Assessing Urban Land Administration Capacity to Achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Pakistan

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SUMMARY

The Urban Land Administration System (LAS) encompasses land tenure, value, use, and development and has significant social, fiscal, legal, and technical implications. A non-functional and outdated LAS can create challenges and obstacles to achieving sustainable development within a society. In 2015, the United Nations established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure peace and prosperity for all by protecting the planet and ending poverty.

The research aims to assess the capacity of urban LAS to achieve the SDGs related to land and property. The research methodology includes identifying the SDG targets and goals related to urban LAS and an appraisal of existing urban development in the study area and its challenges. The research also assesses SDGs in the context of urban LAS policies and legislative frameworks using a desk review of the literature and stakeholder surveys.

The identified SDG goals and targets related to urban LAS include:

Goal 1: No Poverty, Target 1.4

Goal 2: Zero Hunger, Target 2.3

Goal 5: Gender Equality, Target 5.A

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, Target 8.2

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Target 11.1 and Target 11.3

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, Target 12.2

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Target 16.5 and Target 16.6

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals, Target 17.1

Pakistan's population rapidly grew from 132.35 million in 1998 to 241.5 million in 2023. The annual growth rate in urban areas is notably higher, at 3.65 percent, compared to rural areas, which is 1.9 percent, putting a considerable burden on existing manual LASs. There is a hybrid legislative framework for urban areas, including British colonial and contemporary LASs. The Vision 2025 and Digital Pakistan Policy require extensive upgrades in existing LASs to meet national and sustainable development goals.

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