generation and Azad Kashmir possesses ample opportunity to change the energy mix of Pakistan by developing hydropower projects on the fast track basis. This is neither implausible nor a pipe dream and it is possible to achieve the goal of affordable and clean energy.

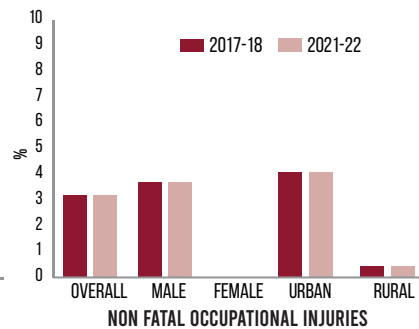
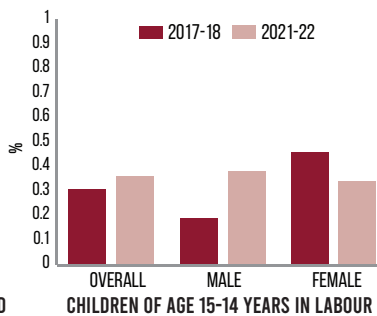
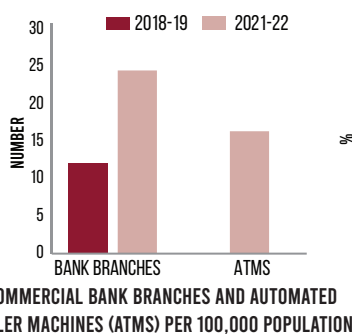
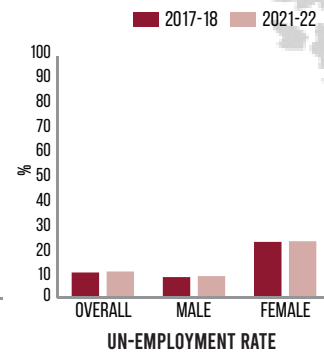
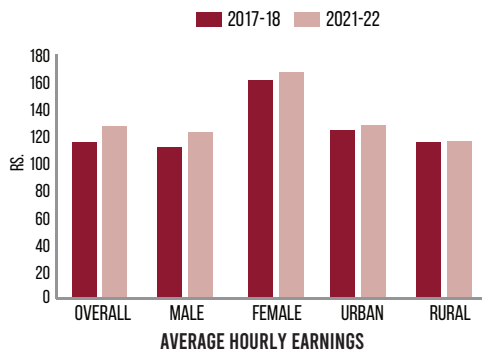
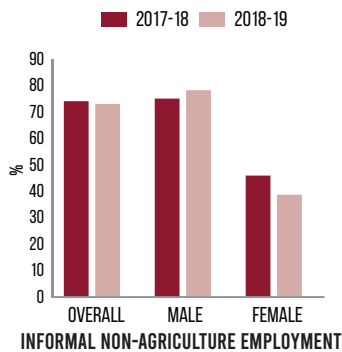




Goal 8



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Indicators:

7.1.1

7.1.2

7.b.1

Data Source: Labour Force Survey, Government of AJ&K

3.8 SDG-8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

Economic growth that is both sustainable and inclusive is essential for the progress of the region trying to achieve the sustainable development agenda. Azad Jammu & Kashmir has a huge economic growth potential due to its landscape and having an educated workforce. A recent study conducted by Planning and Development Department GoAJ&K reported that development in the productive sectors had not seen significant growth in terms of employment shares. 25 percent of the workforce is engaged with manual labour, 28 percent are trade workers and 20 percent are currently serving in government or retired from government services. Agriculture contributes 8 percent, livestock 1.8 percent and tourism 3 percent to the overall employment in AJ&K (Federal SDGs Unit and MoPD&SI, 2021).

A recent study on the socio-economic status of the productive sector reported that around 25 percent of the workforce is engaged as manual laborers (informal). Those working with Government or Armed Forces personnel represent 11 percent of the employment share in AJ&K. Workforce engaged in the agriculture sector for employment purposes constitutes 8 percent of the active labour force. Pensioners (both Govt. and Army) were around 9 percent of the population. The employment share attributed to trade workers was 29 percent, whereas 5 percent was attributed to professionals, including doctors, engineers, and teachers. The livestock sector has only 1.8 percent of the employment share, and only 2 percent of the population consists of craftsmen. Employment share attributed to tourism and hoteling was 3 percent, while trade workers constitute 6.3 percent of the active labour force (Figure 23).



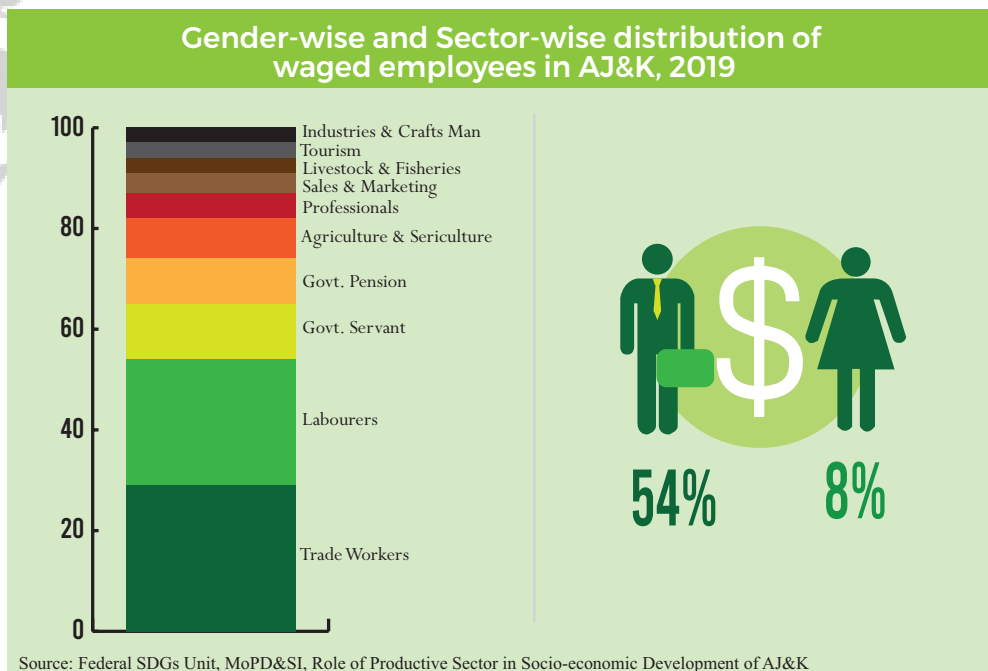


Figure 23. Sector-wise distribution of waged employees, AJ&K, 2019

3.8.1 Progress

Azad Jammu and Kashmir is making progress by engaging an educated workforce in the economic growth of the State. The Government of AJ&K formulated AJ&K Tourism Policy 2018 and AJ&K Youth Policy 2021 to promote tourism in the region and create more employment opportunities for the youth. In AJ&K, the number of jobs in sustainable tourism industry as a proportion of total jobs increased and the growth rate of the job by sex is 3 percent.

The Sustainable Development Goals promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. SDG 8 emphasizes to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Tourism sector has the potential to contribute directly and indirectly to all Sustainable Development Goals. Employment creation as a focus point of socioeconomic policy making and development plans, will not only produce decent work opportunities but also vital for inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

Access to decent wages, safe working conditions and legal and social protection are essential components for sustainable development. However,

in AJ&K, the unemployment rate is higher (10.7 percent) for both men and women compared to national statistics (5.8 percent), indicating a need for the creation of job opportunities in the region. Due to a lack of private sector enterprises and local entrepreneurship, the burden of job creation falls on the government which is already overstretched. There is a need for ensuring full and productive employment in the region for both men (unemployment rate of 8.8 percent) and women (unemployment rate of 22.9 percent). In AJ&K, the prevalence of child labour (5-17 years) is 8 percent. Children who live in rural areas (9 percent) or come from poor households (12 percent) are more likely to be engaged in child labour than are children who live in urban areas (5 percent) or come from rich households (3 percent) (AJ&K MICS 2021). Being trapped in child labour compromises the future of children and limits their opportunities for personal and economic growth, eventually impacting the levels of productive labour available to the State. In AJ&K, there is a need to increase public awareness on the issue and there is need to implement the regulatory frameworks and policies. Moreover, given the high level of youth bulge and the simultaneous high rate of unemployment, AJ&K Youth Policy 2021 has been formulated with the technical support of UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund. The policy is fully aligned with SDGs and the overall goal is



“to provide all young Kashmiris with equal opportunities and access to personal and professional development, progress, and the opportunity to contribute to society through the best and the most prudent use of national and societal resources, without any discrimination on the basis of colour, caste, race, religion, gender, or social status”.

The Government of AJ&K has done required legislation to promote tourism in AJ&K. Now, after 13th constitutional amendments in AJ&K's Interim Constitution 1974, the registration and licensing authority has been transferred to AJ&K government from Kashmir Affairs, different Acts have been passed and enacted and are being implemented in AJ&K to promote tourism e.g. AJ&K Hotel & Restaurants Act 2018, AJ&K Travel Agencies Acts 2018 and the AJ&K Tour Guides Act 2018. The Government of AJ&K strives to promote tourism and involve the civil society and local community to step forward in playing their roles in the promotion of tourism in AJ&K with the focus to create employment opportunities and income enhancement for the local masses.

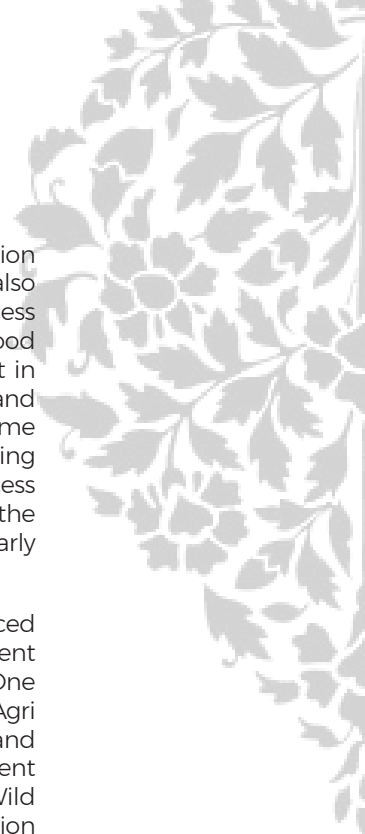
The Government of AJ&K, with the support of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund initiated a project in Neelum valley and selected 100 houses and asked the community to upgrade the most scenic room according to modern standards where the tourists could stay as guests. The main focus of the up gradation was on water and sanitation as the tourist were more concerned about hygiene. AKHUWAT Foundation provided a loan of Rs. 125,000 for the up-gradation of the rooms, while another Civil Society Organization provided training to the locals on basic housekeeping and serving etiquette. Basic training on tourist handling and hospitality were also provided to the owner of houses. Under the project, Charges of the room were set lower as compared to the commercial tourist accommodation facilities and now this is benefitting the community, particularly the poor. They are now earning additional income from these rooms without investing a heavy amount of money. With the improved household income, the community is now using clean energy (LPG) instead of relying on firewood, which is detrimental to the environment, but the use of wood also leads to indoor pollution and disproportionately impacts the health of women and children. Moreover, there

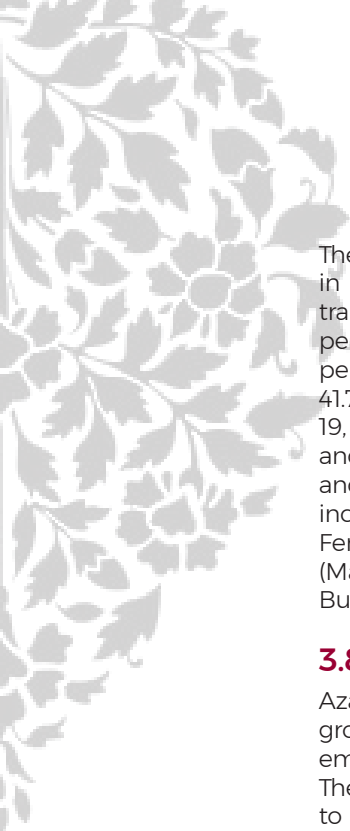
was also a high burden of fuel collection on women. Now the community is also spending additional income to access better education, health and livelihood for their families, which would support in achieving relevant targets of SDGs and also, women are now spending more time with their families instead of collecting firewood. The intervention provides access to decent work opportunities to the community of Neelum Valley, particularly the women in the tourism sector.

