

Pakistan's Human Development Index at the District Level

Key Findings

Large district-level disparities persist across Pakistan, with HDI values ranging from high human development in major urban districts to very low levels in several rural and peripheral districts.

Punjab (0.52) dominates the provincial HDI rankings, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (0.43) and Sindh, highlighting unequal access to education, health services, and income opportunities within provinces. Balochistan ranks lowest (0.38), however this figure is incomplete given unavailability of data for 07 districts.

Several districts in Sindh, Balochistan, and KP cluster near the bottom of the HDI distribution, underscoring the need for geographically targeted development strategies.

Table 1: Top 5 District-Level HDI Rankings

Rank	District	HDI	I_{Health}	I_{Edu}	I_{Income}
1	Karachi E	0.722	0.930	0.454	0.891
2	Islamabad	0.721	0.788	0.476	1.000
3	Karachi C	0.685	0.918	0.450	0.779
4	Rawalpindi	0.656	0.898	0.429	0.732
5	Lahore	0.651	0.889	0.398	0.779

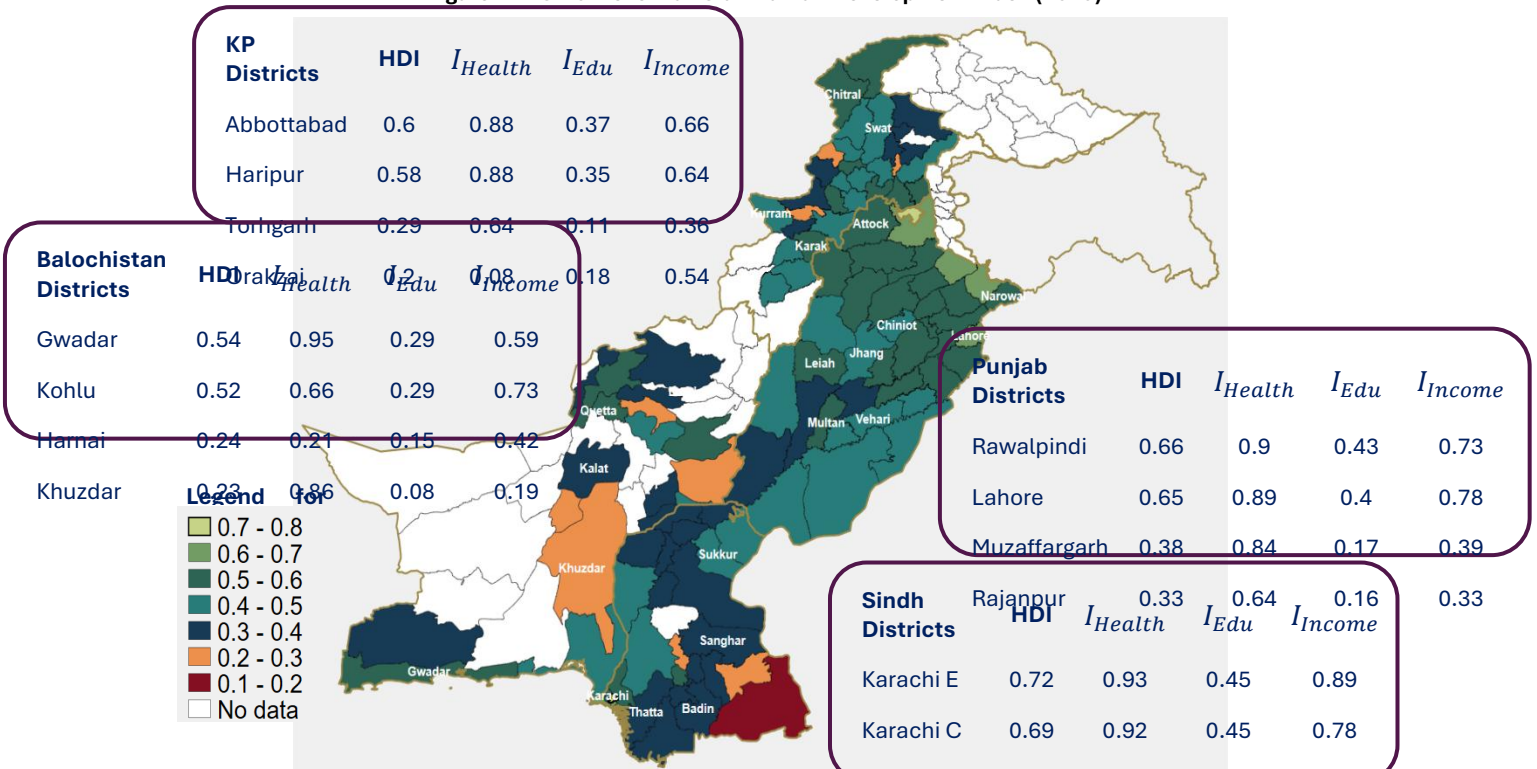
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Use district-level HDI to guide federal and provincial planning**, target the most deprived districts, and move beyond provincial averages—particularly in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- Establish a nationally consistent methodology for district-level HDI estimation** and use it to design differentiated responses to urban–rural and within-province inequalities.
- Invest in reliable district-level census and mortality data to improve HDI accuracy**, while using existing proxy-based HDI estimates for immediate decision-making.

