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SHIFTING PARADIGMS

Policy Brief on World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (2026-2035) - Pakistan

Policy Brief

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Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's development pathway over the next decade will be shaped by the urgent need to balance economic growth with climate resilience, social inclusion, and fiscal sustainability. The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2035, designed by the World Bank Group in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and key stakeholders, serves as the central strategic blueprint for advancing this vision.

The CPF represents a significant departure from previous shorter operational cycles by introducing a first-ever 10-year framework that provides greater continuity, predictability, and alignment with national planning horizons. Informed by the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD), the CPF identifies Pakistan's structural challenges, including high vulnerability to climate shocks, weak human capital, limited fiscal space, and underdeveloped private sector capacity, while also outlining opportunities for sustainable and inclusive growth.

With a total commitment of $40 billion, half through sovereign lending (IBRD/IDA) and half through private sector mobilization (IFC, complemented by MIGA guarantees), the CPF is expected to play a transformative role in financing Pakistan's long-term development priorities. Its strategic orientation emphasizes results-driven, evidence-based interventions in six outcome areas that directly align with Pakistan's 2035 development ambitions:

- **Human capital development**, by reducing child stunting and strengthening health, water, sanitation, and family planning systems,
- **Learning and skills**, by addressing learning poverty and improving foundational education,
- **Climate resilience and food security**, through investments in flood management, disaster preparedness, and sustainable agro-food systems,
- **Energy transition**, by promoting clean, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions while reducing air pollution,
- **Public sector transformation**, by expanding fiscal space, strengthening governance, and enabling progressive and inclusive spending,
- **Private sector competitiveness**, by fostering investment, innovation, and inclusive growth led by domestic and international enterprises.

The CPF is not only a financing tool but also a partnership platform. Its co-design process with governments, civil society, and private stakeholders underscores the recognition that Pakistan's development challenges require collective solutions. The framework integrates global lessons from resilience-building, social protection, and private sector engagement, positioning Pakistan to attract new investments, leverage technology, and strengthen institutional capacity.

For the development sector, the CPF marks a pivotal shift. By embedding resilience, inclusion, and sustainability into the core of Pakistan's engagement with the World Bank Group, it offers a rare opportunity to align long-term financing with transformative reforms. Its decade-long horizon enables sustained focus on structural bottlenecks that shorter cycles could not adequately address, such as chronic underinvestment in human capital, climate adaptation, and private sector competitiveness.

Within this broader policy landscape, Carbo-X (Pvt.) Ltd. and its dedicated research arm, the Quantumverse Laboratory (Q-Lab), make a distinctive contribution. As Pakistan's first youth-led sustainability consulting firm, Carbo-X works across climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, natural resource governance, and strategic advisory, delivering evidence-based and tech-enabled solutions. Q-Lab complements this by generating foresight-driven policy research, embedding youth and gender leadership into climate dialogues, and amplifying marginalized voices often absent from high-level decision-making.

Together, Carbo-X and Q-Lab combine operational capacity, research excellence, and inclusive engagement methodologies. Their role is to strengthen national resilience dialogues, mobilize youth and community leadership, and bridge global frameworks such as the CPF with local realities. This positions them uniquely to support Pakistan's transition toward a climate-resilient, inclusive, and sustainable development model in the coming decade.

2. PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Effective implementation of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2035 requires robust mechanisms to ensure transparency, adaptability, and measurable progress. Recognizing the complexity of Pakistan's development challenges, the World Bank Group (WBG) has embedded a comprehensive performance and accountability framework that balances long-term strategy with short-term responsiveness.

At the center of this framework is a mid-term review in FY2030, which will serve as a critical checkpoint to assess progress, recalibrate priorities, and align financing with emerging needs. Complementing this review are rolling two-year business plans, which provide flexibility to adjust interventions in response to evolving macroeconomic conditions, political transitions, or climate shocks. This dual approach ensures both strategic continuity and operational adaptability, mitigating risks of stagnation or misalignment.

Whole-of-WBG Coordination

The CPF adopts a whole-of-WBG approach, ensuring coordinated action across the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). Joint Engagement Plans will operationalize this coordination by blending:

- Sovereign loans and concessional financing (IBRD/IDA),
- Private sector investments (IFC), and
- Risk insurance and guarantees (MIGA).