The Government of AJ&K has introduced number of schemes to create employment opportunities like Establishment of “One Product One Village”, Promotion of Agri Business Enterprise Development and Marketing in AJ&K, Fruit Development Program (FDP) by Improving Existing Wild Fruit Flora in AJ&K, Crop Maximization Programme to Enhance Agricultural Productivity in AJ&K including Mountainous Research, Promotion of Commercial fish production in AJ&K, and Customized lending for sustainability of skilled entrepreneurs of AJ&K trained from TEVTA/Small Industries/Social Welfare etc, Interest Free Loan for self-employment in AJ&K through AKHUWAT, Credit Assistance Scheme for Small & Cottage Industries etc.

AJ&K's economy has steadily benefited as a result of remittances received from overseas Kashmiris in the UK, US, Europe and the Gulf region. Although data on remittances destined to AJ&K specifically are not available, it is believed that a large proportion of remittances emanating in the UK are destined for AJ&K, especially the Mirpur, Kotli and Bhimber areas.

Remittances have played a major role in the economy of Azad Kashmir for many years. For most recipients, remittances are the primary – and, in many cases, the only – source of income. Remittance households are generally better off than non-remittance ones, owning better houses and more valuables and assets. Research in Pakistan shows that remittances are predominantly used to meet daily expenses such as food, clothing and health care; however, funds are also spent on building or improving housing, buying land, cattle or durable consumer goods, the repayment of loans for migration and to fund pilgrimages to Mecca. As an income source for daily consumption, remittances form a critical part of the livelihoods of recipient households.





The participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training by sex was increased from 22.9 percent (male 41.0 percent, female 5.9 percent) in 2017-18 to 23.9 percent (Male 41.7 percent, Female 6.4 percent) in 2018-19, average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities in AJ&K has increased from PKR 115 (Male PKR 112, Female PKR 161) in 2017-18 to PKR 127 (Male PKR 123 Female PKR 67) (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2018, 2020)

3.8.2 Challenges

Azad Jammu and Kashmir's economic growth faces a major challenge of lack of employment opportunities in the State. The private sector is not investing according to their potential due to the geopolitical situation of the region. Similarly, the skilled workforce migrates to other regions of Pakistan or abroad to avail of better employment opportunities, thus leaving a gap in the availability of skilled labour in AJ&K. Limited financial resources are also the main impediment in executing and implementing future interventions to achieve the SDGs in AJ&K. It is important to note that there are no estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of AJ&K available. This is a shortcoming in all provinces of Pakistan, although some are now making estimates at the provincial level. In addition, financial sector data, banking data, and remittances data is also not available for AJ&K as a whole (not shared with the GoAJ&K), although this may be collected by the State Bank of Pakistan office in Muzaffarabad.

A significant proportion of working groups in AJ&K are engaged in different jobs within the domestic economy where their skills don't match with market demand which results in low productivity and poorly remunerated jobs. Employment remains below its potential level due to structural problems in the labour market system in AJ&K. There are supply-side and demand-side gaps causing unemployment in AJ&K. The main supply-side gaps causing unemployment are deficiency of technical education, challenges of required training and certification, inadequate required skills and knowledge, factor immobility of labour market, technology and communication gaps, paucity of marketing skills etc. Demand-side gaps causing unemployment are employer-related gaps such as lack of labour market

data availability and labour market information and resource system, and weak public-private partnership regime.

3.8.3 Way Forward

Rural economies, like AJ&K, can play a crucial role in moving towards environmentally sustainable economic growth. In AJ&K, where more than 83 percent of the population lives in rural areas, decent work may be enhanced through improving skills, implementing regulator mechanisms and introducing modern innovative approaches. Opportunities for decent work in the productive sector, especially agriculture, livestock, fisheries, sericulture and tourism maybe created through entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Overall, there are vast opportunities in the productive sectors for AJ&K's economy, which prudent policies may tap. Targeted approaches and interventions and weak institutional infrastructure in the productive sectors hamper the full utilization of the potentials in the sectors. AJ&K can maximize the contribution of productive sectors, which can render it into a self-sufficient economy and transform the living standards of its population. The AJ&K should develop an investment pipeline for economic growth, monitored and evaluated at different stages in achieving short and long-term goals. The Government of AJ&K should focus on eco-tourism, religious tourism and arranging winter festivals to attract tourism in the region.

Economy, quality and production in AJ&K can be enhanced by introducing reforms like the establishment of labour market information resource center in labour department, promoting research through sharing of information, identifying future market labour trends and market knowledge of related fields. Also introducing district/State job portal by adopting the best practices of job portals developed in other provinces, collaboration and partnership at the public-private level to create more jobs, provision of sufficient required skills to local labour in a particular field specialized to that area which may reduce the supply of labour in such particular field from outside may also support in achieving the SDGs in the State.

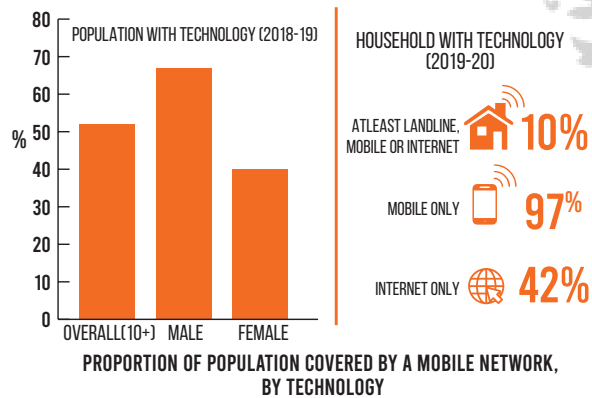
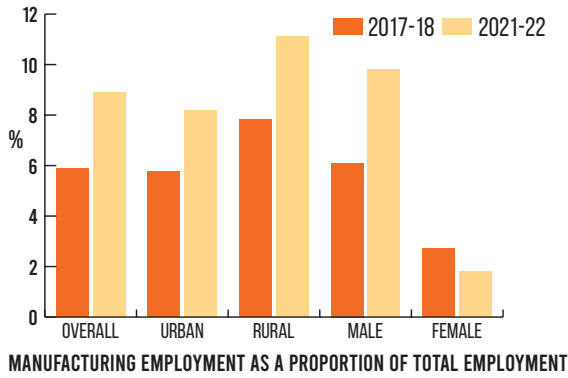




Goal 9



INDUSTRIES, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Indicators:

9.2.2

9.c.1

Data Source: Labour Force Survey, Pakistan Social & Living Standard Measurement

3.9 SDG-9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Infrastructure is crucial for sustainable development in AJ&K, e.g., Power generation, transport system, roads network, water and sanitation networks and buildings. Infrastructure has a significant role in economic development, environment safeguarding and social uplift for the regions to achieve the 2030 Agenda of SDGs. The Government of AJ&K is committed to improving the road infrastructure to better link different districts of AJ&K with each other and with other provinces of Pakistan.

3.9.1 Progress

Azad Jammu and Kashmir made progress in the manufacturing sector by increasing the proportion of total employment from 6 percent (Male 6 percent; Female 3 percent) in 2016-17 to 9 percent (Male 10 percent; Female 2 percent) in 2020-21. The Government of AJ&K formulated the industrial policy (Draft) to provide a conducive environment for the growth of locally and internationally competitive industries, inducing income generation and employment creation.

In order to bring investors into the industrial sector, the Department of Industries of the AJ&K Government established industrial estates in various districts of AJ&K to provide basic infrastructures such as roads,

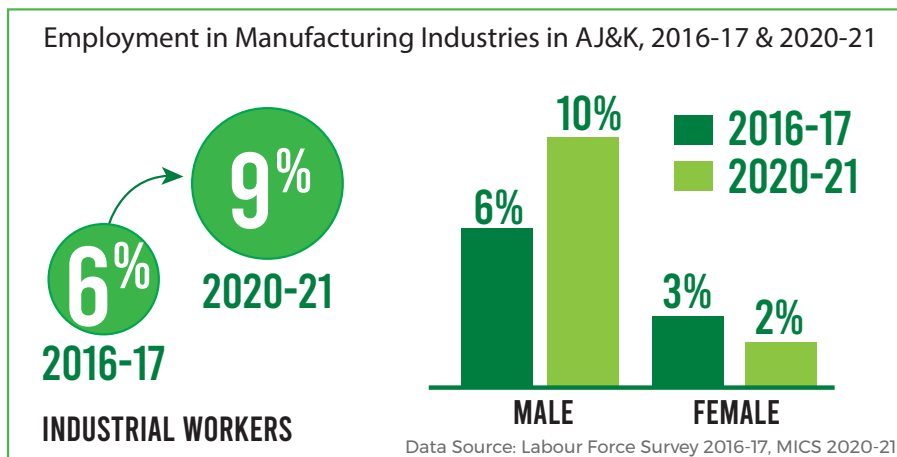


Figure 24. Employment in Manufacturing Industries in AJ&K, 2016-17 & 2020-21



water supply, sewerage, telephones and electricity. Similarly, the Government of AJ&K offered a five-year tax exemption to specific industries to incentivize investment in the region. 97 percent of the population has access to mobile phones in AJ&K, which indicates that the region is sensitized to technology and innovations. About 37 percent of the population in the region has bank accounts. The number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults have increased from 12 in 2017-18 to 24.53 in 2019-20 in AJ&K. Industrial Units in six industrial estates of AJ&K have increased from 209 in 2017 to 237 in 2020, commercial skill worm eggs production have increased from 1,226 in 2017 to 1,922 in 2020 and mulberry sapling/plants have increased from 0.631 million in 2017 to 0.625 million in 2020, income in the private sector at farmers level (fresh cocoon) has increased from PKRs.19.880 million in 2017 to PKRs. 25.900 million in 2020. District-wise number of trainees under AJ&K TEVTA have increased from 5,122 in 2017 to 6,002 in 2020 (Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 2021). The district cumulative metalled roads in AJ&K have increased from 9,540 km in 2017 to 11,322 km in 2020, road density in AJ&K has increased from 0.72 km/sq.km in 2017 to 0.85 km/sq.km in 2020, fair-weather roads have increased from 7,493 km in 2017 to 7,553 km in 2020.

3.9.2 Challenges

Industries are essential for economic growth, the generation of new transport networks and the setting up of new industries can have a detrimental impact on the environment of AJ&K. The logistical and infrastructural issues are also obstacles to investment, with diaspora communities wary of the lack of a dry port in AJ&K (increasing export costs) and lack of constant energy. The situation is further aggravated by the heavily reliant financial system on brick and mortar (as opposed to virtual services), making it difficult to

extend the services to remote locations in AJ&K.

In AJ&K, Agriculture land is used/selected for construction projects which compromise the sustainability of Agriculture in reducing poverty, achieving the targets of zero hunger, good health and well-being and other targets of SDGs.

Environmental impacts of Waste (generated from construction activities, labors camps, sewage treatment plants, and other sources), noise, dust, solid wastes, toxic generation, air pollution, water pollution, bad odor, climate change, land use, operation with vegetation and hazardous emissions should be properly considered during the construction of projects in AJ&K. Biodiversity and life below water should also be considered while construction.

3.9.3 Way Forward

The mechanisms to ensure business accountability, transparency and due diligence in the private and public sectors may pave the way for an industrial shift. For that, the State needs to switch to environment-friendly production methods, which requires a profound transformation in the way economy and industries operate in the region. The Government of AJ&K should ensure data-driven policy interventions and implement international labour market standards and social dialogue to implement the 2030 Agenda. This can be supported by increasing collaboration among stakeholders to reduce technology gaps in AJ&K. Apart from technological development the State needs an infrastructure policy to make a shift in the development sector. A situation analysis should be repeated every three years to effectively monitor the progress of infrastructure development and its socio-economic and environmental impacts in AJ&K.





