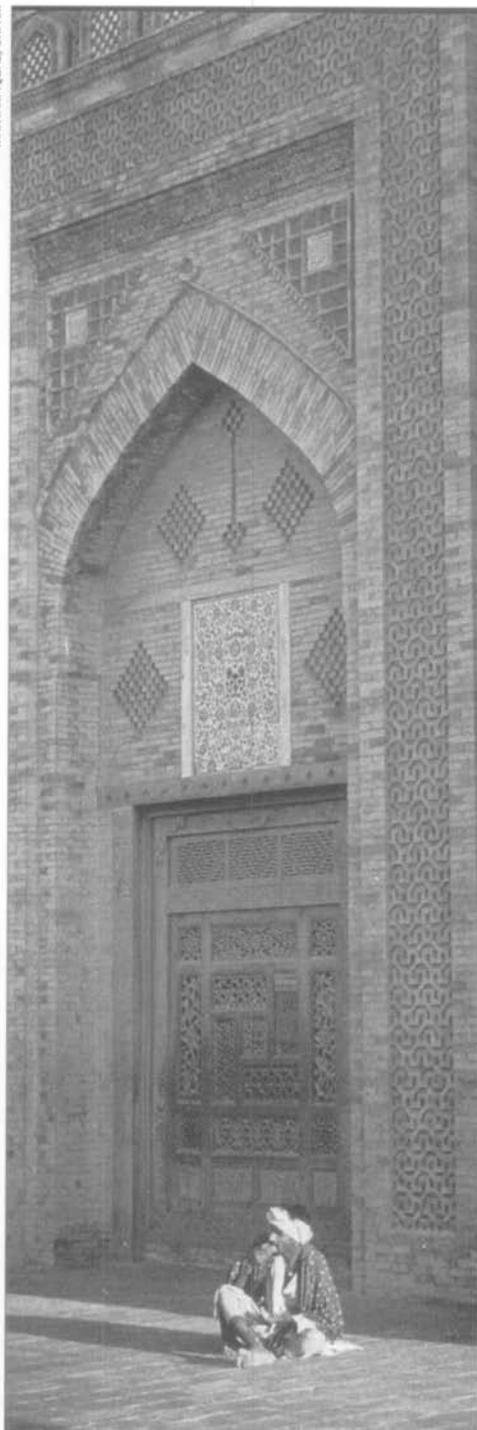


Facts and figures

MARIYAM IQBAL/OXFAM



Area	770,880 sq km
Population	148,721,000 (2002)
Population growth rate	2.1% (2001)
Urban population	37%
Major cities	Karachi, 11,800,000; Lahore 5,470,000; Islamabad 1,018,000
Languages	Punjabi, Pushto, Sindhi, Saraiki, Urdu, Balochi, Hindko, Brohi
Religious affiliations	Muslim 97%, Christian 1.5%, Hindu 1.5%
Adult literacy	43% (male 58%; female 28%)
Life expectancy	61 years
Infant mortality	85 (per 1000 live births)
Health care	One doctor per 1754 persons; one hospital bed for 1555 persons
Communications	22 telephone lines per 1000 people
Principal exports	Garments, cotton, rice, leather and leather goods, fresh fish, textiles, sports goods
Principal imports	Machinery, petroleum, petroleum products, chemicals, transportation equipment, edible oils, grains, pulses, flour
Main trading partners	Exports: USA, UK, UAE, Hong Kong, Germany Imports: Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, USA, Japan
Foreign debt	\$32 billion
Form of government	Parliamentary, federal Islamic republic, with two legislative houses; Senate 87 members; National Assembly members 357
Human Development Index	138 (out of 173) (2002)

(All figures relate to the year 2000 unless otherwise specified. Sources: United Nations and The World Bank, quoted in *The World Guide 2003/2004*.)

Entrance to a shrine, Multan

Further reading

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SARAH ERRINGTON/OXFAM



Oxfam in Pakistan

Oxfam GB has funded relief and development work in Pakistan since 1973. Its first office was opened in 1989, to administer a programme which delivered welfare services to communities in need. Today Oxfam has four offices in Pakistan, and its staff work mainly through partnerships with local grassroots groups, intermediary NGOs, and campaigning organisations, strengthening them to undertake sustainable development work of their own. Poor communities are empowered to claim their basic human rights in a wide range of contexts: education, health care, natural-resource management, disasters and emergencies, and women's rights.