This integrated financing model is designed to maximize leverage, reduce transaction costs, and ensure complementarity between public and private investments.

IF–AND–THEN Accountability Model

Performance within the CPF is structured around an IF–AND–THEN model, linking scale-up of support to concrete government reform commitments. In practice:

- **IF** the Government of Pakistan undertakes agreed policy and institutional reforms,
- **AND** demonstrates progress in fiscal management, service delivery, and governance benchmarks,
- **THEN** the WBG will expand financial support, mobilize private capital, and provide enhanced risk-sharing instruments.

This results-based model embeds conditionality while preserving partnership, incentivizing reforms critical for sustained impact.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

Robust monitoring and evaluation are integral to CPF accountability. The framework will deploy scorecards, digital tracking platforms, and real-time reporting systems to assess progress across the six core outcomes. Transparent publication of results will enhance public trust, while adaptive learning loops will ensure that lessons from implementation feed back into policy adjustments.

Policy Coherence and Partnerships

The CPF is designed to operate in synergy with the broader development architecture. Collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on macroeconomic stability, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on infrastructure and regional connectivity, and bilateral partners on sectoral programs will enhance coherence and reduce duplication. Structured dialogue across these actors will ensure policy alignment, joint financing where appropriate, and harmonization with Pakistan's own national

development strategies.
By embedding adaptability, whole-of-WBG coordination, and reform-linked incentives, the CPF's performance and accountability framework positions Pakistan's development agenda on a more credible and sustainable trajectory. These mechanisms are intended not only to safeguard financing but also to instill a culture of accountability and results-driven reform over the next decade.

3. METHODOLOGY

This policy brief employs a hybrid qualitative-analytical approach, combining primary insights with secondary evidence to generate an integrated, evidence-based assessment of Pakistan's development trajectory under the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2035. The methodology was designed to ensure analytical rigor, inclusivity of perspectives, and direct alignment with the CPF's six strategic outcomes.

3.1 Primary Sources

The foundation of this brief rests on expert consultations and thematic webinars convened by *Carbo-X (Pvt.) Ltd.*, which brought together policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and private sector representatives. These engagements provided real-time, practice-driven insights on priority areas such as:

- Climate resilience and adaptation,
- Taxation and fiscal reform,
- Digital inclusion and fintech innovation,
- Institutional performance and governance,
- Energy transition and environmental sustainability.

Participant perspectives were thematically coded and clustered, allowing recurrent patterns, emerging priorities, and reform bottlenecks to be systematically analyzed. The inclusion of diverse stakeholders ensured that the analysis was not only technically informed but also reflective of the lived development challenges facing Pakistan.

3.2 Secondary Sources

To complement and validate primary insights, this brief integrates a comprehensive set of secondary resources, including:

- The official World Bank CPF 2026–2035 for Pakistan,
- Pakistan Economic Survey 2023–24,
- Policy reports and datasets from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank Open Data Platform,
- News coverage, official press releases, and policy updates on ongoing WBG-supported projects in Pakistan,
- Peer-reviewed literature and think tank analyses on fiscal reform, climate adaptation, and digital transformation.

These secondary resources were employed to cross-examine and contextualize findings from the primary dataset, ensuring that individual insights were benchmarked against broader macroeconomic indicators, institutional trends, and international policy frameworks.

3.3 Analytical Framework

The analytical design of the brief is structured around a thematic–outcome mapping framework. Expert contributions were grouped into five key thematic clusters:

- Tax and fiscal policy reform,

- Governance and public sector effectiveness,
- Digital public infrastructure and fintech inclusion,
- Climate resilience and green infrastructure,
- Clean energy transition and air quality improvement.

Each cluster was directly mapped to the six CPF strategic outcomes to ensure conceptual alignment and policy relevance. For example:

- Dialogues on WASH and nutrition were benchmarked against *Outcome 1: Reduction in child stunting*,
- Discussions on digital infrastructure and fintech access were aligned with *Outcome 6: Increased productive and inclusive private sector investment*,
- Contributions on climate resilience and flood management were connected to *Outcome 3: Resilience to floods, climate risks, and agro-food insecurity*.