Goal 10



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

3.10 SDG-10 Reduced Inequalities

Inequality is a major obstacle to sustainable economic growth. Inequality is a relational concept that can be measured through various dimensions, including economic inequality (income, consumption, or wealth), Social inequality (education or employment) and Environmental inequality (air or water pollution and inequitable access to natural resources). Vertical inequality refers to differences between individuals (or households) within a particular country and horizontal inequality refers to differences between culturally defined groups of people within a society, i.e., between the rural and urban population or between different ethnic groups. The primary objective of economic development is improvements in the people's living standards and for that, only economic growth would not be sufficient. This is because the growth and income distribution jointly determine improvements in the people's living standards. Reducing inequalities in AJ&K requires an overhaul of the domestic regulatory regimes, including addressing the income discrimination prevalent in society. SDG 10 calls for progressively reducing income inequalities and inequalities of the outcome by ensuring access to equal opportunities and promoting social, economic and political inclusion, irrespective of age, sex, disability,

race, ethnicity, or religion.

3.10.1 Progress

While pursuing economic growth, AJ&K has adopted a range of measures to increase the incomes of people in vulnerable situations. During the Pandemic of COVID-19, the Government of AJ&K passed the AJ&K COVID-19 Prevention of Hoarding Act 2020, which ultimately helped the vulnerable population. The Government is promoting equality of opportunities through Public-Private partnerships in the shape of Azad Kashmir Small Industries Corporation and the 'AKHUWAT Islamic Microfinance' loan scheme by creating enabling environment for increased employment opportunities by providing 49 percent loan to the womenfolk to reduce gender inequality. The Social welfare Department has also worked to support the person with disabilities, orphan children and widowed women. It is supported by the Ehsas Programme of the Federal Government of Pakistan because livelihood support and income assistance to the poor and vulnerable individuals complement a cache of interventions to secure them from unforeseen distress. Under Ehsaas Emergency Cash and Ehsaas Kafaalat programmes, a specialized cash assistance package of PKRs.3 billion was given to 138,275 families living in 219 villages close to the Line of Control (LoC) in AJ&K. Women of all those families received a monthly stipend of Rs 2,000 besides emergency cash of PKRs 12,000.

Box 7

Shelter Homes Women Development Department

Lubna Sayyad, a victim of physical and psychological abuse by her husband, came to Shelter Home with mentally disturbed condition. She gave birth to a baby with disability that died after a month. She was continuously abused and tortured by her husband and was not provided

alimony. The Shelter Home contacted her husband, but he did not appear. Lubna was provided legal aid through filing a petition for dowry. Her husband killed a neighbour and sentenced to jail. Lubna had been in severe trauma condition. The Shelter Home provided psychological and





technical Aid to Lubna. Being an educated woman, Lubna started her career as private school teacher after psychological counselling by the Shelter Home. Lubna filed a case of "separation of marriage" and got rid of her abusive husband.

After, separation, Lubna is leading a happy life and is teaching in a private school and also, sews clothes of women. This is one of the many examples of how women development department is helping and not only providing psychological support and shelter, but also, enabling and

providing legal and technical support to make them strong and independent.



Migration has always resulted from a mismatch between quantitative and qualitative labour supply and demand aspects. The COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdown of economic activities which has impacted the situation of migrant labour. Targeted programs for social groups in vulnerable situations have been designed and implemented in education, health, livelihoods, skills, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, among others.

3.10.2 Challenges

Azad Jammu and Kashmir faces inequality challenges because of cultural norms and a male-dominated society. The regular data on income and inequalities is not collected in AJ&K, highlighting the need for improving inclusivity in policy, research and data gathering. Financial constraints are also one of the challenges in the achievement of SDG-10.

3.10.3 Way Forward

Policies and programmatic approaches that empower women, create opportunities for youth and disadvantaged communities, increase economic inclusion and create decent work are needed to reduce inequalities in the states. Efforts to increase social protection coverage through encouraging domestic resource mobilization and stimulating public and private sector development are required

in the State with already limited fiscal resources. Creating access to abundant and high-income employment opportunities, ensuring equity-based public spending, closing the regional growth gap and accelerating the poor's entry into the production sector such as agriculture, livestock and infrastructural development are critical steps in addressing economic inequality. Furthermore, data generation and analysis systems interlinked with civil registration authorities to produce the Gini coefficient and calculate the skill premium (either based on returns to education or the ratio of skilled to unskilled wages) are required for informed policymaking.





Goal 11



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

3.11 SDG-11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Urbanization provides more employment opportunities and better facilities. As a result, people migrate from rural to urban areas. Due to rapid urbanization, there is an increase in the demand for necessities, including clean water, sanitation, public services, energy, education and healthcare. This increase in population and migration from rural to urban areas requires sustainable urban planning for future generations.

3.11.1 Progress

The Government of AJ&K is making progress toward sustainable cities by improving the road infrastructure, which

ultimately decreases road traffic accidents. This decreased the number of deaths and injured persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population from 238 and 684 in 2016-17 to 43 and 279 respectively in 2020-21. The AJ&K's disaster management plan puts a proactive approach to disaster resilience driven by prevention, mitigation and preparedness strategies to achieve sustainable cities and communities. Similarly, sustainable cities need a proper mechanism for solid waste management; in that aspect, the Local Government and Rural Development Department of AJ&K, in collaboration with the Water and Power Development Authority of Pakistan, planned a Project named "Integrated Solid Waste Management and Recycling" in municipal corporation Muzaffarabad.

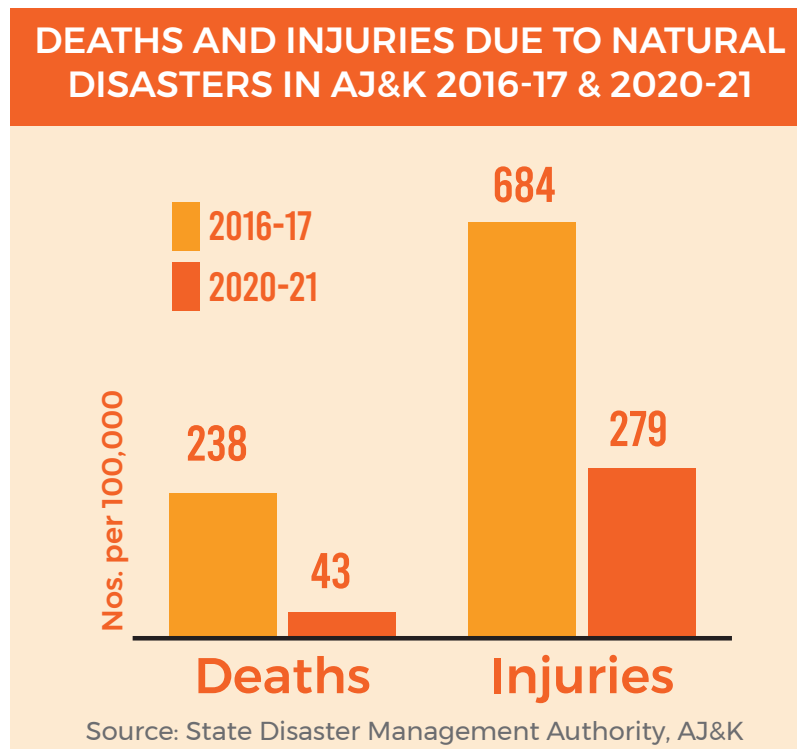


Figure 25. Deaths and Injuries due to disasters in AJ&K, 2016-17 & 2020-21



Box 8

Using Satellite Imageries for Land Use Planning

The Government of the Azad State of Jammu, Kashmir and Pakistan signed an MoU on 24th December 2019 at Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission Islamabad to provide remote sensing technologies for the overall socio-economic uplift of the State. In this regard, the Land Use Plan section of P&DD has signed 1.5 years consultancy contract to develop "Land Use/land Cover of District Mirpur and District Bhimber using High-Resolution Worldview-3 Satellite Imageries" along with its capacity building. High resolution and accurate map of land cover/land use are still not available in AJ&K, which are considered very important for the enforcement of the Land Use Act and master Planning of Urban Sectors in addition to sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem and landscape dynamics to formulate and implement appropriate risk management strategy and planning

infrastructure investment (roads, warehouses, civic facilities). The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission has finalized two districts of AJ&K so far and Land Use Plan itself will complete the remaining districts of AJ&K.



Box 9

Mapping of State-Owned Land Assets

Land Use Plan has completed the special task of GIS (Geographic Information System) based Cadastral Mapping of the State-Owned Land (Forests, Khalsa Awarded and Evacuee) along with printed "GIS-Based cadastral Mapping Atlas" (District-wise) for all ten districts of AJ&K. This "GIS-Based Cadastral Mapping Atlas" and web-based geodatabase is providing baseline information to Board of Revenue and Forest Department and also helping them to augment in developmental planning, decision making and in anti-encroachment drive. Recently, the Government of AJ&K has extensively used this online user-friendly Web-GIS Application (District-wise) developed for visualizing GIS-based Cadastral records and encroachment, which on a single click in the GIS Mapping context during

any public land anti-encroachment drive provides a clear view of the situation and helping the government of AJ&K.





Box 10

Geographical Information System in AJ&K

Planning and Development Department has recently centralized the “ADP GIS Portal” for development projects of various sectors for the first time in AJ&K, which consists of multi-sectoral information assembled from a wide range of sources spanning from geo-tagged field survey by superimposing the entire governance structure of the State along with the developmental projects of ADP sectors (Communications

and Works, Physical Planning & Housing Department, etc.) on very high-resolution satellite imageries. The online GIS portal has been assigned to illustrate quarterly developmental projects’ physical and financial progress. Currently, this “ADP GIS Portal” is being used by Planning and Development Department for project appraisal.



3.11.2 Challenges

Implementation of a sustainable cities and communities targets would be challenging in AJ&K because of the rapid and unplanned urbanization, overpopulation and high population density, especially in urban areas. High levels of urbanization have constrained resources and poor implementation of legal regimes has resulted in encroachment of public land creating further congestion in urban areas. Unchecked increase in vehicles has created congestion on roads, and increased incidence of road traffic accidents has contributed to the environmental degradation in AJ&K.

3.11.3 Way Forward

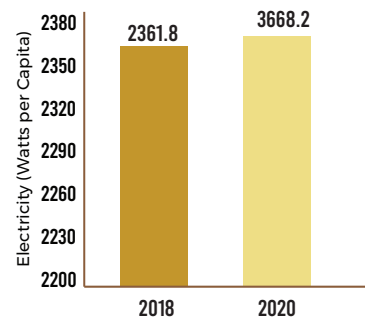
The Government of AJ&K needs to undertake massive reforms to create sustainable cities, including introducing a more significant number of traffic police officials, clearing encroached lands to create green spaces, monitoring road traffic and reducing unplanned urbanization. The ministries of Communications and Works, Physical Planning & Housing, Local Government and Rural Development Department, Environment, Forests, Tourism and Archaeology and State Disaster Management Authority can play a crucial role in ensuring safe and sustainable communities in AJ&K.



Goal 12



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



INSTALLED RENEWABLE ENERGY-GENERATING CAPACITY

Indicators:

12.a.1

Data Source: Planning and Development Department AJ&K

3.12 SDG-12 Responsible Consumption and Production

Azad Jammu and Kashmir is bestowed with an abundance of natural resources. The sustainable consumption and production of natural resources mean “doing more and better with less.” It also includes increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation and pollution while increasing the quality of life.

