Independent Analysis of Gender Responsiveness

Pakistan's Federal Budget FY2025-26

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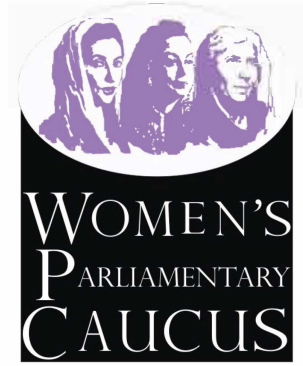
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The analysis of the Executive Budget Proposal presented by the Government of Pakistan on 10 June 2025 was conducted by Omar Asghar Khan Foundation for Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Its findings were presented at a roundtable convened by the Women's Parliamenary Caucus on June 12, 2025.

Pakistan Federal Budget FY2025-26
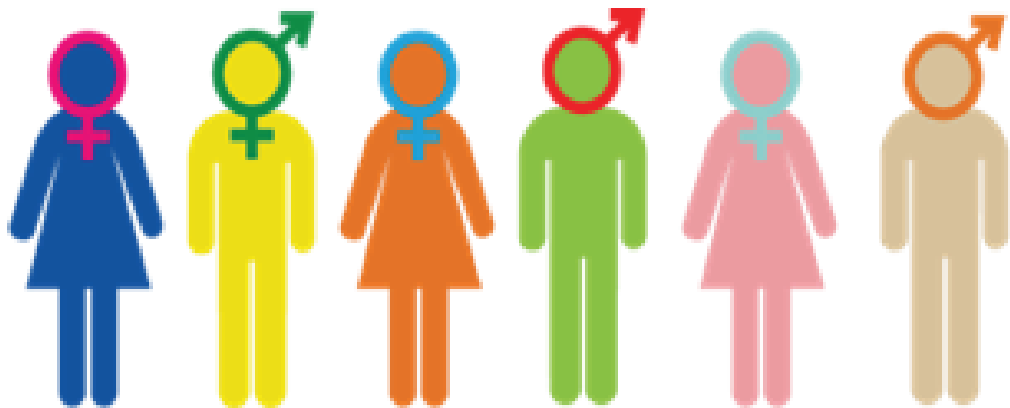
Total
Rs. 17,573 billion

Development
Rs. 1,287 billion

Current
Rs. 16,286 billion

Gender Responsive Budgets (GRB)

are not about separate budgets for women and men, but about equity in public finance management to help create equal opportunities, reduce social exclusion, promote economic efficiency, poverty reduction and good governance.

Gender Budget Tagging Methodology

is the exercise of assigning gender codes to cost centres in the budget (current and development) based on a methodology for identifying and assigning scores to each gender-relevant item & classifying them.

The analysis uses the Gender Budget Tagging (GBT) Methodology designed in 2023 by Omar Asghar Khan Foundation for the Sub-National Governance Programme implemented by Oxford Policy Management.

GBT SCORING

High

Funds designed for women, girls and gender-diverse persons, likely to directly support gender equality.

Medium

Funds that do not deliberately aim to support gender equality, but may do so by providing women, girls and gender-diverse persons access to public services, capacity building opportunities, jobs, etc.

Low

Funds that may create an enabling environment for gender equality, for example, by supporting research that may improve the access of women, girls and gender-diverse persons to incomes and livelihoods.

Scoring apadted from OECD markers.

Classification

1. ## Social Services
   budgets that support access to education, heath and other basic services like drinking water, etc.

2. ## Gender Based Violence
   budgets that help prevent or respond to GBV, typically relates to police, prosecution, law and justice and facilities like shelters and helplines.

3. ## Women's Economic Empowerment
   budgets that support girls, women and gender-diverse persons to generate incomes and use infrastructure that supports mobility and access to income opportunities.

4. Climate Change

budgets that support adaptation and mitigation measures.

5. Social Protection

includes social safety nets to the poor and other vulnerable groups like PWDs and religious minorities, and also disaster relief.
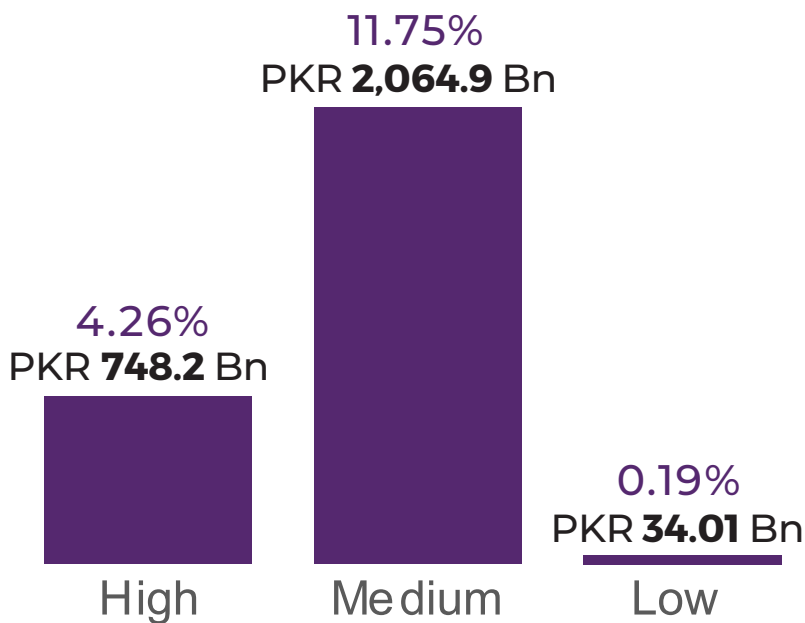
6. Institutions for Womenn's Empowerment