This mapping allowed the brief to integrate local narratives with strategic priorities, ensuring that stakeholder-driven perspectives reinforced the CPF's reform agenda.

3.4 Added Value of the Approach

By combining practitioner-led insights with global evidence, this methodology strengthens the credibility and applicability of recommendations. It ensures that:

- Reform strategies are grounded in lived realities of governance and service delivery,
- Policy proposals are cross-validated against international benchmarks,
- Recommendations are actionable within the CPF framework while adaptable to Pakistan's institutional context.

This hybrid methodology thus bridges the gap between strategic foresight and policy action, enabling the brief to present a forward-looking yet context-sensitive analysis of Pakistan's development trajectory over the coming decade.

4. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Economic Growth and Structural Reform

Pakistan's economic growth trajectory is increasingly undermined by deep-rooted structural weaknesses that threaten development stability. Despite periods of recovery, growth remains vulnerable to fiscal imbalances, weak institutions, and governance inefficiencies. Persistent reliance on short-term economic management has limited the country's ability to implement structural reforms that could expand fiscal space, strengthen productivity, and promote inclusive development (Government of Pakistan, 2024).

One of the most pressing challenges is the imbalance between federal and provincial fiscal management following the 18th Amendment. While provinces receive 57% of national revenues under the NFC Award, most local governments remain underfunded (5–7%) and administratively disempowered, with no standardized intra-provincial revenue sharing or performance-based budgeting systems (Government of Pakistan, 2024; United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], 2024). This fragmented fiscal architecture undermines service delivery, slows infrastructure investments, and constrains reforms necessary for growth.

At the macroeconomic level, Pakistan continues to face low revenue mobilization and limited fiscal buffers. The tax-to-GDP ratio remains among the lowest in South Asia, restricting the government's capacity to finance long-term development programs (International Monetary Fund [IMF], 2024). Public spending remains heavily skewed toward recurrent expenditures, leaving little fiscal space for investments in productivity-enhancing sectors such as education, health, and digital infrastructure (Government of Pakistan, 2024).

Institutional performance further compounds these challenges. Weak regulatory frameworks, overlapping mandates, and inconsistent policy enforcement create uncertainty for both domestic and foreign investors. The absence of digital monitoring, evaluation, and fiscal tracking mechanisms limits accountability and transparency, while the lack of standardized long-term planning frameworks prevents continuity across political cycles (UNEP, 2024).

The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2035 highlights the urgency of structural reform to place Pakistan on a sustainable growth trajectory. It calls for a shift toward systemic fiscal and governance reforms, including:

- Expanding domestic revenue mobilization through tax policy and administration reforms,
- Introducing performance-based transfers to provinces and local governments,
- Strengthening public financial management and expenditure efficiency,
- Expanding fiscal space for human capital and infrastructure investment,
- Establishing robust monitoring and accountability systems through digital platforms.

Without such reforms, Pakistan's growth will remain economically volatile and institutionally fragile, unable to meet the CPF's core outcomes of expanded fiscal space, progressive public spending, and increased private sector investment (World Bank, 2025).

4.2 Education, Learning Poverty, and Gender Inclusion

Pakistan continues to face a persistent learning poverty crisis, where a significant proportion of children are unable to read and comprehend a simple text by the age of 10 (World Bank, 2025a). This challenge undermines the development of human capital and perpetuates intergenerational poverty. Despite repeated policy commitments, learning outcomes remain stagnant due to systemic weaknesses in the education sector, including outdated curricula, weak accountability mechanisms, and inequitable allocation of resources (Government of Pakistan, 2024).

The World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) Outcome 2 directly targets this issue by aiming to reduce learning poverty through foundational education reforms (World Bank, 2025a). However, progress has been hindered by several structural barriers:

- **Curriculum relevance:** Educational content often lacks cultural and local relevance, failing to resonate with the lived realities of children across diverse regions such as Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Balochistan (UNESCO, 2024). This disconnect limits student engagement and reinforces regional disparities in learning outcomes.
- **Governance centralization:** The over-centralized governance model enforces a uniform, one-size-fits-all approach that discourages regional innovation and adaptation to local needs (World Bank, 2025b). Provincial and district-level authorities often lack the autonomy or capacity to tailor solutions that reflect community contexts.
- **External dependency:** Pakistan's overreliance on external consultancy models has restricted the development of systemically integrated, locally appropriate solutions (Andrabi, Das, & Khwaja, 2023). Internationally designed interventions often overlook the cultural and institutional dynamics of Pakistan's education system, reducing long-term effectiveness.
- **Political short-termism:** Education reform has frequently been shaped by short-term political incentives. Governments have prioritized high-visibility infrastructure projects, such as new school buildings, over sustained investments in teacher training, curriculum innovation, and monitoring systems that would strengthen foundational learning (UNICEF, 2024).