3.12.1 Progress

The Government of AJ&K has recognized the gaps that exist along with responsible consumption and production and is planning to introduce recycling centers in the State to ensure the reduction, recycling and reuse of waste materials. In partnership with academia, the Government is also looking to improve scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Under the Pakistan Nation Action Plan for SDG 12, Azad Jammu and Kashmir’s national action plan on sustainable consumption and productivity is also in progress. Moreover, for sustainable production, Disaster Management Authority is already functional and operating due to the State’s vulnerability to disasters. The Authority acts as a leading agency in disaster management, mitigation and preparedness against multiple hazards like earthquakes, torrential rain/flood, landslides, avalanches

and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods.

3.12.2 Challenges

Azad Jammu and Kashmir do not have any institutionalized processes that directly pertain to sustainable consumption and production of resources. That is further aggravated by the absence of recycling or waste water management facilities and the lack of data on the level of fossil fuel consumption. Similarly, there are no checks on the rate of food waste at the retail and consumer level or along the production and supply chain in AJ&K.

3.12.3 Way Forward

Sustainable consumption and production promote resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, access to essential services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all. Its implementation helps achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty. It also requires a systematic approach and cooperation among actors operating in the supply chain, from producer to final consumer. It involves engaging consumers through awareness-raising and education on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, providing them with adequate information through standards, labeling and engagement in sustainable public procurement. This will involve a global partnership between businesses, consumers, policymakers, researchers, scientists, retailers, media and development cooperation agencies.



Goal 13



CLIMATE ACTION

3.13 SDG-13 Climate Action

The adverse global climate change creates acute environmental risks, impacting human and natural systems. Climate degradation will likely bring about wide-ranging political-economic, social and governance-related challenges.

3.13.1 Progress

The Disaster and Climate Resilience Improvement Project was launched in AJ&K in collaboration with World Bank, with the aim to restore flood protection infrastructure to resilient standards and institutional strengthening to improve government capacity to manage disasters and climate variability in the future. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Climate Change Center was established at Environment Protection Agency to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts under Goal 13. Also, a climate change policy was developed, approved and mainstreaming of environmental considerations in development projects was also being considered. World Food Programme partnered with the Government of AJ&K in constructing Humanitarian Response Facilities in the region. These facilities would support in saving lives by prepositioning non-food relief items close to the affected populations in the event of disasters.

Moreover, the Government of AJ&K is also working under the International Union for Conservation of Nature guidelines for environmental protection. Given decreasing forest cover in AJ&K, the forest department controls forestlands through policing, enforcement of forest laws, rules and regulations, afforestation and promotion of tree plantation in the private sector. In the last few years, reforestation has been carried out on over 202,350 hectares. In this aspect, the Ten billion Tree Tsunami Project is also in progress in AJ&K to increase the ecosystem restoration in the region. Furthermore, fast-growing

industrial trees like poplar are being planted on a large scale, especially in and around Rawalakot. Moreover, the Forest Department also has an active watershed program to control soil erosion and stabilize slopes. AJ&K has been subdivided into 351 sub-catchments and Land Use Plans have been prepared for 184 sub-watersheds.

The AJ&K region is most vulnerable to adverse climate change impacts. The threatened areas or resources include permanent ice cover, rivers' hydrology and agriculture. The EPA carried out "first State of Environment of AJ&K" in 2018-19 to establish a baseline for the environment and climate change. The temporal analysis (2000, 2010 & 2017) revealed that permanent ice cover had been reduced from 4.1 percent (of the total land of AJ&K) in 2000 to 3.1 percent in 2017, amounting to 11,500 hectares. This reduction in ice cover directly impacts rivers and streams located in the Himalayan range of AJ&K. The extraordinary measures to address climate change issues holistically focused on mainstreaming climate change considerations in the planning process include the formulation of Climate Change Policy 2017, AJ&K Sectoral Strategies for Climate Change (adaptation, mitigation, monitoring & evaluation as of 2035) and AJ&K Sectoral Action Plan for Climate Change (2019-2030).

The issue of glacial melt due to climate change is always accompanied by the creation of new lakes and the occurrence of some disastrous happening like GLOF. A special study design is under process to assess the rate of glacial melt and the extent of retreat which will include the formulation of the 'emission inventory' of AJ&K to identify the local sources of Green House Gases so that the nature and scope of response could be assessed.

3.13.2 Challenges

Increasing temperatures, resulting in ecological shifts and changed land use



pressures, result in the degradation of watersheds, forests, rangeland and other essential biodiversity. Azad Jammu and Kashmir faces rapid deforestation, some of which are due to anthropogenic deforestation. At the same time, soil erosion, natural disasters and other extreme weather events lead to a shift in the tree lines. There is an increased

incidence of invasive species and pests in forest areas. Scrub trees are encroaching in Chir pine areas. Chir pine trees are encroaching the areas previously for blue pine trees, which are encroaching for Silver Cedrus, Deodara forests are migrating to sub-alpine areas (Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 2020).

Box 11

Strengthening Communities for Environment Protection

Environmental Conservation Organization

Environmental Conservation Organization with the help of Azad Kashmir Community Development Program has outlined village development plan, with the purpose to stop migration of people from villages to cities by providing basic facilities at local level. Believing in the idea and grasping the vision that sustainable development and economic growth need social organization and resource mobilization, economic cooperation organization is established with the motives to mobilize, motivate and organize communities. Its main focus is on environment, water and sanitation, livelihood, technical and vocational education and health hygiene promotion. Currently, it is working on its 10 years plan, Decade Development Goal

2013-2025, while working on a proposal of a providing Micro-Hydel Projects and Biogas to provide alternate energy source to the people of the state. Economic Cooperation Organization is conducting free medical camps in different areas of AJ&K to improve the quality of life of common people which do not have access to the medical facilities. In collaboration with the Aiming Change for Tomorrow organization and Special Communication Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization is providing free books, school bags, uniforms and scholarships to the deserving children. For women empowerment, the organization has provided sewing machines to the women of villages in AJ&K.



INTERNAL
MIGRATION



MIGRATION FROM THE
COUNTRYSIDE TO THE TOWN



RURAL
MIGRATION

3.13.3 Way Forward

Relevant government organizations require significant efforts to operate and implement schemes to reduce the impact of climate change. Non-

Governmental organizations, community support organizations and media also have an essential role in raising awareness amongst the public to create a desire for change at the grassroots level.



Goal 13



LIFE BELOW WATER

3.14 SDG-14 Life below Water

The surface water resources in AJ&K consist of three main rivers, the Jhelum, the Neelum and the Poonch, with their tributaries draining into the Mangla Reservoir. These rivers originate from glaciers of ice cap mountains of Indian Administered Kashmir and travel hundreds of kilometers to reach Punjab and Sindh, offering great potential for inland fisheries in the private sector and big water bodies beside riverine fisheries. This sweet and clean water contains biodiversity, fertile soils and other riches. The State is rich in surface water resources (inland) which offers excellent habitat for fish. The essential types of fish available in various rivers are as under:

- The Neelum River: Snow Trout, Gulfam, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout,
- The Jhelum River: Gulfam and Snow Trout.
- The Poonch River: Mahasheer, Gulfam and Snow Trout.
- Mangla Lake: Mahasheer and Rohu, Malli, Singhara, Grass carp, Silver Carp, Common carp, Bighead, Mohri, Thalla, Tilapi

3.14.1 Progress

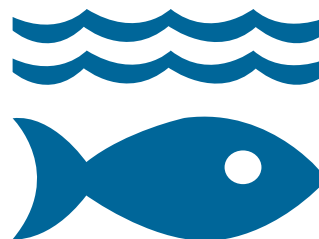
The Fisheries Department of AJ&K has five cold water hatcheries in the Neelum district and one warm water hatchery in Muzaffarabad and all of these are functional. The Wildlife and Fisheries Department has eight national parks: two in Neelum, one each in Bhimber, Kotli, Sudhnoti, Muzaffarabad, Poonch and one stretched across Kotli, Sudhnoti and Poonch. The Poonch River was declared the first-ever National Park for globally threatened fish species, Mahasheer.

3.14.2 Challenges

The aquatic environment is already under stress from over-exploitation, pollution, declining biodiversity, climate change, increase in hypoxic areas, expansion of invasive species and ocean acidification. In recent decades, economic growth in Fisheries and Aquaculture has been accomplished in several parts of the world through the unsustainable exploitation of many aquatic resources. In the case of Fisheries, such growth has commonly not allowed fish stocks or habitats to regenerate, resulting in overfishing, ecosystem degradation and habitat and biodiversity loss.

3.14.3 Way Forward

The Government of AJ&K should prevent and reduce water debris and nutrient pollution. Protecting water ecosystems will help conserve the rare species of fishes and other biotas below water. The biotechnology centers for the conservation of fishes should be established. Regulation of harvesting, overfishing, illegal, unregulated, unreported fishing and destructive fishing practices to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks is required from the Government of AJ&K.



Goal 15



LIFE ON LAND

3.15 SDG-15 Life on Land

A flourishing life on land is the foundation for our life on this planet. We are all part of the planet's ecosystem and we have caused severe damage to it through deforestation, loss of natural habitats and land degradation. Promoting sustainable use of our ecosystems and preserving biodiversity is not a cause. It is the key to our survival.

3.15.1 Progress

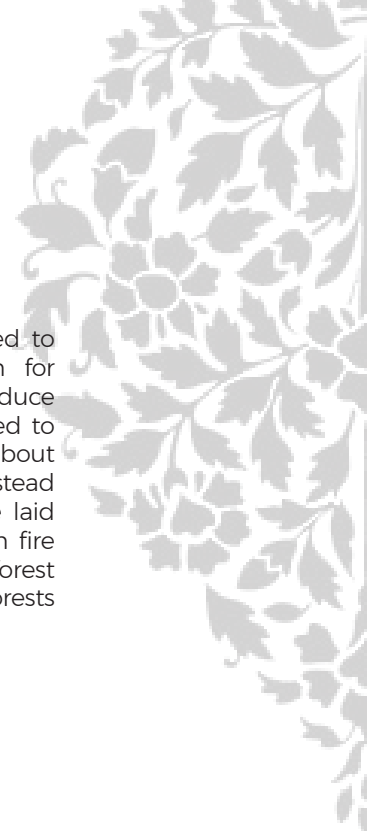
In AJ&K, the area under the control of the forest department is 0.567 million hectares, which is 42.63 percent of the region's total area. The area under actual forests is 11.60 percent and the area under thinly wooded forests is 16.90 percent. The number of saplings laid have increased from 8,906,545 (13,778 acres) in 2017 to 25,450,923 (25,333 acres) in 2020 (Planning and Development Department AJ&K, 2020). Forest department distributed 8.203 million plants under TBTP from 2019 till 31st January, 2022 in AJ&K. Forest department improved rangeland area of 50 acres in last three years. The protected area under the wildlife department for National Parks has increased from 101,441 hectares in 2017 to 118,517 hectares in 2020. The forest department also manages 11 game reserves (three in Bagh, three in Haveli, one in Neelum, two in Jhelum Valley, one in Poonch, one in Sudhnoti). A game reservoir is an area where controlled hunting is allowed, whereas, in National Parks, hunting is prohibited and illegal.

The forest department is developing management plans for schemes and programs to build an interest in wildlife and fisheries. Increasing the population of "Himalayan Ibex" is also being considered by the Wildlife and Fisheries Department for introducing trophy hunting of these animals through controlled and regulated hunting licenses. Three captive breeding centers and zoos are under development in Peer Chinasi, Mangla and

Banjosa. The Department has organized a community organization system under the "Convention on Biological Diversity" targets and biodiversity programs. They are achieving most of the targets and forming 160 communities supported by the Green Pakistan Project and Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Program. These communities are playing their role in respect of public-private partnerships in different sectors related to wildlife and fisheries. Liquid petroleum gas cylinders on a 50 percent cost-sharing basis are being provided to preserve the forests and reduce the wood burning in houses for cooking. According to SDGs targets set by the Department, 17 percent of the total area of AJ&K will be protected by 2030, but only 9 percent of it is currently protected. A Wildlife Conservation Fund was established in which the Government of AJ&K provided PKR 10 million seed money and other funds are expected from sources, including local communities, donor organizations and funds through Corporate Social Responsibility. The Department is also generating funds from dam construction companies for hydropower through their Corporate Social Responsibility fund and plans to improve the local communities' infrastructure.

