

PAKISTAN
COUNTRY STRATEGY

2012 – 16

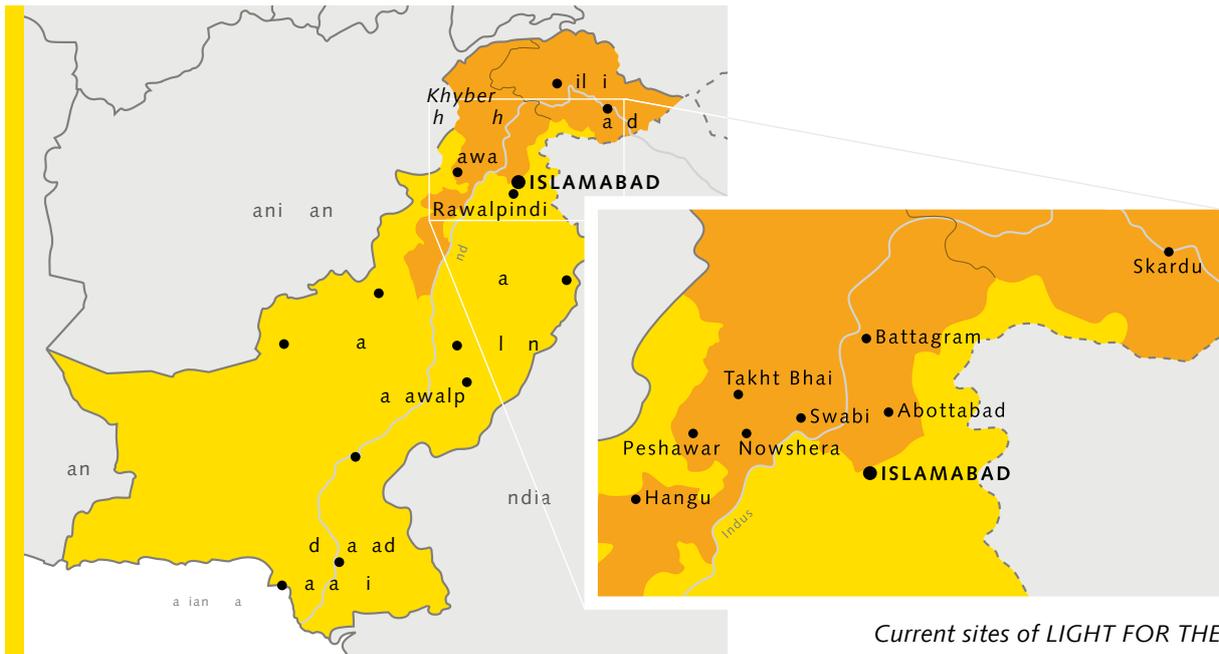




With the support of a LIGHT FOR THE WORLD funded CBR project, Yussuf is studying at a regular school in Skardu, Gilgit Baltistan.

Introduction

Area: 796,095 km²
221 inhabitants per km²
Population (2009): 176 million¹
Human Development Index (HDI): 0.515
(146 of 187 countries)²
Population below national poverty line: 22.3 %²
Life expectancy: 65.7 years²
Medical care: 80 doctors
per 100,000 inhabitants²
Eye care: 2,000 ophthalmologists³
Prevalence of blindness: 0.9 %⁴
Prevalence of disability: 13.4 %⁵



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan are the two geographic focus areas of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.

Current sites of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supported projects.

- 1 The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2013
- 2 Human Development Report 2013, UNDP
- 3 Ophthalmologic meeting, January 2009
- 4 WHO Country Office Pakistan, Survey on Blindness and Low Vision 2002–2004
- 5 World Health Survey 2002–2004

Pakistan is the sixth most populated country in the world, the most urbanised nation in South Asia and exhibits one of the highest population growth rates (2.2% in 2011).⁶ Pakistan remains a country prone to natural disasters with a low level of disaster preparedness. In addition, constraints in social protection programmes in terms of targeting, implementation and inability to respond to vulnerability, as well as gender discrimination within society, all contribute to ongoing widespread poverty.⁷