In addition to these systemic challenges, gender disparities persist. Girls in rural areas remain disproportionately excluded from educational opportunities due to cultural norms, safety concerns, and inadequate school infrastructure. Even where access has improved, gender-sensitive teaching practices and curriculum integration remain limited, curbing progress toward equitable learning outcomes (UNICEF, 2024; UNESCO, 2024). This has critical implications for workforce participation, income equality, and broader social inclusion.

To address these challenges, Pakistan requires a decisive shift toward locally responsive, decentralized, and outcome-driven reforms. This includes:

- Empowering provincial and district education authorities with greater autonomy and resources to design context-specific interventions,
- Prioritizing teacher training and professional development as a cornerstone of foundational learning improvement,
- Embedding gender-responsive policies to reduce barriers for girls and ensure equitable participation,
- Developing digital monitoring and accountability systems to track student progress and improve transparency in resource allocation,
- Reducing dependency on external models by building national and provincial-level research capacity to design and evaluate education reforms.

Such reforms align with the CPF's strategic objective of reducing learning poverty and improving foundational education outcomes (World Bank, 2025a). Equally, by incorporating gender inclusion as a cross-cutting principle, Pakistan can transform its education sector into a driver of equitable human capital development, economic growth, and social mobility.

4.3 Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate shocks has created momentum for decentralized and context-specific climate strategies that emphasize local ownership, community resilience, and sustainability. Across regions, community-led adaptation efforts, anchored in traditional knowledge and cultural practices, are increasingly recognized as critical assets in strengthening resilience (UNEP, 2024). These locally grounded approaches respond directly to environmental and socio-economic realities that are often overlooked in top-down policies.

In parallel, a dynamic ecosystem of youth-led social enterprises, vocational training in green skills, and blended finance models is emerging, demonstrating a growing societal commitment to climate action and community empowerment (World Bank, 2025a). These initiatives are especially significant in bridging policy aspirations with implementation at the grassroots level.

Structural Barriers to Climate Action

Despite this progress, several structural barriers hinder transformative climate adaptation and disaster preparedness:

- **Fragmented governance:** Coordination gaps between federal and provincial levels continue to impede policy alignment and slow down implementation (Government of Pakistan, 2024). The marginalization of regions such as Balochistan in national adaptation planning reflects persistent inequities and weak integration of diverse regional needs.
- **Top-down planning dominance:** Climate initiatives remain heavily donor-driven or centrally managed, often with limited community participation. This reduces local legitimacy and undermines the sustainability of interventions (UNDP, 2024).
- **Digital divide and energy inequity:** In rural and marginalized areas, weak internet connectivity, limited infrastructure, and unreliable energy access constrain the effectiveness of digital skills programs and youth engagement platforms (UNICEF, 2024). Energy transition policies also risk overlooking affordability barriers for low-income households and the health burdens of prolonged fossil fuel dependence, which disproportionately affect the urban poor (World Bank, 2025b).
- **Communication gaps and skepticism:** There is a persistent disconnect between climate policy actors and local communities. Awareness efforts are often framed in abstract or technical terms, limiting comprehension and local ownership. This gap reduces the ability of communities to translate awareness into collective action (Carbo-X Pvt. Ltd., 2025). Climate education, though expanding, remains insufficiently linked to daily life practices and fails to foster the action-oriented understanding necessary for behavior change.

Emerging Policy Directions

Notwithstanding these barriers, promising policy pathways are gaining traction:

- Integration of water and environmental education into school curricula to build climate literacy from an early age,
- Promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices that increase productivity while conserving resources,
- Development of green infrastructure and ecosystem-based solutions within urban planning frameworks,
- A growing consensus around the urgent phase-out of coal and acceleration of a just transition to renewable energy systems, adapted to local affordability and capacity constraints (World Bank, 2025a).