budgets that support government and statutory institutions that play a leadership role on advancing women's empowerment.

High, medium and low gender-relevant aggregate (current and development amounts of the total budget of PKR17,573 Billion

11.75%
PKR **2,064.9** Bn

4.26%
PKR **748.2** Bn
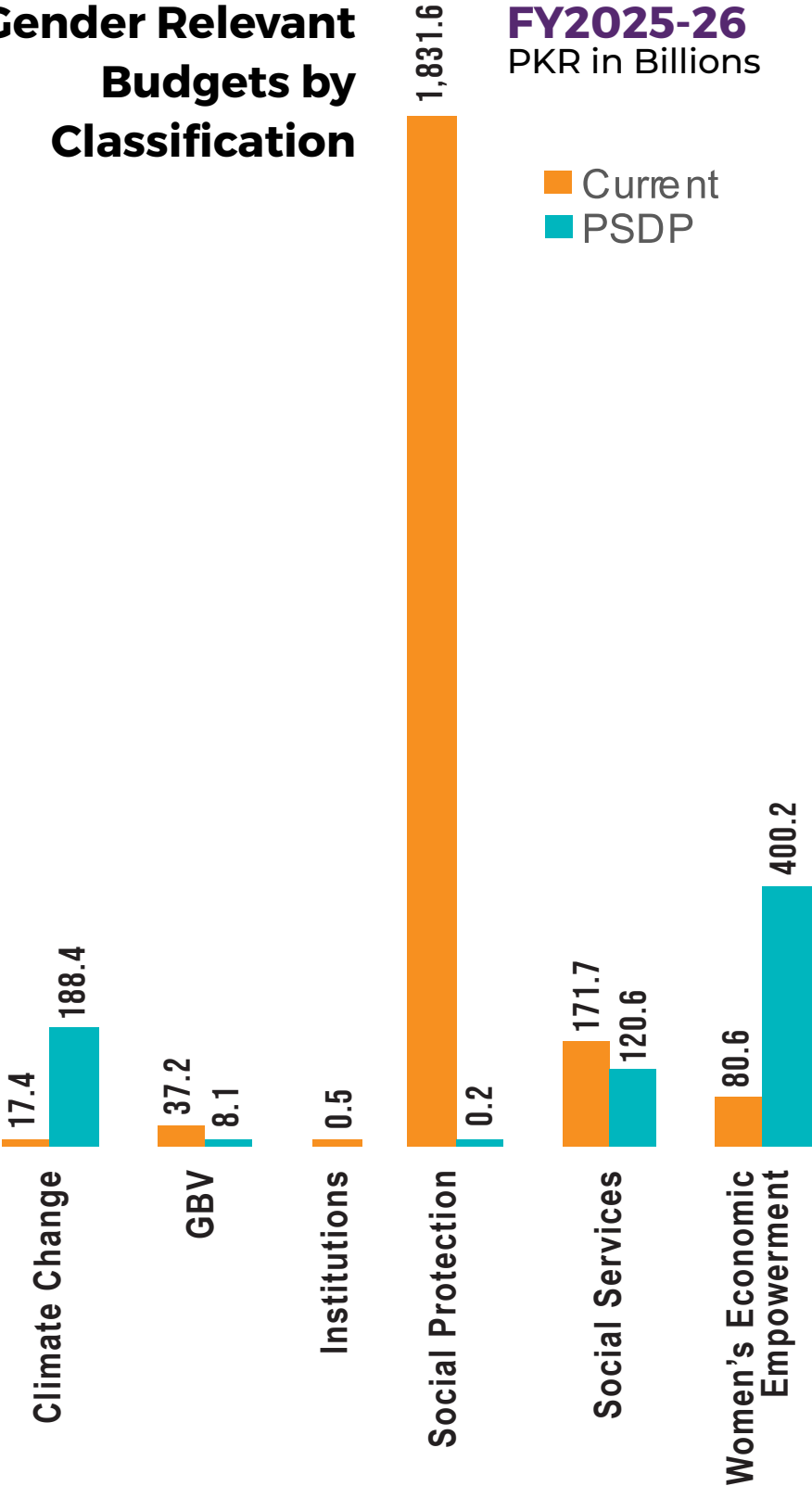
0.19%
PKR **34.01** Bn

High   Medium   Low

- Generate granular information, including sex-disaggregated data, to help claim investments on empowering women and girls in all their diversity.