Table 2: Bottom 5 District-Level HDI Rankings

Rank	District	HDI	I_{Health}	I_{Edu}	I_{Income}
108	Harnai	0.237	0.214	0.149	0.416
109	Khuzdar	0.233	0.862	0.078	0.187
110	Umer Kot	0.230	0.924	0.175	0.075
111	Orakzai	0.203	0.083	0.184	0.542
112	Tharparkar	0.107	0.747	0.123	0.013

Figure 1: District Level Pakistan Human Development Index (2020)



Note: Disaggregated indexes are shown for the top and bottom two districts in each province

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DISTRICT LEVEL HDI (2020)

Punjab District Level HDI and its Indices					
Districts	HDI	Mortality_index	Income_index	Education_index	
Rajanpur	0.33	0.64	0.33	0.16	
Muzaffargarh	0.38	0.84	0.39	0.17	
Khanewal	0.40	0.67	0.36	0.27	
Dera Ghazi Khan	0.41	0.90	0.39	0.20	
Bhakkar	0.43	0.94	0.36	0.24	
Rahim Yar Khan	0.44	0.83	0.48	0.21	
Bahawalpur	0.45	0.79	0.50	0.23	
Lodhran	0.46	0.78	0.55	0.22	
Vehari	0.47	0.76	0.59	0.23	
Pakpattan	0.47	0.69	0.66	0.23	
Chiniot	0.47	0.85	0.52	0.24	
Bahawalnagar	0.47	0.86	0.51	0.24	
Jhang	0.50	0.78	0.57	0.27	
Khushab	0.50	0.85	0.52	0.28	
Multan	0.50	0.77	0.58	0.29	
Mianwali	0.51	0.78	0.60	0.28	
Leiah	0.52	0.94	0.55	0.28	
Hafizabad	0.52	0.81	0.59	0.30	
Nankana Sahib	0.52	0.75	0.63	0.30	
Kasur	0.53	0.92	0.57	0.28	
Toba Tek Singh	0.53	0.85	0.56	0.32	
Okara	0.53	0.76	0.68	0.29	
Jhelum	0.53	0.63	0.61	0.40	
Sargodha	0.53	0.86	0.55	0.32	
Mandi					
Bahauddin	0.55	0.80	0.65	0.33	
Sheikhupura	0.56	0.89	0.65	0.31	
Sahiwal	0.57	0.87	0.75	0.28	
Chakwal	0.57	0.66	0.71	0.40	
Faisalabad	0.58	0.89	0.64	0.33	
Narowal	0.58	0.96	0.56	0.37	
Attock	0.59	0.85	0.69	0.35	
Gujranwala	0.60	0.89	0.66	0.37	
Gujrat	0.60	0.90	0.66	0.37	
Sialkot	0.63	0.98	0.62	0.41	
Lahore	0.65	0.89	0.78	0.40	
Rawalpindi	0.66	0.90	0.73	0.43	
Islamabad	0.72	0.79	1.00	0.48	