These interventions, if supported by inclusive financing mechanisms, stronger local governance structures, and greater stakeholder participation, can create a more equitable, effective, and sustainable climate response for Pakistan.

4.4 Enhancing Public Financing and Investment for Development

Pakistan's ability to mobilize and utilize development finance, particularly climate finance, remains constrained by structural governance challenges, weak accountability, and limited transparency. Access to international financing windows has been restricted, with key institutions facing compliance and procedural barriers. For instance, the Climate Finance Unit and the Punjab Environment Protection Department have struggled to secure Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation, largely due to gaps in anti–money laundering (AML) compliance and the absence of robust mechanisms to ensure public access to climate spending data. These shortcomings continue to undermine investor confidence and restrict the country's capacity to attract large-scale, sustained financial flows.

Innovation in Public Finance

Despite these constraints, several innovative initiatives signal progress. The Punjab Green Credit Program, which rewards citizens for actions such as tree plantation and rooftop solar adoption, demonstrates the potential of market-based incentive mechanisms to engage the public in environmental stewardship. However, for long-term sustainability, such programs require institutional integration into provincial development plans, ensuring continuity across political cycles and scalability beyond pilot phases.

Persistent Data and Capacity Gaps

Pakistan continues to face critical data and technology deficits in its financing and investment planning. Punjab, for example, lacks real-time air quality and emissions monitoring systems, undermining the evidence base for policy decisions and weakening climate modeling capacity. Furthermore, domestic institutional capacity remains underdeveloped, as environmental and financial assessments are still heavily reliant on foreign consultants due to a shortage of certified local experts. This dependence raises costs, delays project design, and hinders the development of indigenous expertise.

Weak Planning and Fiscal Discipline

Structural weaknesses in investment planning and public financial management further erode the effectiveness of development finance. Chronic issues include:

- Delayed fund releases, which slow down project implementation,

- Non-transparent approval processes, which reduce accountability and deter private sector collaboration,
- Inconsistent adherence to procurement rules, contributing to inefficiencies and rent-seeking behavior.

Such weaknesses limit the absorptive capacity of government institutions, leaving many international commitments underutilized. This has direct implications for the effectiveness of climate and development programs, as resources are not translated into measurable impacts on the ground.

Role of Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Public-private partnerships represent a critical opportunity to mobilize resources for clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and green infrastructure. Pilot PPP initiatives in solar energy deployment and climate-smart agricultural practices have shown early promise. However, to unlock their full potential, Pakistan requires clear, sector-specific frameworks that define responsibilities, risk-sharing mechanisms, and incentives for private participation. Without such frameworks, PPPs risk remaining isolated experiments rather than systemic solutions to financing gaps.

Way Forward

The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2035 underscores the need for structural reforms in public financing and investment planning, with a focus on:

- Strengthening compliance and transparency to enhance access to international climate finance,
- Embedding innovative citizen-driven initiatives such as green credit schemes into provincial and national policy frameworks,
- Expanding domestic technical capacity through training and certification of local experts, reducing reliance on foreign consultants,
- Establishing robust digital monitoring systems for real-time financial and environmental tracking,
- Developing sector-specific PPP frameworks to crowd-in private capital and accelerate the transition to clean energy and resilient infrastructure.

Without such reforms, Pakistan risks continued underutilization of financing opportunities, limiting its ability to meet the CPF's strategic outcomes on fiscal space expansion, progressive public spending, and inclusive private sector investment (World Bank, 2025).

4.5 Just Energy Transition, Governance, and Decarbonization

Pakistan's energy transition is constrained by fragmented governance, outdated infrastructure, and limited human capital readiness, which collectively undermine progress toward decarbonization. Current policies often lack integration across the energy, economic, and climate domains, creating inefficiencies and missed opportunities to shift toward a sustainable, low-carbon development pathway (World Bank, 2025a).