In the field of education, Oxfam in Pakistan supports programmes which address the particular needs of girls and women, who are at a severe disadvantage, especially in rural areas, where boys are three times more likely than girls to complete their primary education, and literacy rates for women are in some places as low as 9 per cent. Oxfam's partner, Khoj, has developed innovative teaching methods which accelerate learning and are relevant to women's lives. Its students acquire the self-confidence to play a fuller part in society: for example, Najma, who was illiterate five years ago, had the courage to run for local council elections in 2002. Oxfam also funds the development of educational resources which challenge conventional assumptions about gender roles, and supports partners' efforts to lobby the government to improve school-enrolment rates for girls and improve the quality of education.

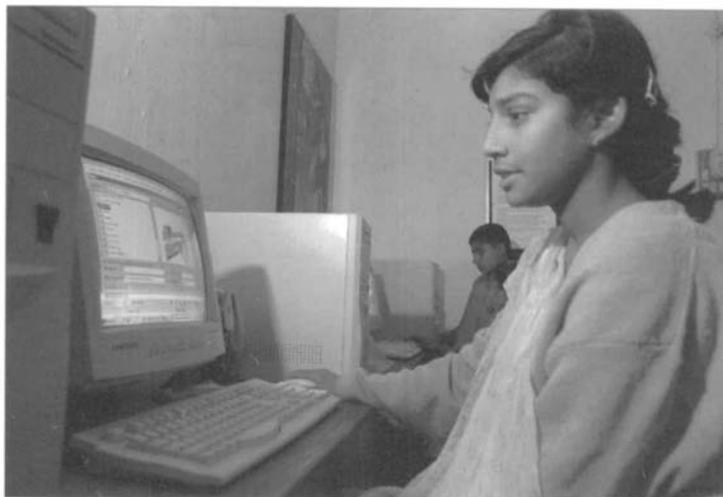
Oxfam is committed to the campaign to end violence against women.

It supports awareness-raising projects such as street theatre, advertisements in cinemas, and poster competitions; community workshops in districts where 'honour killings' of women by male relatives are most prevalent have also been supported. Oxfam funds legal aid and para-legal training programmes, with some notable successes: in a village near Islamabad, for example, young girls educated through the para-legal programme have been able to negotiate better marriage contracts, which give them more rights and protection under the laws.

In the field of health care, Oxfam works to improve the supply of affordable medicines to poor people, and especially to women and children. Its partner on this issue is forming a network to lobby the government to challenge policies of the World Trade Organisation which disadvantage developing countries like Pakistan.

In rural areas, farmers' groups are supported in their efforts to manage local natural resources in a sustainable manner, with a particular emphasis on

The Khoj Network on Communication and Development, supported by Oxfam, teaches literacy and computer skills to girls and women in poor communities of Lahore.



ANNIE BUNGEROTH/OXFAM

cleaning up water-sources and reclaiming degraded land. In response to the natural disasters that regularly afflict Pakistan, Oxfam is working with government institutions and other emergency-relief organisations to develop programmes to deal with droughts and cyclones. Communities suffering from years of drought in Baluchistan have been supported by food-distribution and asset-building programmes which are gradually being converted into rehabilitation and livelihoods-support work.

In 2002, Oxfam set up water-supply and hygiene-promotion systems in four camps, serving more than fifty thousand refugees from the crisis in Afghanistan. Oxfam has also supported displaced communities along the line of control in

Kashmir, bringing water nearer to their homes, in order to avoid the landmines laid in nearby rivers. In the same year, Oxfam was the first NGO to arrive with relief supplies after an earthquake struck in the north of Pakistan; in harsh winter conditions, staff collaborated with the government and other agencies to distribute tents and food. Oxfam is also working with the Punjab provincial government to develop a policy on disasters and relief management.

Oxfam's long-term objective in Pakistan is to develop the capacity of intermediary civil-society organisations: helping them to acquire skills and improve their internal systems and their external links, in order to work for justice and equality at all levels of society.