3.15.2 Challenges

Deforestation is a major challenge in AJ&K, leading to land degradation, floods and disasters, ultimately disproportionately impacting the poor segment of society. Consequently, it also reduces the impact of other development initiatives. Ninety percent of the population in AJ&K relies on wood as their primary source of cooking fuel. Severe cold weather coupled with reduced electricity generation capacity during winters exacerbates challenges for the local population. In addition, forest wood is also being used for construction purposes. Consequently, the increased demand for wood leads to increased pressure on forests and contributes to deforestation, which is more noticeable in



clusters with a poor population. In addition, forest fire and illegal encroachment are adversely affecting the forest areas in AJ&K.

3.15.3 Way Forward

The Government needs to devise more projects to protect wildlife, biodiversity and the mountain ecosystem. Projects need to be designed to improve the community's wildlife protection and the mountain

ecosystem. More projects are needed to strengthen the monitoring system for sustainable forest management. To reduce deforestation, campaigns are required to raise awareness among the masses about deforestation's consequences. Instead of plantations, more forests may be laid down and protection of forests from fire and encroachments as protection of forest would lead to natural regulation of forests which is cost-effective as well.



Goal 16



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

3.16 SDG-16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Sustainable development can only be achieved by promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

3.16.1 Progress

The proportion of children under five years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority increased from 29 percent in 2016-17 to 31.8 percent in 2020-21. A comprehensive digital system for civil registration has been established under the Local Government and Rural Development Department. The data generated by the Civil Registration system shall be helpful to track the progress of 12 of the 17 SDGs related to social

protection, education, economic growth, employment, health, disabilities, social and political rights, and gender equality. Civil Registration linked with an identity management system shall facilitate increasing tax revenues, modernizing banking and improving the overall delivery of social services. The rule of law, a peaceful and crime-free society, is the basic responsibility of any law enforcement agency. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police have been tackling all types of violence and organized crimes timely. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police practice Community Policing with different stakeholders and the public. Several awareness campaigns have been launched through different seminars, walks, social, print and electronic media. There is a zero-tolerance policy on corruption and bribery in AJ&K Police. Crimes in AJ&K reduced from 7,767 in 2018 to 5,335 in 2021. Azad Jammu and Kashmir police have also played a role in the United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Box 12

Local Bodies Election AJ&K 2022

After long legal battle, Supreme Court of AJ&K ordered government to hold local bodies election before August 2022 which received wider public appreciation and support. On the other side, the absence of local bodies system from more than three decades also necessitates debates and dialogue among various sections of society and political leadership on its various dimensions. The local government structures with capacity to offer spaces for leadership, building trust and developing political and conflict resolution skills is significant if structured and informed debate and discussions are held at societal level. The transformation of powers at grass root level would definitely support in implementation and achieving the SDGs in AJ&K. Local governments focus on various

provision of resources to the population such as drinking water, sanitation, health services, education, construction works like roads, pavements, foot bridges etc.





Box 13

Establishment of First-ever Women Police Station in AJ&K

The first-ever Women Police Station was established in the Poonch region, district Rawalakot in November 2021 to avoid any kind of gender discrimination within the Police Organization. In this Police Station, women Police officials are practicing Policing independently. Significant progress has been observed from this great initiative in four months of this Police Station establishment. Due

to gender equality, women officials and complainants have more motivation and confidence.

Several cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence reported by the women applicants were resolved, which is a success story of this first-ever Women Police Station in AJ&K.



Box 14

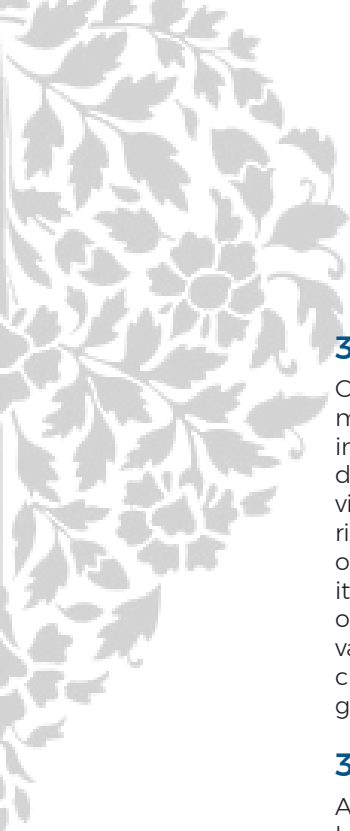
Petroleum Oil Lubricants Quality Control and Weights & Measures Labs with Mobile Unit at Mirpur

The department of Industries and Commerce with the technical consultancy of National Physical Standard Laboratory and Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan initiated a development project in order to ensure the pure supply of hydrocarbons to consumers under Petroleum Act, 1934 and assure accuracy in standards adopted for weights and measures for public welfare under Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

The Project envisages the pure supply of the petrol, diesel, kerosene oil, LPG LNG, Oils, and lubricants to the consumers and the certainty in weights and measures

instruments being operational in trade at industrial and commercial level to eradicate the technical theft through in house quality testing and calibration equipment and on spot quality inspection and quantity verification of weights and measures. The project after getting the approval from competent forum AKDWP and AKCDC. The laboratory is divided into 2 sections of Petroleum Oils Lubricants Quality Control and Weights and measures with Mobile Testing Unit for on spot verification of measures and quality parameters for petroleum products under Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and Petroleum Act, 1934 respectively.





3.16.2 Challenges

One of the biggest challenges besetting most of the targets of SDG 16 is the inadequacy of comprehensive and disaggregated data. Adequate reporting of violence cases and instances of violation of rights must be ensured. Though the extent of reporting has improved in recent years, it is essential to improve the availability of comprehensive and updated data on various types of offenses and reports on crimes against women, children and other groups in vulnerable situations.

3.16.3 Way Forward

Although the State of AJ&K has a stable law and order situation, efforts must be made to increase reporting and reduce the incidence of abuse, flow of illegal funds, availability of firearms, establishment of strong institutions and legal mechanisms to combat injustice and reduction of bribery and corruption. Participatory decision-making is required

at all levels and AJ&K needs to ensure freedom of access to information to generate awareness and public debate regarding such issues. Good governance and inclusive democratic practices and strengthening the role of constitutional bodies and democratic institutions will be essential to achieve these targets.





Goal 17



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG-17 Partnerships for the Goals

The Global Goals can only be met if all the relevant stakeholders work together. International investments and support are needed to ensure innovative technological development, fair trade and market access, especially for developing countries. There is a need to be supportive, empathetic, inventive, passionate and cooperative to build a better world.

3.17.1 Progress

A coherent institutional and policy environment is necessary to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve AJ&K's development priorities. Azad Jammu and Kashmir is the only region in Pakistan that has developed the baseline for the SDG indicator 17.14.1 "mechanism in place to enhance policy coherence". To enhance policy coherence, 59 percent of mechanisms are in place for sustainable development in AJ&K. The Government of AJ&K, through Azad Kashmir Small Industries Cooperation, in partnership with a private organization AKHUWAT, launched an interest-free self-employment scheme in AJ&K. The purpose of this magnanimous venture is to create employment opportunities, poverty alleviation and socio-economic uplift in AJ&K through the provision of an interest-free loan.

The Government of AJ&K, to build a partnership with the international community, is working currently with eight United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programs, including the United Nations Development Program, International Labour Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, World Food Program, World Health Organization, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Department of Safety and Security, within the thematic areas of

Nutrition, Health, WASH, Education, Social Protection - Conditional Cash Transfers (EHSAAAS Nashonuma), agriculture and others. United Nations Agencies, Funds, Programs have been working closely with the Government of Pakistan and numerous Ministries at the local level in AJ&K directly and through implementing partners (NGOs/CSOs) in areas where the organization has no physical presence. The United Nations World Food Programme has been working in AJ&K since 1972. World Food Programme works closely with the State Government of AJ&K and cooperating partners in sectors including humanitarian response, education, forestry, food security, health and nutrition. With World Bank's collaboration, the Disaster and Climate Resilience Improvement Project has been launched in AJ&K, which aims to restore flood protection infrastructure to resilient standards and institutional strengthening to improve government capacity to manage disasters and climate variability in the future. The Government of AJ&K has given the 52 schools to the private sector through a public-private partnership.

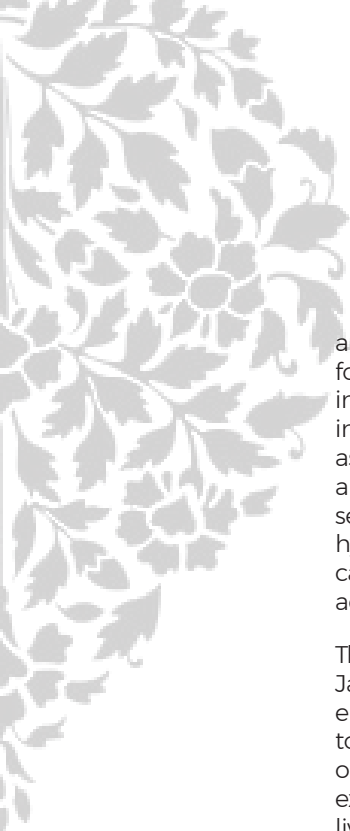
3.17.2 Challenges

The topography and geopolitical circumstances of AJ&K present challenges like reduced investment, increased risk of hazards and the situation at the Line of Control. The absence of devolution and localization in development planning puts challenges to improving the economy and infrastructure development.

3.17.3 Way Forward

The private sector engagement will be required for advocacy on the 2030 Agenda to build capacity in the private sector. Businesses need to be encouraged to align their practices with the SDGs to help initiate social impact and financing for development in AJ&K. Engagement of community-based organizations through a participatory approach for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public sector interventions





and creating a conducive environment for the private sector through regulation, incentives and development of infrastructure in promising sectors such as tourism, minerals, and agriculture and also providing incentives to the private sector for partnership on mega projects in hydro-power, mineral and tourism sectors can help in accelerating the progress of achieving SDGs on time.

The working of the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir with local market entities to explore market dynamics and to help in expanding the market, focusing on climate-resilient initiatives to reduce exposure and vulnerability of communities living in remote areas to climate-related extreme events and enhancing women's leadership, reducing inequalities at all levels, reaching remote communities

through information, communication and technology initiatives, enabling remote communities to access green energy at most economical prices and to reduce unemployment significantly will be key areas that will be focused for better results in the future.





**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K



Section 4



MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING Mechanisms for SDGs



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING MECHANISMS

4 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanisms for SDGs

The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has made concerted efforts to increase its statistical capacity, including establishing a Bureau of Statistics at the Planning and Development Department AJ&K, which has been functional since September 2016. Under the AJ&K Rules of Business, Planning and Development Department is responsible for conducting research and collecting and disseminating information on economic and social sector indicators. Prior to forming the AJ&K Bureau of Statistics, the Government relied on institutional arrangements with federal and provincial statistical bureaus. Now the Government of AJ&K developed its own Bureau of Statistics through a development scheme. The objective of the AJ&K Bureau of Statistics is to produce accurate and quality information with reliable statistics for realistic, efficient

and effective planning and operation and to accelerate the development process. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bureau of Statistics is currently focused on secondary data reporting; however, with SDG implementation and increased interest in data availability, the Bureau has completed the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2020-21 with the technical support of UNICEF. AJ&K MICS 2020-21 report was launched on 25th February 2022. The child Labour Survey will be conducted through partnerships with UNICEF shortly. This will go a long way to generating the AJ&K Bureau of Statistics' capacity to undertake surveys and analyses independently.

The Government of AJ&K is responsible for reporting 145 SDGs indicators of 247. Among these 145 indicators, the baseline for 103 indicators has been established. Furthermore, the targets for 80 percent of the indicators have also been set by AJ&K, which is paving the way for the localization of SDGs in AJ&K.