Governance and Institutional Challenges

The energy sector remains hindered by weak institutional coordination, overlapping mandates, and inadequate accountability mechanisms. Policy frameworks are frequently developed in isolation, with limited integration across ministries responsible for energy, finance, and climate planning. This siloed approach has restricted the ability to align energy expansion with broader decarbonization strategies. At the same time, circular debt within the power sector continues to escalate, constraining the financial health of utilities and deterring private investment. Access to international climate finance for energy transition projects remains limited due to compliance gaps and insufficient bankable project pipelines.

Infrastructure and Technological Readiness

The aging grid system is another major bottleneck. With outdated transmission and distribution infrastructure, Pakistan struggles to integrate intermittent renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, resulting in system instability and high transmission losses. Limited technological readiness and weak digitalization of grid operations further slow the uptake of advanced solutions such as smart grids and energy storage systems. Without modern infrastructure, Pakistan risks locking into fossil fuel dependence, undermining both energy security and decarbonization commitments.

Energy Access and Equity Dimensions

Despite the abundance of renewable resources, large segments of the population—particularly in rural and marginalized areas, still lack access to reliable electricity and clean cooking facilities. Energy poverty disproportionately affects women and low-income households, limiting social inclusion and economic productivity. Addressing these inequities is central to achieving a just energy transition, where the benefits of decarbonization are shared equitably across society.

Human Capital and Workforce Readiness

A critical gap lies in human capital development. Current workforce skills do not meet the demands of emerging clean energy technologies, including solar PV installation, grid digitalization, battery storage, and geothermal exploration. This highlights an urgent need for targeted reskilling, vocational training, and partnerships between academia, industry, and government to ensure that the transition generates employment opportunities and inclusive economic growth.

Untapped Renewable Potential

Pakistan's geothermal potential remains largely unexplored due to limited research, insufficient exploration, and a lack of enabling policies. Developing hybrid renewable systems that combine geothermal with solar or wind could significantly enhance energy security and diversify the power mix. However, this requires investment in local research and development (R&D), tailored financing mechanisms, and incentives for private sector exploration.

Pathways for a Just and Inclusive Transition

The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026–2035 calls for a coherent governance framework that integrates energy, economic, and climate objectives. A just and inclusive transition requires:

- Strengthening institutional coordination across federal and provincial levels,
- Modernizing the grid system with smart technologies to enable renewable integration,
- Expanding vocational training and reskilling programs to prepare the workforce for clean energy jobs,
- Scaling up investment in geothermal and hybrid renewable systems,
- Establishing innovative financing models, including public–private partnerships, blended finance, and climate bonds, to crowd in private capital,
- Embedding equity and inclusion in energy policies to ensure affordable, reliable access for all communities.

Without decisive reforms, Pakistan risks a dual challenge: continued reliance on fossil fuels and exclusion of vulnerable groups from the benefits of transition. A just energy transition, anchored in governance reform, technological modernization, and inclusive financing, is therefore critical for achieving long-term decarbonization and energy security (World Bank, 2025b).

5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Economic Growth and Structural Reforms

The framework for economic growth and structural reforms emphasizes the integration of sustainability and climate considerations into national development strategies. Four priority areas emerge:

1. **Include Climate Resilience in Development Planning:** Mainstreaming climate resilience across sectoral development plans to ensure long-term economic stability and protection against systemic shocks.
2. **Support Small Farmers with Climate-Smart Agriculture:** Expanding access to climate-smart practices, technology, and finance for smallholder farmers to enhance productivity, strengthen food security, and reduce vulnerability.
3. **Improve Climate Oversight in Budget and Governance:** Strengthening institutional mechanisms to integrate climate priorities into fiscal planning, budget allocations, and governance systems for greater transparency and accountability.
4. **Balance Economic Growth with Emissions Control:** Designing policies that align economic expansion with emission reduction commitments, enabling Pakistan to pursue inclusive growth while progressing toward low-carbon development pathways.

5.2. Addressing Learning Poverty and Promoting Inclusive Education

To address persistent learning poverty and advance equitable educational outcomes, the following strategic priorities are identified:

1. **Adopt a Two-Track Reform Strategy:** Combine short-term measures, such as remedial learning programs and teacher support, with long-term structural reforms to strengthen accountability, institutional capacity, and system-wide resilience.
2. **Indigenize Curriculum Development:** Develop curricula that reflect local realities, cultural contexts, and linguistic diversity, ensuring that education is both relevant and inclusive across provinces and regions.
3. **Build Local Human Capital:** Invest in teacher training, skill development, and knowledge systems that reduce dependency on external expertise while fostering sustainable, locally owned education reforms.
4. **Empower Community Participation:** Strengthen engagement of parents, communities, and local organizations in school management and educational decision-making to enhance accountability, ownership, and long-term sustainability.