Disability in Pakistan

The most recent census in Pakistan (1998) reported a disability prevalence rate of just 2.49%. However, the World Report on Disability⁸ estimated a prevalence rate of 13.4%. The 1973 **Constitution** of Pakistan indicates that the State shall “provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, irrespective of sex, caste, creed or race, that are permanently or temporarily unable to earn their livelihood on account of infirmity, sickness...”. However, there is currently no comprehensive disability legislation in Pakistan, despite it being a signatory to the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (UNCRPD) since September 2008 and signing the ratification instrument of the Convention in June 2011. Widespread misunderstanding and discrimination ensure that people with disabilities are mostly unseen, unheard and uncounted persons, constituting one of the most marginalised groups in Pakistani society. They face multiple social, economic, physical and political barriers.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Austria has been working in Pakistan since 1996 when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Austria supported the establishment of the eye department at Battagram District Hospital. For the first decade work focused on developing comprehensive eye care projects at the district level in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Cooperation with LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Netherlands (formerly Dark & Light), allowed the programme to be expanded to include much-needed advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities, inclusive education and community based rehabilitation.

The present strategy has been developed through a comprehensive process including a situational analysis and a broad consultation of key stakeholders and partners in Pakistan and Europe which took place between July 2011 and October 2012.

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6 World Bank (25/2/2011) Pakistan at a glance

7 World Bank (2007) Social Protection in Pakistan. Managing Household Risks and Vulnerability

8 WHO (2011) World Report on Disability

The Guiding Framework of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD'S Overall Strategy

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's overall strategic objective is an inclusive society, where all persons can participate equally in their social, political, economic and cultural environment.

Our work is based on human rights: the principles of non-discrimination, participation, empowerment and accountability.

Our support fosters effective development in our partner countries. We are committed to locally owned development strategies and align our work accordingly. We co-ordinate and network our initiatives with other stakeholders.

The core work areas of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD are:

Eye health/prevention of blindness:

we aim to remove the physical, social, cultural and communication barriers that prevent equal access to high-quality eye care services for all, especially for those living in poverty.

Rehabilitation and inclusive education:

we aim to use comprehensive and sustainable intervention systems to address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities and ensure that they can use their potential, skills and abilities to participate fully in society.

Inclusive development and the rights of persons with disabilities:

we aim for inclusive development cooperation that ensures the participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

We aim to ensure that national and provincial programmes around rural development, emergency response and disaster preparedness in Pakistan **take account of the needs of and are inclusive** of people with disabilities.

We will contribute to the creation of an inclusive society in Pakistan by aligning our work in support of the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of Blindness, the National Policy on Disability, the participation in relevant forums, and by implementing projects exclusively through strong local partner NGOs and disabled people's organisations (DPOs).

The core areas of our work over the next five years will be in the provinces of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB):**

Eye health/prevention of blindness:

we aim to increase both government and private sector availability and accessibility for the rural poor population with a specific focus on replicable best-practice examples. Strengthening of linkages between primary and secondary level and promoting the integration of eye care within general health care structures will also be focussed on.

Rehabilitation and inclusive education:

we aim to support community based rehabilitation programmes in remote rural areas clustered around already existing projects in the fields of rehabilitation, inclusive education, eye care and emergency response.

Disabled people's organisations and disability movements:

we aim to enhance the organisational and advocacy capacity of DPOs to demand and promote the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on community, district, provincial and national level.

Supporting Inclusive Development in Pakistan 2012 – 2016



Student examined for refractive error by the School Eye Health Programme in Swabi, KPK.

Eye Health/Prevention of Blindness

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is one of several international NGOs engaged in eye care in Pakistan, supporting eye care programmes in the public and private sector in KPK province. The main approach for improving access to eye care has been support for infrastructure, human resource development, district headquarter hospitals and their outreach programmes, eye care units and the detection of uncorrected refractive errors through a school eye health programme.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD will continue to play a key role in the field of prevention of blindness and in working in cooperation with the government and NGOs to promote the development of comprehensive and sustainable eye care services. The interventions will be coordinated with the National and Provincial Programmes for Prevention and Control of Blindness and contribute to the fulfillment of the global VISION 2020 goal to eliminate avoidable blindness. The following three results are expected:

RESULT 1: Comprehensive, high-quality, sustainable eye care services are available and accessible for the rural poor population in at least four districts of KPK and GB.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Ensuring that primary and secondary eye care services are available at district and sub-district level.
- Linking with general primary health structures and services at community level.
- Enhancing adequate deployment, capacity and motivation of ophthalmologists and mid-level eye care staff.
- Ensuring that persons with uncorrected refractive errors and low vision, especially school children, have access to refraction services and assistive devices.