Goal No	Sustainable Development Goals	Indicators		Available Data			Required Data			Total Required for AJ&K
		Total	Relevant to AJ&K	District Level	State Level	National/Glob al Level	District Level	State Level	National/Glob al Level	
1	No Poverty	13	10	5	4	0	0	0	1	1
2	Zero Hunger	14	11	3	6	0	0	2	0	2
3	Good Health & Wellbeing	28	26	5	14	1	0	6	0	6
4	Quality Education	12	11	9	1	0	0	1	0	1
5	Gender Equality	14	10	0	7	0	1	2	0	3
6	Clean Water & Sanitation	11	10	2	0	0	5	2	1	8
7	Affordable & Clean Energy	6	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	16	9	1	8	0	0	0	0	0
9	Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	12	6	0	2	0	1	3	0	4
10	Reduced Inequalities	14	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
11	Sustainable Cities & Communities	14	11	1	4	1	1	4	0	5
12	Responsible Production & Consumption	13	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
13	Climate Action	8	4	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
14	Life Below Water	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	Life on Land	14	5	0	3	1	0	1	0	1
16	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	24	19	0	11	2	1	5	0	6
17	Partnerships for the Goals	24	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Indicators		247	145	30	67	6	9	31	2	42

Table 7. Goal wise availability of data for SDGS in AJ&K, 2021





S.No	Department	Total Indicators	Data Available	Missing
01	Agriculture	05	03	02
02	Board of Revenue	02	02	0
03	C&W	02	0	02
04	EPA	05	02	03
05	PDO	02	02	0
06	Finance	01	01	0
07	Forest	03	03	0
08	Health	26	19	07
09	Education (Higher)	01	0	01
10	Industries	01	01	0
11	IT Board	03	03	0
12	Labour	07	06	01
13	Law	04	02	02
14	LG&RD	08	03	05
15	Livestock	01	01	00
16	P&DD	23	14	09
17	Police	10	08	02
18	Population Welfare	04	04	0
19	PP&H	01	0	01
20	Education (Schools)	13	10	03
21	SDMA	07	07	0
22	Women Development	03	02	01
23	Fisheries	01	01	0
24	Wildlife	01	0	01
25	Electricity	02	02	0
26	Social Welfare	07	06	01
27	Transport Authority	01	0	01
28	Youth Deptt	01	01	0
Total		145	103	42

Table 8. Department wise available data for SDGs in AJ&K, 2022 (145 Indicators)

S.No	Surveys	Total Indicators	Data Available	Missing
01	LFS	11	09	02
02	MICS	08	08	0
03	NNS	04	04	0
04	PDHS	12	09	03
05	PMMS	01	01	0
06	PSLM	32	24	08
Total		68	55	13

Table 9. Available data for SDGs through Surveys in AJ&K (68 Indicators)



S.No	Department	Missing Data
01	Agriculture Deptt	01
02	Education Schools	03
03	EPA	03
04	Health	05
05	Law	02
06	LG&RDD	05
07	P&DD	06
08	Police	01
09	PP&H	01
10	Transport Authority	01
11	Wildlife	01
Total		29

Table 10. Status of Missing SDGs Data through Admin in AJ&K (29 Indicators)

AJ&K will report on 145 indicators of 247. Of the 145 Indicators, 98 are Regional, 39 District, 01 Global and 07 National Indicators.

01 Global indicator 17.14.1 and 07 National indicators 1.1.1, 3.d1,6.6.1, 11.5.2, 15.a.1(a), 16.2.2, 16.4.2 have been included for reporting in AJ&K.

65 National SDGs Indicators and 29 Global Indicators and 08 Regional Indicators 1.5.2, 2.c.1, 3.5.2, 5.3.2, 6.5.2, 11.4.1, 15.1.2 and 17.6.1 have been excluded for reporting in AJ&K

Out of 247 Global Indicators, 145 Indicators pertain to AJ&K. Of these 145 Indicators,

68 are Survey based and 77 are Admin based. Of the 145 Indicators pertaining to AJ&K, data is available for 103 Indicators among which 55 are Survey based while 48 indicators are Admin based (Detail of the Survey and Admin Data is given below). Data on 42 indicators is still required for AJ&K of which 13 indicators are Survey based (LFS 2, PDHS 3, PSLM 8), and 29 are Admin based.

4.1 MICS in AJ&K

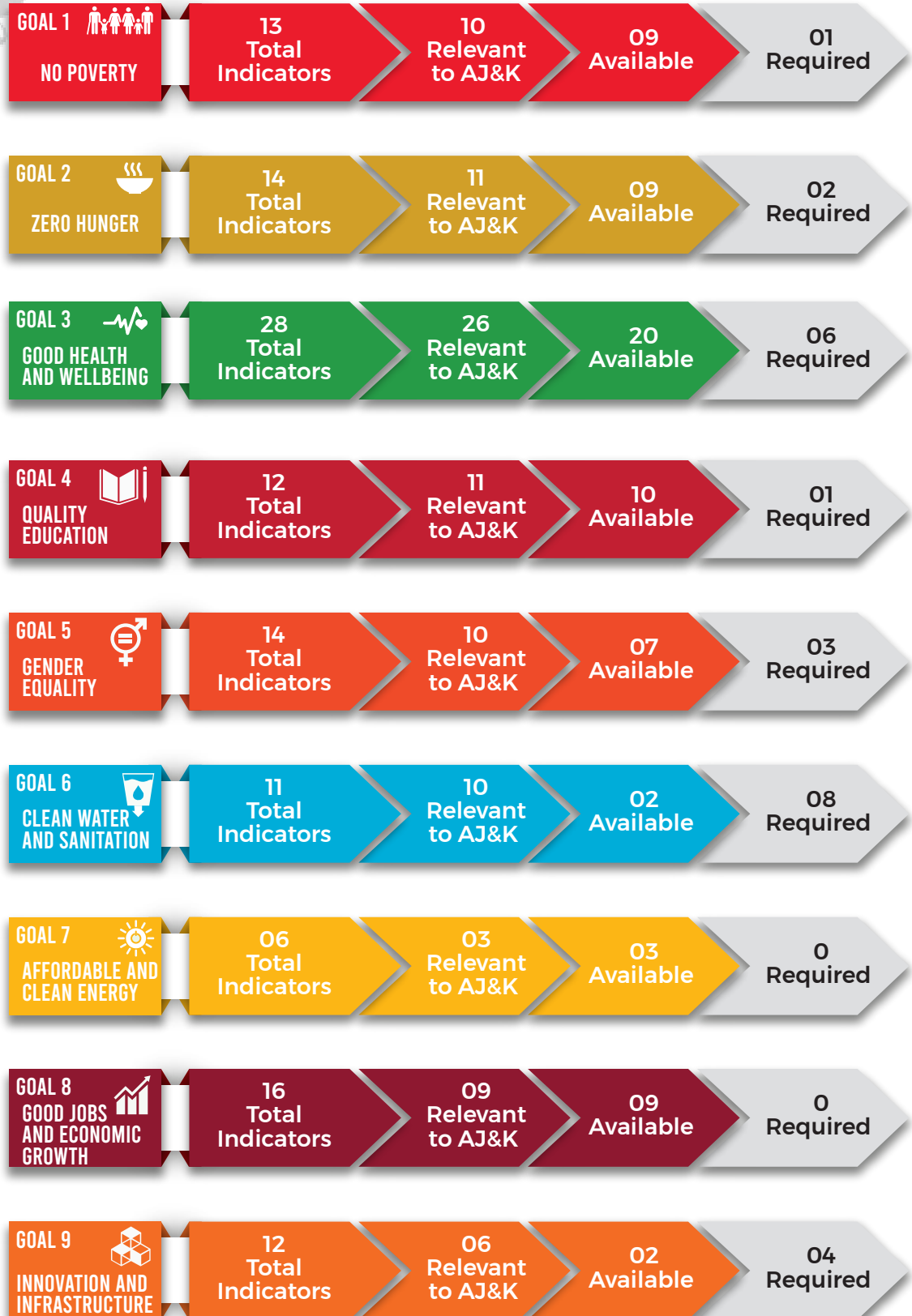
In light of the approved Data Rules 2021 by MoPD&SI, AJ&K will use/report data for only 08 SDGs Indicators gathered through MICS 9.

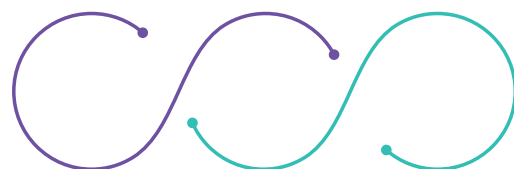
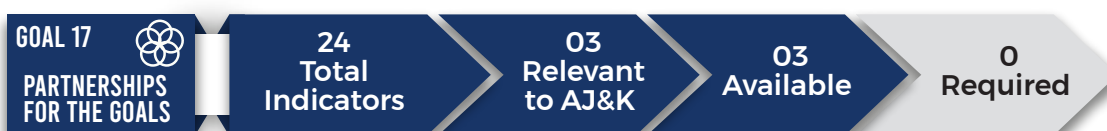
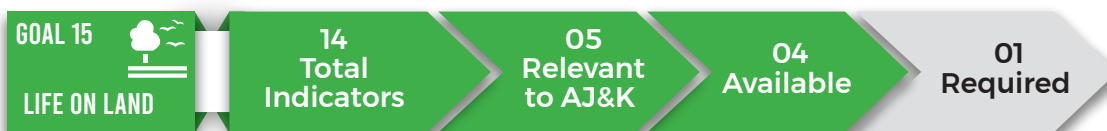
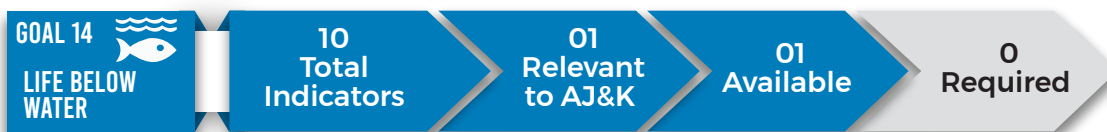
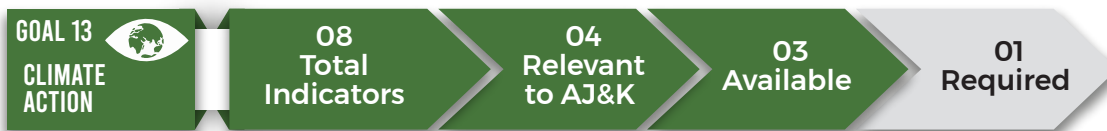
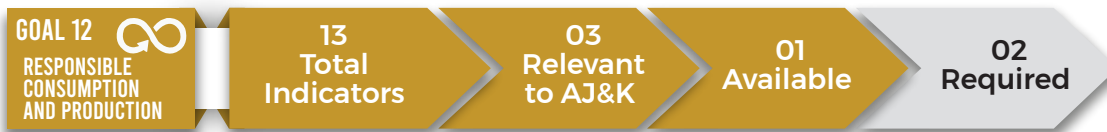
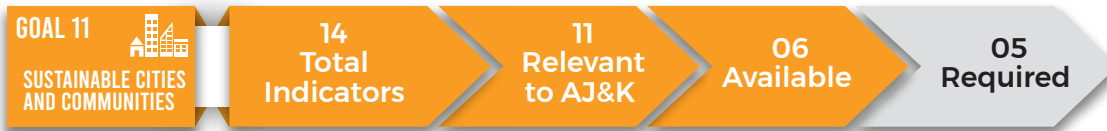
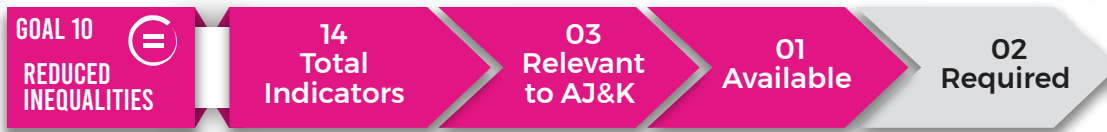


