

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Pakistan Strategy 2018-2023

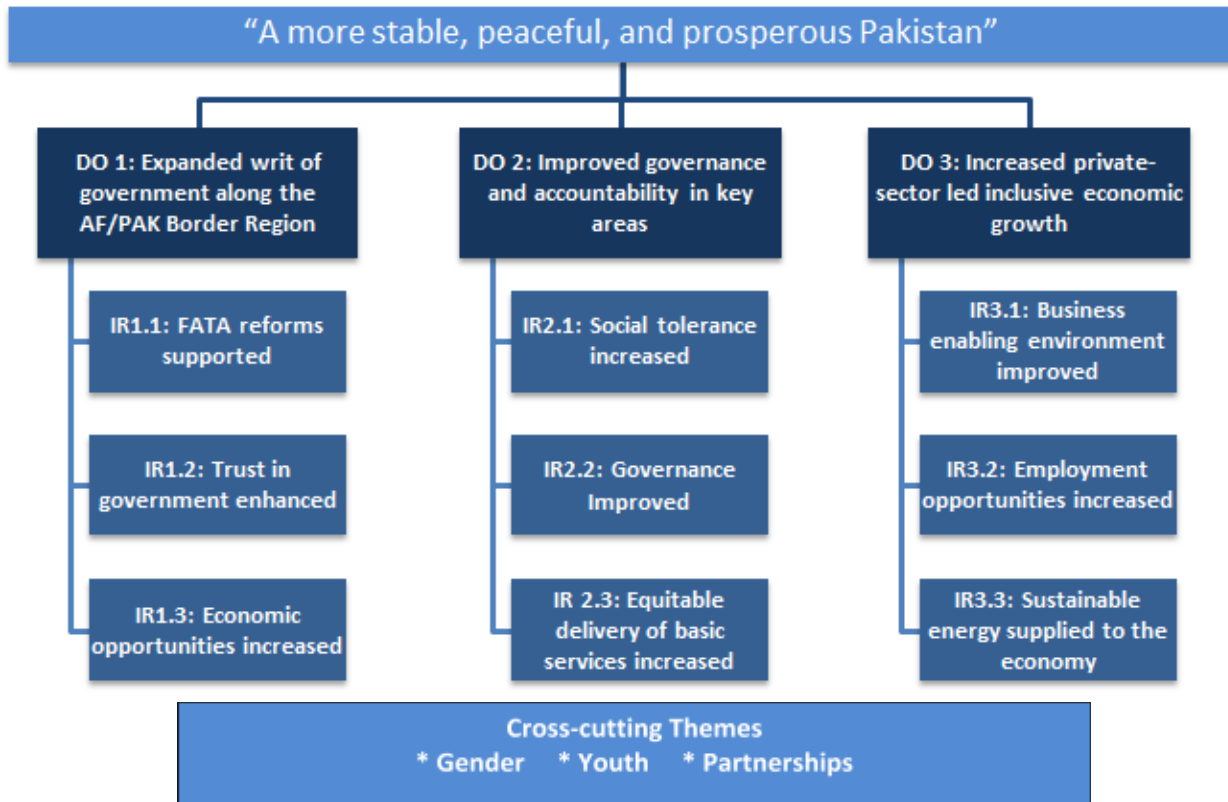
USAID works in concert with the U.S. Department of State on behalf of the American people to “promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world” (as articulated in the State-USAID Joint Strategic Plan). USAID’s Pakistan development strategy is consistent with USAID policy, the U.S. President's South Asia Strategy, and Pakistan’s Vision 2025 plan, and supports Pakistan in driving its own development journey toward self-reliance.

USAID has the goal of a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Pakistan and aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Expanded writ¹ of government along the Afghanistan/Pakistan (AF/PAK) border region
2. Strengthened capacity to prevent violent extremism in key areas
3. Increased private-sector led inclusive economic growth

Development Hypothesis

USAID posits that if citizen confidence in Pakistan’s government institutions increases, along with social tolerance and the ability of communities to resist extremist influences, and private-sector led economic growth is strengthened, then Pakistan will become more stable. To best effect this change, USAID is focusing on select geographic areas along the AF/PAK border region (especially, but not exclusively, the FATA/Newly-Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa),² southern Punjab, northern Sindh, and Karachi as well as engaging youth, women, and the private sector as drivers of innovation, economic growth, and stability.



¹ Writ of government refers to the physical or spatial presence of the State through law enforcement in all geographical areas and the ability to ensure compliance with the constitution and laws of the land. Key state responsibilities include: personal security, dispute adjudication, conflict resolution, socio-economic service provision (i.e. health and education) and human rights guarantees.

² FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas) is now officially referred to as the Newly Merged Districts (NMD) as of August 2018.

Development Objective (DO) 1: Expanded Writ of Government along the AF/PAK Border Region

The AF/PAK border region has a history of disenfranchisement, corruption, poverty, and a lack of basic social services. The region has also historically hosted some of the world's most active violent extremist organizations, resulting in vulnerability and displacement of the local population, particularly for young men and women. As such, USAID will increase women's voices, participation, and representation. A focus on civic engagement and basic service delivery will strengthen government legitimacy by improving local communities' confidence and trust and preventing the continued exploitation of tribal systems by violent extremists. Activities will bolster livelihoods, cultivate entrepreneurship, and link remote areas with the larger economy. Activities will also support Pakistani reforms in the FATA/Newly-Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (NMD) area, which include the extension of Pakistani laws and the judicial system to FATA/NMD, as envisaged under the Constitution. Expansion of rule of law, strengthened legitimacy of government institutions, and viable economic opportunities will lead to increased stability in the region.

DO 2: Strengthened Capacity to Prevent Violent Extremism in Key Areas

The marginalization of different groups, weak governance structures, gender-based discrimination, low civic engagement, shrinking civil society space, limited access to productive livelihoods, and lack of quality education drive conflict in key areas in Pakistan. The areas of southern Punjab, northern Sindh, and Karachi are of particular concern. In response, USAID seeks to identify opportunities to strengthen the capacity of local governments and targeted communities to proactively address these risks in a sustainable manner and support Pakistan's self-reliance. USAID will strengthen respect for and tolerance of marginalized groups, expand women's empowerment, and support alternative dispute resolution to help ensure peace and increase resilience. USAID activities will support Pakistan in improving the availability and equitable distribution of basic services and strengthen the role of official institutions.

DO 3: Increased Private-Sector led Inclusive Economic Growth

To support sustainable and inclusive growth, essential for stability and self-reliance, USAID will invest in activities that address Pakistan's youth bulge; increase access to energy; and catalyze private-sector growth, investment, and trade. Efforts will focus on creating an open trade and investment environment, including for U.S. businesses, while encouraging domestic resource mobilization, with an emphasis on private sector partnerships. USAID will also increase climate-smart agricultural productivity and profitability; promote market connectivity; facilitate entrepreneurship, job generation, networking, skills development, and innovation; and increase women's and vulnerable communities' labor force participation.