RESULT 2: Successful comprehensive eye care models are adopted or taken into account by government and non-government stakeholders for the design and implementation of comprehensive eye care programmes for the rural poor population.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Evaluating different models and approaches of eye care service delivery.
- Contributing to the formulation of evidence-based models of improving comprehensive and sustainable eye care service for rural poor populations.
- Using best practice models to influence policy and programme development in the context of the National Programme for Prevention of Blindness at national and provincial levels.

RESULT 3: Government, national and international NGOs are engaged in joint planning, monitoring and harmonisation of eye care activities in KPK and GB.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Enhancing the management and advocacy capacity of the Provincial Committees for Prevention of Blindness in KPK and GB.
- Promoting the networking and joint advocacy of civil society organisations and INGOs.



Cataract patient at the Comprehensive Eye Care Clinic in Takht Bhai, KPK.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

For LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, community based rehabilitation is the main strategy to include persons with disabilities in rural development, address their specific needs and remove barriers impeding their full participation in the communities. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD aims to be a driving force in GB and to significantly contribute to CBR promotion in KPK as well as at a national level so that persons with disabilities have access to rehabilitation, education, health, livelihood and participation in their communities through the development of community based rehabilitation programmes in rural areas of both provinces. The following two results are expected:

RESULT 1: Persons with disabilities in districts with particularly adverse climatic and socio-geographic conditions in GB and KPK have access to rehabilitation, education, health, livelihood and participation in their communities.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Successfully developing model CBR programmes for inclusive and community based rural development in particularly adverse climatic and socio-geographic conditions (inaccessible mountainous areas and flood-prone lowlands).
- Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to general health care, eye care, rehabilitation and education facilities at primary and secondary level as well as livelihood opportunities in their districts.
- Ensuring that CBR programmes or components are implemented in areas where successful interventions in the field of eye care, inclusive education and emergency recovery have been supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD.



Client of the CBR programme in Skardu, GB.

RESULT 2: The CBR approach for achieving Inclusive Development of rural areas is strengthened, disseminated, promoted and implemented in Pakistan.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Enhancing the capacity and know-how of CBR project staff in rehabilitation techniques, understanding the WHO CBR guidelines and the general health system.
- Facilitating the exchange of experiences, best practices and mutual learning on CBR project implementation.
- Promotion of CBR through the existing national Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Network among government and non-government actors through joint advocacy efforts by different stakeholders.

Inclusive Education

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD aims to be a relevant player in promoting inclusive education in the context of CBR projects and disaster preparedness. Inclusive education components in the context of CBR programmes shall serve as examples for a more widespread adoption of inclusive education at least in those districts of KPK and GB covered by the CBR projects.

Inclusive education might also be promoted through stand-alone projects linked to CBR and Eye Care projects. But the main focus lies on developing inclusive education components as part of CBR programmes supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, providing support for the training of teachers, awareness raising of communities, equipment and adaptations of school buildings etc. The following three results are expected:

RESULT 1: Access to mainstream education for children with disabilities is increased in districts where LIGHT FOR THE WORLD supports CBR, eye care and emergency projects.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Developing linkages with rehabilitation and eye care projects, leading to integrated service structures accessible for children with disabilities in the project areas.
- Raising awareness among school, community and government officials responsible for education in the target districts.
- Building the capacity of teachers of mainstream primary and secondary schools in the CBR project areas in inclusive education teaching methods and providing appropriate teaching material.
- Ensuring that children with disabilities and inclusive education teachers have access to resource centres for inclusive education.

RESULT 2: Persons with disabilities are included in technical, vocational and skills training programmes and can access employment and self-employment opportunities.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Building the capacity of trainers in technical and vocational training centres where CBR projects are supported to include people with disabilities in training programmes.
- Supporting and following up on job placements and enterprises set up by people with disabilities.

RESULT 3: Awareness on and capacity in inclusive education is enhanced.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Developing the capacity of key staff of partner organisations to train and orientate education authorities and mainstream teachers in inclusive education.
- Promoting teacher training in inclusive education and supporting the establishment of resource centres.

Promoting Inclusive Development and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Together with other INGOs, national NGOs and DPOs, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is a driving force in the national initiative to mainstream disability into emergency work and disaster preparedness.