Figure 26. SDGs indicators addressed through MICS in AJ&K



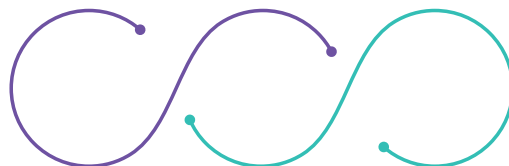
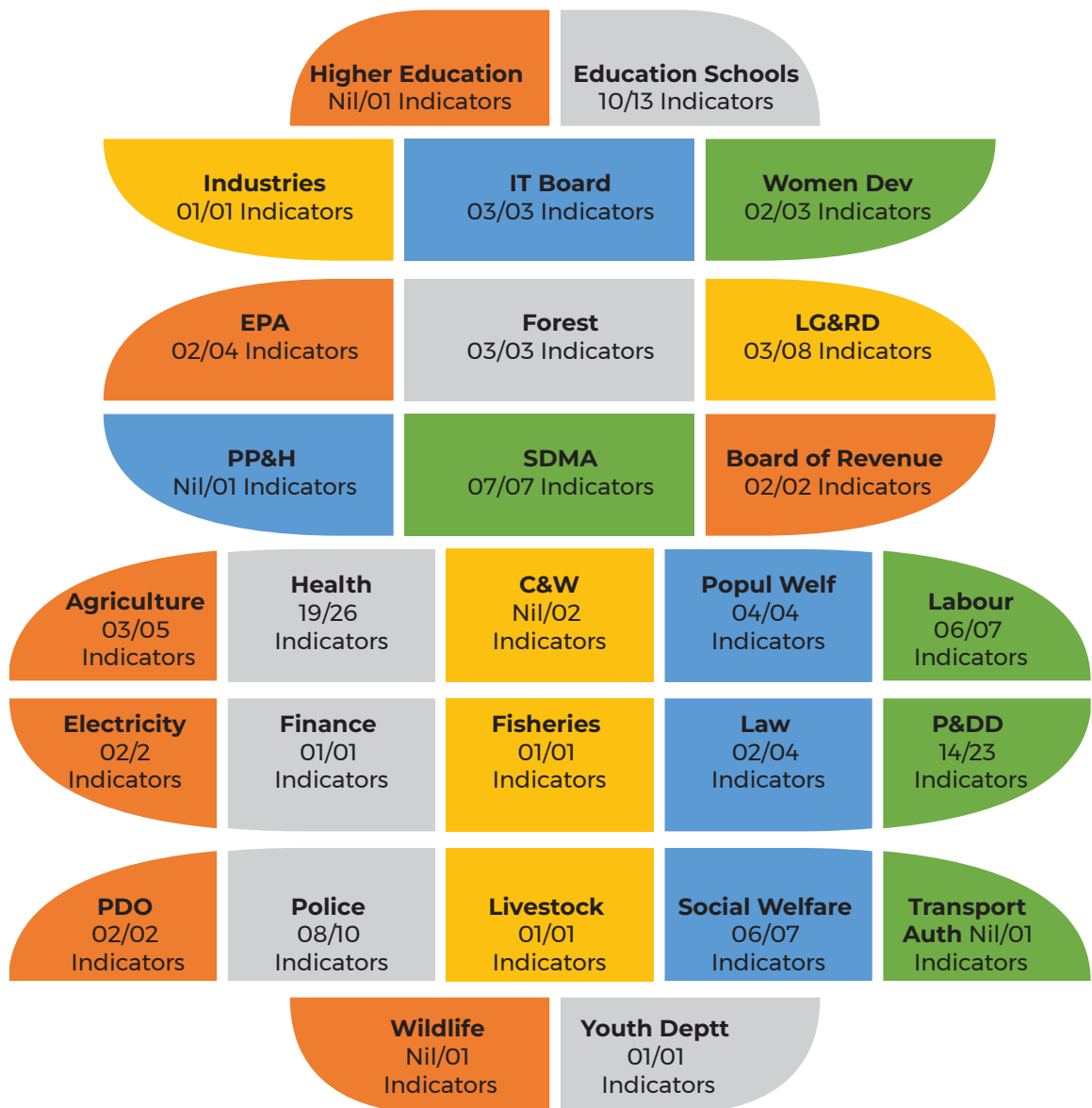
AJ&K SDGs Data Availability







Department-wise Available Data (Available/Total)





**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K



Section 5



INNOVATION



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





INNOVATION

5 Innovation

AJ&K's Policies are mapped with the SDGs to foster innovation. The Government of AJ&K has defined human development and sustainable use of its natural resources as its priority. The draft industrial and economic policy envisioned for AJ&K is to leap towards a knowledge base economy while bringing competitiveness in existing resource seeking and tourism sectors by bringing efficiency-driven investment. The product sophistication and vertical integration maximize the geographical location advantage and horizontal policy focuses on converting comparative advantage to competitive advantage.

The economy of AJ&K depends heavily on agriculture, livestock, tourism and foreign remittances. Given these circumstances, the AJ&K government has recognized the importance of tourism in generating revenue for the state and has taken several steps to develop this sector. Today, tourism contributes to nearly three percent of the state's economy and around 22 percent of the region's population is directly or indirectly involved in the tourism sector. Further to this endeavour, steps were taken to preserve and protect archaeological sites and historical assets.

The Government of AJ&K is working to establish three tourism corridors in the region to attract local and foreign tourists to promote, develop and invest in the tourism sector. One special economic zone is being planned under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The tourism sector is also focused on increasing tourism in AJ&K. The idea of home-based guest houses was executed, which increased tourism. Such alternate modes of accommodation help conserve the ecosystem and offer a creative and innovative experience for tourists. Tourism policy was developed in 2019 where the Government has focused on the Promotion of Adventure Tourism, Heritage Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Thermal Tourism, Rural Tourism, Herbal Tourism and Sports Tourism. Community-controlled wildlife reserved areas (sanctuaries) were developed managed by local

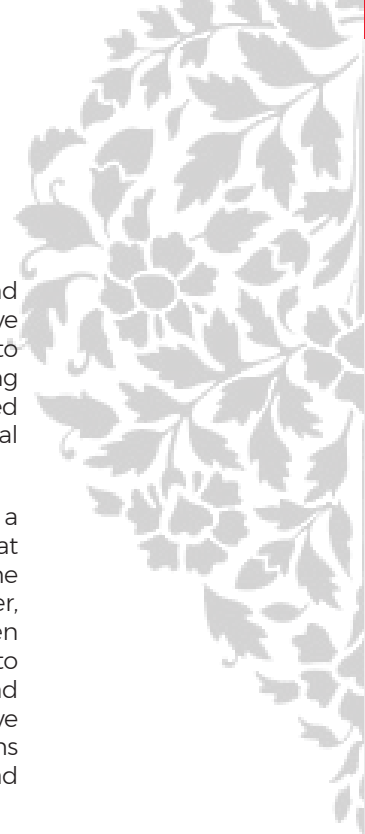
communities. Local communities are also benefited by the income generated through these sanctuaries.

After nearly a decade, AJ&K, with Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, has set up its pavilion at the World Tourism Market in London (Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, 2020). This initiative is expected to put AJ&K on the global tourist circuit. With the recently waived requirement for a no-objection certificate for foreigners seeking to visit AJ&K, potential visitors can now explore the region more easily (Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, 2020).

The recently established highly trained Tourism Police Force is creating a safer environment for tourists in the State. This team includes female officers, is responsible for regular security functions and serves as hosts for local and international visitors. The Government of AJ&K is also focusing on eco-tourism and plans to create eco-tourism villages. This would improve the local population's livelihoods and enhance the region's tourism brand.

Other mega-projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor are currently being implemented in the State, including the Kerot, Kohala and Azad Pattan hydropower projects and Mansehra-Muzaffarabad-Mirpur Expressway are planned. Such projects will revitalize the regional economy and provide employment opportunities within the Special Economic Zones through vertical and horizontal linkages with existing industries in the region. Another unique opportunity offered by the location is the potential engagement of the Mirpur diaspora as investors in the Special Economic Zones.

Over the years, providing high-quality trainings to people in various industries and crafts have been a top priority of the government. The government has developed skill enhancement programs conducive to ensuring employment generation. To ensure its effectiveness, the government has taken various initiatives to measure the impact of these programs.



The government has adopted a data-driven approach for effective decision-making. In this regard, the government has invested in IT-based data solutions. Building-integrated information systems have remained one of the top priorities of the AJ&K government. Gender Management Information System was developed during 2019-20 and various other projects, including Population Registries Social Protection Information System, are in the pipeline. The government is also initiating and encouraging Public-Private Partnerships in various fields. Emphasis has also been placed on promoting public-private partnerships through policy and investment. In this regard, many public guesthouses and facilities have been leased out to the private sector to attract tourists on the one hand and increase their income and profit on the other hand. The government's Board of Investment has also set up microfinance programs to provide business facilities to the people.

Keeping in view the Azad Kashmir train, the government has launched Breed Improvement Programs aimed at increasing the production of milk, meat and eggs locally, which will fulfil the needs of AJ&K and aim to export them in other regions of the country.

Among the invitation in public safety and governance, the Police Department has developed a Digital Sentinel System with the functionalities of Identity Verification Alert System, E-Police Post, thumb identification and CNIC identification. The first safe city in Muzaffarabad with 60 cameras, five video calling booths and facial recognition systems have been introduced. The online FIR registration system has been introduced in the state Police department. Digitization of records through implementing the Human Resource Management Information System and Police Record Management System with the support of the Punjab Information Technology Board have been introduced to improve efficiency and accountability for better service delivery. Forensic Science Lab is being established in district Bagh, having chemical, fingerprints, documents, digital and firearm forensics. In addition, crime scene vehicles are being made available in the State. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System was developed, and implemented by the Local Government and Rural

Development Department. Around 1,50,000 births and 35,000 deaths have been registered till date. In addition to this, a web-based Planning and Monitoring System was also developed and launched by the Local Government and Rural Development Department in 2020.

For innovative service delivery, a "Madadgar" System and Police Khidmat Markaz were established with the concept of one-window services. Further, a Complaint Redressal System has been implemented to facilitate the public to register their complaints through SMS and other digital platforms. Further to improve the governance, the following innovations were adopted by the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

1. Digitization of land records throughout AJ&K
2. All procurements are being advertised through PPRA authority
3. To provide online access to all legislative Ordinances/ Acts/ Rules, legislation is digitized
4. A biometric attendance system has been introduced in education institutions
5. Merit-based opportunities are ensured by the introduction of NTS system
6. E-Facilitation centers were established to facilitate the general public in the acquisition of character certificates, state subject, domicile certificates and driving licenses
7. Automation of tax management system, supreme court, high court and lower judiciary





**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K

Section 6



CONCLUSION



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





CONCLUSION

6 Conclusion

The State of AJ&K is committed to pursuing the SDG agenda's implementation through close collaboration between the Federal and Provincial Governments and active participation of all other relevant stakeholders. Robust policy and development planning are required to ensure all SDGs' holistic achievement across the board. The mapping of the AJ&K Annual Development Programme with sustainable development goals is one of the most significant achievements in setting financial priorities. The Vision 2025 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 12th Five-Years Plan (2018-2023) have been explicitly linked with the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure continuous implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the State. The SDGs framework was prepared in consultation with districts and State level SDGs focal persons, including line departments and other stakeholders, led by the Planning and Development Department and identified development priorities and categorized SDGs that would support the 2030 agenda in the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Now, GoAJ&K needs to develop SDGs implementation plan and M&E framework. All the Government of AJ&K line departments and institutions have included the SDGs into their planning and implementation, although more efforts are required at the local level, given the long-term aim of sustainable development.