KPK District Level HDI and its Indices				
Districts	HDI	Mortality_index	Income_index	Education_index
Orakzai	0.20	0.08	0.54	0.18
Tor Ghar	0.29	0.64	0.36	0.11
Bajaur	0.30	0.88	0.28	0.11
Kohistan Lower	0.31	0.74	0.35	0.11
Mohmand	0.31	0.81	0.37	0.10
Batagram	0.34	0.58	0.41	0.17
Khyber	0.35	0.68	0.34	0.19
Hangu	0.36	0.76	0.37	0.17
Shangla	0.38	0.75	0.52	0.14
Tank	0.40	0.51	0.67	0.19
Buner	0.41	0.84	0.43	0.18
Kurram	0.41	0.83	0.52	0.16
Mansehra	0.42	0.53	0.50	0.27
Upper Dir	0.43	0.93	0.45	0.19
Nowshera	0.44	0.77	0.40	0.27
Kohat	0.45	0.84	0.43	0.25
Lower Dir	0.45	0.89	0.43	0.24
Charsadda	0.46	0.95	0.42	0.24
Mardan	0.47	0.92	0.43	0.26
Swat	0.48	0.89	0.52	0.24
Lakki Marwat	0.49	0.77	0.57	0.26
Bannu	0.49	0.91	0.56	0.23
Swabi	0.50	0.92	0.52	0.27
Malakand	0.51	0.81	0.56	0.30
Peshawar	0.53	0.89	0.57	0.29
Chitral Upper	0.54			
Chitral Lower	0.54	0.91	0.56	0.31
Karak	0.54	0.87	0.57	0.32
Haripur	0.58	0.88	0.64	0.35
Abbottabad	0.60	0.88	0.66	0.37
D. I. Khan			0.56	0.20
Kohistan Upper				

Sindh District Level HDI and its Indices				
Districts	HDI	Mortality_index	Income_index	Education_index
Tharparkar	0.11	0.75	0.01	0.12
Umer Kot	0.23	0.92	0.08	0.18
Matiari	0.29	0.29	0.38	0.22
Mirpur Khas	0.32	0.92	0.19	0.19
Thatta	0.32	0.80	0.39	0.11
Kashmore	0.33	0.84	0.30	0.14
Tando Muhammad Khan	0.34	0.62	0.45	0.14
Sujawal	0.34	0.84	0.37	0.13
Shikarpur	0.35	0.82	0.30	0.17
Badin	0.36	0.85	0.38	0.14
Tando Allahyar	0.36	0.62	0.41	0.19
Jacobabad	0.38	0.79	0.39	0.18
Sanghar	0.38	0.86	0.30	0.21
Naushahro Feroze	0.38	0.70	0.36	0.22
Larkana	0.39	0.77	0.49	0.16
Kambar Shahdad Kot	0.40	0.83	0.51	0.15
Khairpur	0.40	0.83	0.37	0.21
Ghotki	0.43	0.78	0.56	0.18
Dadu	0.43	0.84	0.47	0.20
Jamshoro	0.46	0.81	0.57	0.21
Sukkur	0.50	0.84	0.61	0.24
West Karachi	0.54	0.84	0.61	0.31
Hyderabad	0.55	0.81	0.63	0.33
Malir Karachi	0.58	0.94	0.67	0.31
South Karachi	0.63	0.78	0.80	0.39
Korangi Karachi	0.64	0.83	0.71	0.44
Central Karachi	0.69	0.92	0.78	0.45
East Karachi	0.72	0.93	0.89	0.45
Shaheed Benazir Abad			0.26	0.19

Balochistan District Level HDI and its Indices				
Districts	HDI	Mortality_index	Income_index	Education_index
Khuzdar	0.23	0.86	0.19	0.08
Harnai	0.24	0.21	0.42	0.15
Shaheed Sikandarabad	0.26	0.60	0.53	0.06
Dera Bugti	0.30	0.72	0.55	0.07
Ziarat	0.33	0.44	0.48	0.17
Kech	0.33	0.33	0.53	0.20
Nasirabad	0.33	0.82	0.40	0.11
Kalat	0.34	0.51	0.57	0.14
Killa Abdullah	0.34	0.77	0.43	0.13
Jaffarabad	0.36	0.76	0.39	0.16
Killa Saifullah	0.40	0.80	0.47	0.16
Sohbatpur	0.41	0.79	0.44	0.19
Lasbela	0.44	0.85	0.56	0.18
Sibi	0.45	0.80	0.52	0.22
Quetta	0.51	0.80	0.58	0.28
Pishin	0.51	0.89	0.63	0.23
Kohlu	0.52	0.66	0.73	0.29
Gwadar	0.54	0.95	0.59	0.29
Barkhan			0.49	0.13
Duki			0.71	0.16
Kachhi			0.37	0.18
Loralai			0.55	0.22
Mastung		0.00	0.54	0.25
Nushki			0.52	0.23
Sherani			0.62	0.06