During the lifetime of this strategy, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD will remain actively involved in mainstreaming disability into emergency response, disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness strategies. We will also seek to influence local stakeholders (government and NGOs) to include disability in mainstream rural and sectoral development programmes at district and provincial level.

In order to politically and organisationally empower the disability movements, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD will support the organisational and capacity development of community, district, provincial and national level DPOs with a major focus on advocacy.

For the monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, support shall be extended to DPO networks and consortia at national level. This shall enable them to collect evidence, build capacity and influence policy development and implementation processes as competent and publicly acknowledged stakeholders. The following two results are expected:

RESULT 1: Political leaders and policy makers are aware of the rights of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the UNCRPD is advocated for and monitored by DPOs from the grassroots, district, provincial and national level, with emphasis on KPK and GB districts.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Enhancing the organisational and advocacy capacity of DPOs.
- Working with local NGOs, INGOs, DPOs and other stakeholders to develop a common strategy for mainstreaming disability into priority areas of development.
- Networking with and building the capacity of DPOs through provincial and national networking initiatives aimed at monitoring the implementation of the UNCRPD, and influencing policy development processes such as the formulation of new disability legislation.

RESULT 2: At least four new examples of disability mainstreaming are implemented at provincial or district level in KPK and GB.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD's support will focus on:

- Mainstreaming disability into at least two rural development programmes at district or provincial level implemented by an external stakeholder.
- Ensuring that disability specific needs are addressed in at least two government sector policy development programmes at provincial level, including disaster response and disaster preparedness.

Making the Pakistan Country Strategy a Reality

Programmes will be implemented through local civil society organisations with technical support from experts of the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Confederation as well as external consultants. Networking, advocacy and disability mainstreaming will also include international partners active in Pakistan. It is envisaged to further develop the cooperation with at least two already existing key partners into strategic partnerships.

Partners:

The following is a list of partners (in alphabetical order) who are implementing a project supported by LIGHT FOR THE WORLD at the time of this strategy going to press. A detailed and updated list of the projects supported can be found in the annual activity report of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD available at www.light-for-the-world.org:

- Aid to Leprosy Patients (ALP)
- Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme (CHIP)
- Comprehensive Health and Education Forum International (CHEF International)
- Pakistan Institute of Community Ophthalmology (PICO)
- Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP)

In addition, we also are part of the following networks and committees:

- Ageing and Disability Task Force (ADTF)
- Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Network
- Provincial Blindness Control Board, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Financial Resources

In 2012, the total expenses of LIGHT FOR THE WORLD in Pakistan came to approximately 550,000 EUR. Given continued positive income growth and the fact that Pakistan is focus country for LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, this support will be maintained.

Detailed figures are published in the LIGHT FOR THE WORLD annual activity report.

Abbreviations:

CBID	Community Based Inclusive Development
CBR	Community Based Rehabilitation
DPO	Disabled People's Organisation
GB	Gilgit Baltistan
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
UNCRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
WHO	World Health Organisation

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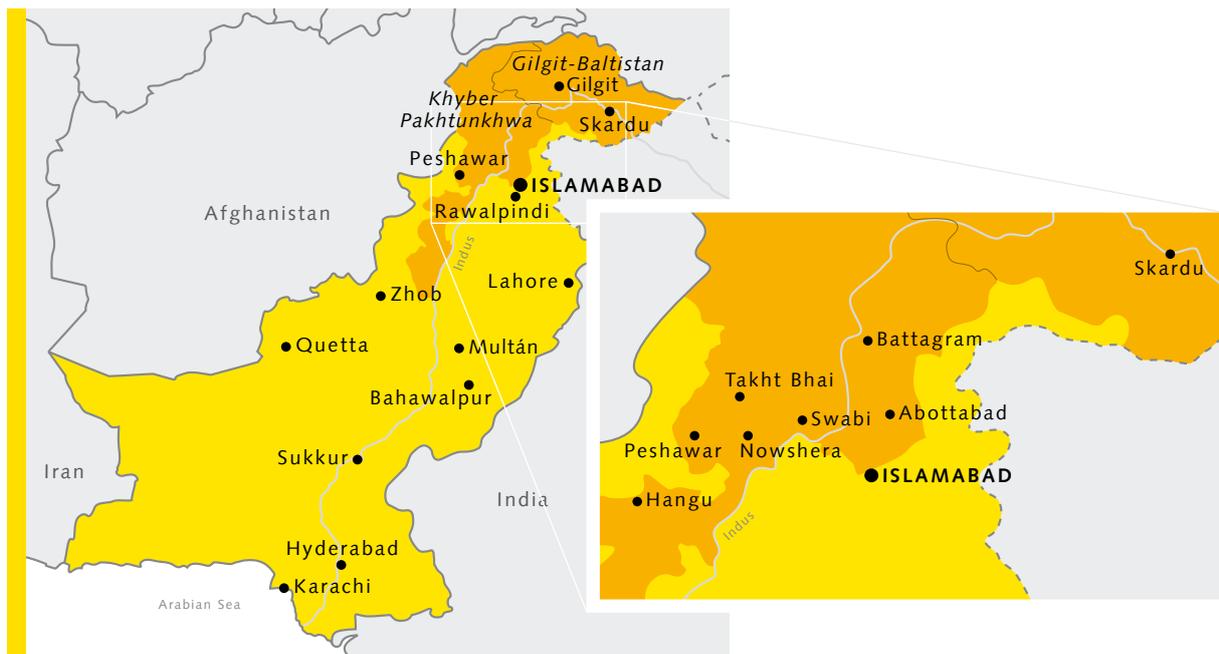
All statistics and data as of July 2013.