AJ&K is trying to ensure institutional linkages and participation of all relevant stakeholders for SDGs. However, coordination is likely to be a pressing challenge both within and across departments in AJ&K. The current landscape, demographic strengths, environment and governance system of AJ&K provide an excellent opportunity to implement SDGs. This includes increasing the development budget, aligning new policies with SDGs and increasing awareness about environmental and sustainability issues at the governance and grassroots levels. Azad Jammu and Kashmir recognizes the challenges that exist for SDGs implementation, including improving cooperation and coordination

between departments, institutionalizing data collection, strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, realigning finances and bringing other stakeholders, including Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, private businesses and other international organizations into the conversation to ensure holistic development. Given the broader scope of the SDGs and the increased number of targets and indicators, there is a dire need for the active participation of all the key government agencies. Centralized coordination and reporting mechanisms are required to ensure cohesive planning, budgeting, financing, data collection and innovation.





REFERENCES:

- Bureau of Statistics AJ&K. (2015).** Labour Force Survey 2014-15. Retrieved from Islamabad:
- Bureau of Statistics AJ&K. (2020a).** AJ&K Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2020-21. Retrieved from https://pndAJ&K.gov.pk/micsAJ&K/1-AJ&K_MICS_2020-21_SFR.pdf
- Bureau of Statistics AJ&K. (2020b).** Azad Jammu & Kashmir at a Glance - 2020. Retrieved from Muzaffarabad AJ&K: <https://www.pndAJ&K.gov.pk/uploadfiles/downloads/AJ&K%20At%20A%20Glance-2020.pdf>
- Federal SDGs Unit and MoPD&SI. (2021).** Role of Productive Sectors in Socio-economic Development of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Retrieved from Islamabad: https://www.sdgpakistan.pk/uploads/pub/Role_of_Productive_Sectors_for_Socioeconomic_Development_in_AJ&K.pdf
- Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. (2020).** Stakeholder recommendations for climate change implementation framework, AJ&K. Retrieved from Muzaffarabad: <https://www.csmcc.org.pk/attachments/news-bulletin/AJ&K%20Implementation%20Framework.pdf>
- Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. (2021).** Rethinking the Industrial Policy of AJ&K. Retrieved from Muzaffarabad:
- Health Department Government of AJ&K. (2020).** Community Nutrition Program. Retrieved from <https://health.AJ&K.gov.pk/community-nutrition-program>
- Nutrition Wing, M. (2018).** National Nutrition Survey 2018 Key Finding Report. Retrieved from Pakistan: <https://www.unicef.org/pakistan/media/1951/file/Final%20Key%20Findings%20Report%202019.pdf>
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (2014-15).** Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey, 2014-15. Retrieved from Islamabad: https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/PSLM_2014-15_National-Provincial-District_report.pdf
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (2017-18).** Labor Force Survey Pakistan. Retrieved from Islamabad:
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (2018).** Labour Force Survey 2017-18. Retrieved from Islamabad: <https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files//AJ&K%20LFS%202017-18%20Report%20with%20tables.pdf>
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (2018-19).** Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey, 2018-19. Retrieved from Islamabad: https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files//pslm/publications/pslm2018-19/pslm_report_2018-19_national_provincial.pdf
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (2019-20).** Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey, 2019-20. Retrieved from Islamabad: https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files//pslm/publications/pslm_district_2019-20/PSLM_2019_20_District_Level.pdf
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. (2020).** Labour Force Survey 2018-19. Retrieved from Islamabad: https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files//Labour%20Force/publications/lfs2018_19/lfs_2018_19_final_report.pdf
- Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation. (2020).** Pakistan Tourism News. Retrieved from https://tourism.gov.pk/publications/NEWSLETTER_PTDC.pdf
- Planning and Development Department AJ&K. (2019).** Azad Jammu & Kashmir Statistical Year Book 2019. Retrieved from Muzaffarabad AJ&K:
- Planning and Development Department AJ&K. (2020).** Azad Jammu & Kashmir Statistical Year Book 2020. Retrieved from Muzaffarabad AJ&K: <https://www.pndAJ&K.gov.pk/uploadfiles/downloads/Statistical%20Year%20Book%202020.pdf>
- Planning and Development Department Government of AJ&K. (2020).** Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in AJ&K and Way Forward. Retrieved from Muzaffarabad, AJ&K: https://www.sdgpakistan.pk/uploads/pub/Implementation_of_SDGs_in_AJ&K_and_Way_Forward_.pdf
- Planning Commission of Pakistan. (2011).** National Nutrition Survey 2011. Retrieved from Pakistan: <https://pndAJ&K.gov.pk/uploadfiles/downloads/NNS%20Survey.pdf>



**AJ&K SDGs
SUPPORT UNIT**
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K



ANNEXES



ANNEXES

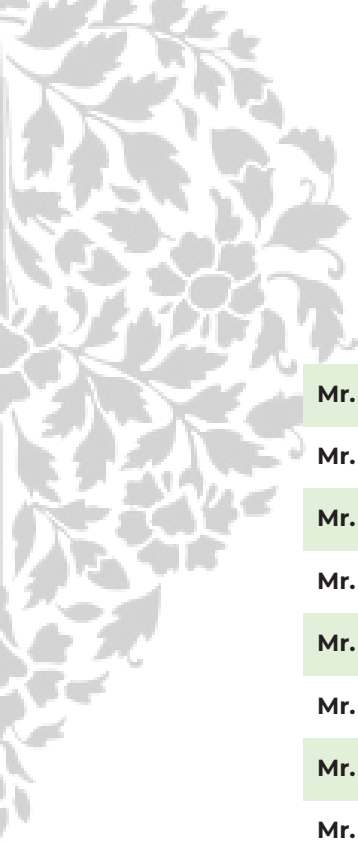
ANNEXE-1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS CONSULTATION SESSION FOR AJ&K, VNR REPORT 2022.

Name	Designation	Department
Mr. Ch. Muhammad Rasheed	Minister for P&DD/EPA	AJ&K Legislative Assembly
Mr. Abdul Majid Khan	Minister for Finance, Cooperative and Inland Revenue	AJ&K Legislative Assembly
Prof. Taqdees Gillani	Parliamentary Secretary Education (E&S)/Higher	AJ&K Legislative Assembly
Dr. Muhammad Bashir Butt	Secretary	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Muhammad Shamoon Hashmi	Chief Economist	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Sultan Alam	Senior Chief Agriculture/Livestock/ Forest	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Muhammad Aslam	Senior Chief Education	Planning & Development Department
Ms. Mahnaz Kant	Chief Foreign Aid	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Ahmed Waseem Qureshi	Chief LG&RDD	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Abrar Haider Gardezi	Chief PP&H	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Amir Latif Awan	Chief C&W	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Matlob Hussain Raza	Chief Health	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Jamil Ahmed Khan	Chief Power/Statistics	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Mahmood Anjum	Chief Industries/TEVTA	Planning & Development Department
Mr. Yasir Bashir	Chief SW&WD/Tourism/IT	Planning & Development Department
Ms. Syeda Asma Andrabi	Donors & Sponsor Coordinator/consultant	Prime Minister Secretariat
Mr. Tariq Mahmood	Director General	Agriculture
Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan	Director General	Population Welfare
Dr. Muhammad Ijaz Khan	Director General	Livestock
Mr. Inayat Ali	Managing Director	AKSIC
Mr. Raja Zafar Iqbal	Senior Chief	Education (E&S)



Mr. Raja Shahid	Director	Education Colleges
Mr. Syed Mohsin Ali Gilani	Additional Secretary	Energy & Water Resources
Mr. Zahid Shafi	AS HED	HED
Mr. Mufti Muhammad Sajjad	Deputy Secretary	Finance Department
Mr. Nisar Ahmed Mughal	Deputy Secretary	Social Welfare & Women Development
Mr. Javed Akbar	Deputy Director	Department of Health
Mr. Masood Tahir	Deputy Director	Industries
Mr. Sajid Hamid	Assistant Director	Minerals Department
Mr. Abrar Qayyum	System Analyst	Higher Education
Mr. Alia Bashir	Additional Secretary	Law Department
Ms. Nusrat Shaheen	Deputy Director	Women Development
Dr. Ishfaq Mir	Director	Population Welfare
Mr. Abdul Wahid Khan	Director	Social Welfare Department
Mr. Ikram ul haq	Director	Women Development Department
Mr. Muhammad Shafiq Abbasi	Director	EPA
Mr. Sardar Asim Khan	Director	Information Technology
Mr. Syed Ali Gillani	Assistant Director	Population Welfare
Ms. Tooba Sarfraz	Planning Officer	Planning and Development
Ms. Seema Amin	Deputy Director BoS,	Planning and Development
Mr. Raja Tayyab Ilyas	Deputy Director	Planning and Development
Dr. Qudsia Batool	Additional Secretary	Local Government & Rural Dev
Mr. Mudassir Arif	Program Officer	Tourism
Mr. Muhammad Naveed	Program Officer	Planning and Development
Mr. Adnan Nasim	Program Officer	Planning and Development
Dr. Tariq Aziz	Deputy Director	Electricity





Mr. Raja Zulqarnain	Deputy Director	LG&RDD
Mr. Khurshid Ahmad		LG&RD
Mr. Bilal Awan	Chief	Forest Deopartment
Mr. Sajid Hamid Khan	Assistant Director	MRD (EPD)
Mr. Kifayat Rauf	Planning Assistant	AJ&K TEVTA
Mr. Syed Ali Husnain Gillani	SDGs Unit Coordinator	UNDP
Mr. Shahid Mehmood Khan	Director Planning	Higher Education
Mr. Khaliq Abbasi	Director	AKSIC
Mr. Atif Javed Abbasi	Research Officer	Finance
Mr. Syed Ali Asghar Shah	Director	Sericulture
Mr. Raja Abdul Qudoos	AIG Crimes	Police
Mr. Abdul Shukoor Khan	Deputy Director	Wildlife and Fisheries
Mr. Raja Shahab Saleem	Assistant Director	Elementary and Secondary Education
Dr. Shafqat Mehmood	Director Animal Health	Livestock
Ms. Qurat-ul-Ain Shabir	Information Officer	Information
Ms. Nasreen Akhtar	Assistant Director	Social Welfare
Mr. Mahmood Rathore	Engineer	C&W
Mr. Zeeshan Mumtaz	Executive Engineer	C&W
Mr. Kashif Gardezi	Executive Engineer	C&W
Mr. Ajaz Hussain	Director	Irrigation
Mr. Zaheer Ahmad	Executive Engineer	C&W
Mr. Muhammad Imran	Executive Engineer	C&W
Mr. M. Bilal Siraj	DRM Officer	SDMA
Mr. KH. Nouman Rashid	Project Manager	IT Board
Mr. Khawaja Masood	Director Planning	PDO
Mr. Muhammad Fareed	Deputy Director	PDO



Dr. Bushra Shams		WHO
Mr. Nadeem Baig	Head of Office	WFP
Mr. Raja Banaras		WFP
Ms. Saba Gulshan	Data Processing Officer	Planning and Development
Dr. Samina Sabir	HoD Psychology	University of AJ&K Muzaffarabad
Ms. Nasreen Akhtar	AD	Social Welfare
Mr. Anees ur Rehman Awan	AD	Population Welfare
Mr. Ahsan Danish	Incharge Planning	AJ&K TEVTA
Mr. Sheikh Tahir Qayum	CEO	Wasela Welfare Organization
Mr. Shahid Zaman Awan	Representative from CSOs	AJ&K Consumer Rights Association
Mr. Asif Raza Mir		Journalist
Sana	Representative from TGs	Transgender Community
Mr. Raja Iftikhar	Programme Coordinator	Area Development Organization
Mr. Mir Muhammad Basharat	Representative from local farmers	Farmer/land owner
Mr. Subtain Ali	Managing Director	Rawani Construction Company
Mr. Ch Azhar Mahmood	Representative from NGOs in Mirpur	NGO
Mr. Syed Anees Gillani	Lawyer	Lawyer
Mr. Jawad Ahmed	Businessman	Business





Planning and Development Department
Azad Government of the state of jammu & Kashmir
April 2022

كشمير





ششیر



AJ&K SDGs
Support Unit
Planning & Development
Department, AJ&K

Block 11, New Civil Secretariate, Chatter
Muzaffarabad.

Phone: 05822-921939
Email: info@pndajk.gov.pk