5.3. Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

To strengthen Pakistan’s ability to withstand and recover from climate shocks and natural disasters, four strategic priorities are highlighted:

1. **Strengthen Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR):** Scale up locally driven disaster preparedness and early warning systems that build resilience through community participation and traditional knowledge.
2. **Institutionalize Local Adaptation Planning:** Embed adaptation frameworks into provincial and district-level planning to ensure climate action is context-specific, equitable, and sustainable.
3. **Reform Urban Planning to Include Climate-Resilient Infrastructure:** Integrate resilience into city planning by promoting green infrastructure, sustainable drainage systems, and disaster-proof housing to reduce vulnerability in rapidly urbanizing areas.
4. **Improve Transparency and Climate Finance Governance:** Enhance accountability and tracking of climate finance flows to ensure efficient use of resources and build trust among national and

international stakeholders.

5.4. Enhancing Public Financing and Investment for Development

1. **Governance & Transparency:** To strengthen governance and transparency, the Right to Information Act (RTI) Act 2013 should be fully applied to ensure disclosure, while digital procurement must be enforced in line with the PPRA Rules 2014.
2. **Reliable Data:** Enhancing reliable data requires the implementation of a Clean Air Plan data system, the establishment of open-source climate portals, and a mandate for interdepartmental data sharing.
3. **Climate Budgeting:** Climate budgeting should integrate resilience into the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) and the Public Investment Management Framework (PIMF), in accordance with the Finance Act 2020.
4. **Institutional Capacity:** Institutional capacity can be enhanced by training staff of the Planning and Development Board (P&D) and by enforcing certified Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).
5. **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** To unlock additional financing, the PPP Act should be amended to include provisions for climate sectors.

6. Conclusion

The World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Pakistan for FY2026–2035, anchored around six critical outcomes including foundational education, climate resilience, clean energy, and inclusive private sector growth, provides a strong, long-term strategic platform for national development. Nevertheless, as confirmed during discussions, the CPF and webinar significantly center on climate action, with comparatively limited attention to essential cross-cutting priorities such as education reform, gender equity, and institutional accountability.

The accompanying "Just Energy Transition, Governance, and Decarbonization" infographic points to a multi-pronged framework necessary for transitioning to a just and clean energy future. It highlights the urgency of strengthening grid infrastructure, modernizing planning with smart controls and adaptive annual updating; embedding integrated energy-economy-environment policy coordination, including cross-sectoral institutional alignment and updated NDCs with clear sector roadmaps; enhancing climate governance and finance, through a centralized climate finance unit complemented by transparency mechanisms and community oversight; scaling renewable and hybrid energy, via concessional finance, subsidies, and hybrid system promotion; and cultivating a just transition and human capital, by integrating local communities, planners, and engineers into renewable Curricula .

To ensure the CPF's goals translate into equitable, effective outcomes across Pakistan's regions, these dimensions must be woven throughout its implementation. Policy-sensitive localization strategies should prioritize provinces and districts by their development needs, especially those lagging in education, gender parity, and institutional capacity. Similarly, inclusive financing mechanisms and dedicated accountability frameworks are vital to safeguard that marginalized communities, especially women and rural populations, share in the CPF's benefits.

Moreover, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems, such as Pakistan's emerging Data and M&E Lab, should be expanded to track educational outcomes, gender equity progress, and governance reforms alongside climate and energy metrics.

In sum, while the CPF offers an unprecedented long-term and structural commitment to Pakistan's development, anchored in sustainable energy, climate resilience, and human capital, its success will hinge on embedding institutional accountability, gender-sensitive programming, and education reform at every stage. By integrating the strategic insights of the Just Energy Transition framework, modernized infrastructure, integrated governance, inclusive finance, renewable scaling, and human capital development, the CPF can evolve into a truly transformative roadmap, delivering tangible and equitable progress for all Pakistanis.

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