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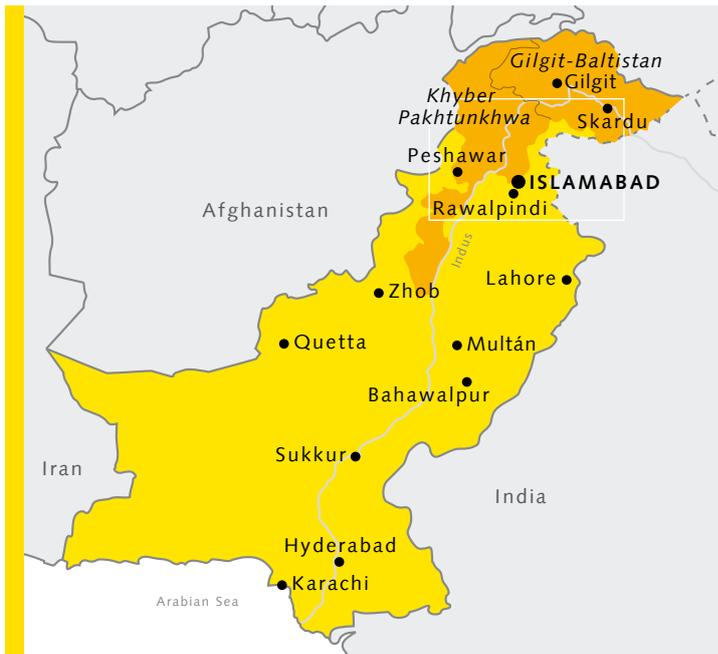
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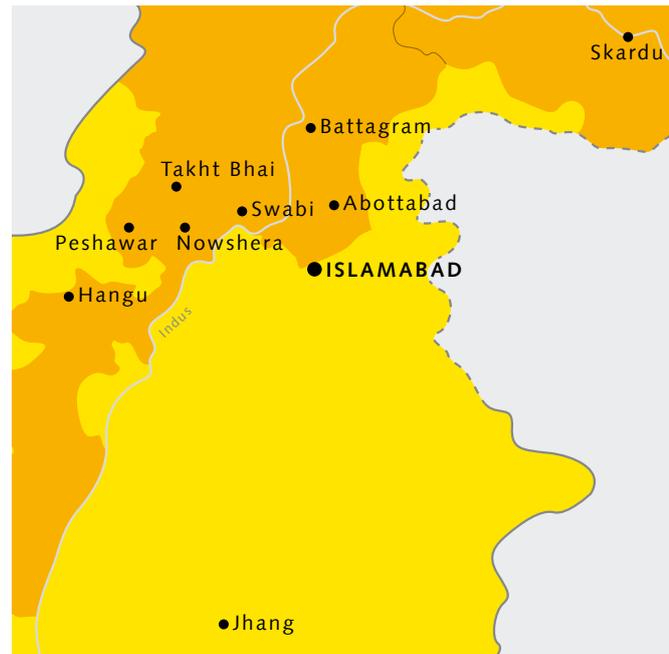
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