- Integrate gender and social inclusion assessments in planning and monitoring government projects to track their impact in reducing vulnerabilities based on poverty, gender, ability, faith, etc.

- Invest in changing public attitudes that perpetuate gender and social exclusion.

Recommendations

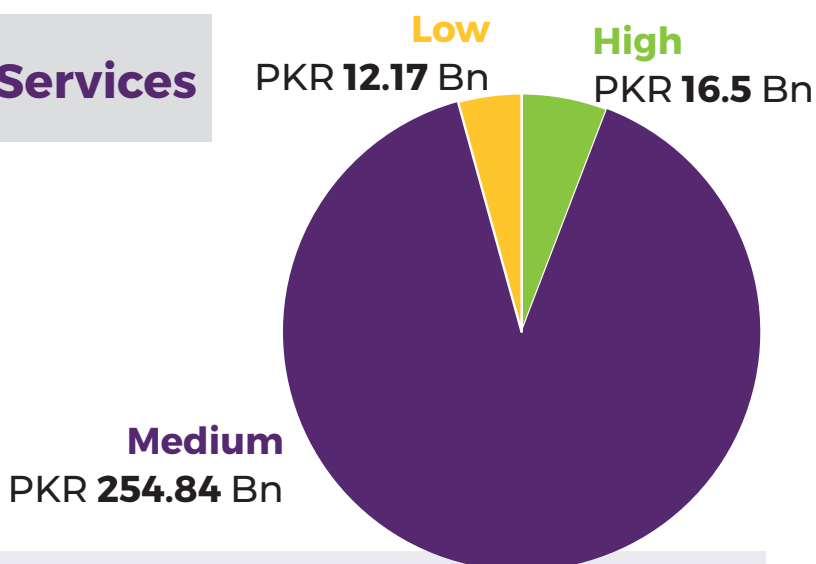**Gender Relevant Budgets by Classification**

FY2025-26
PKR in Billions

Current
PSDP

Climate Change — 17.4, 188.4
GBV — 37.2, 8.1
Institutions — 0.5
Social Protection — 1,831.6, 0.2
Social Services — 171.7, 120.6
Women's Economic Empowerment — 80.6, 400.2

Social Services

Low
PKR **12.17** Bn

High
PKR **16.5** Bn

Medium
PKR **254.84** Bn

- Include supplemental teaching material to promote gender sensitivity and social inclusion.

- Enable women, especially those at risk of intersectional vulnerability, to access higher education scholarships.

- Introduce robust initiatives on family planning for women and men: include a focus on removing social barriers, addressing provider bias & making products easily available.

- Remove taxes on women's basic menstrual hygiene products.

- Introduce mental health services.

- Implement public information campaigns on the harmful impacts of child and consanguineous marriages.

Recommendations

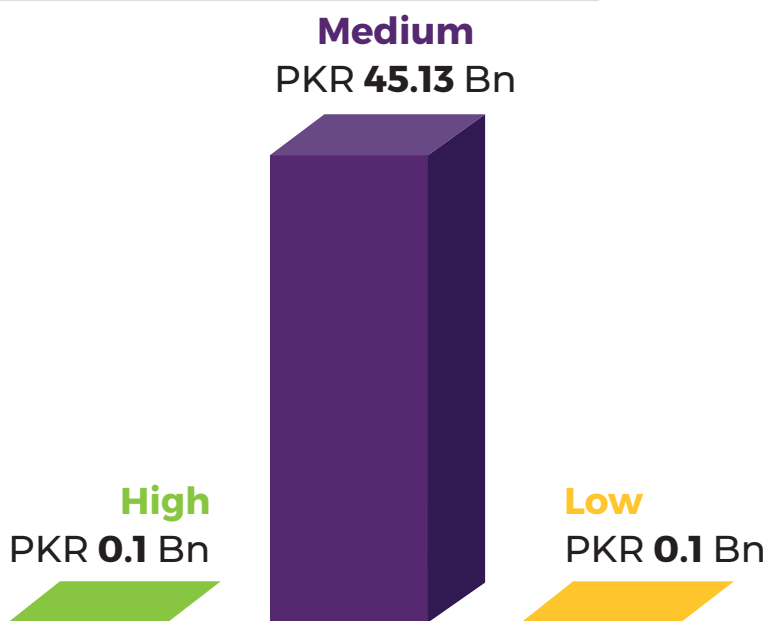# Women's Economic Empowerment

Low PKR **17.6** Bn

Medium PKR **454.2** Bn

High PKR **8.5** Bn

- Provide more granular information to shift medium relevant amounts to high relevance.

- Increase labour force participation of women, especially by promoting their entry into the formal economy including platform economy through measures like vocational & technical training and access to resources.

- Provide incentives to increase the percentage of women entrepreneurs.

- Formalize home-based workers and give them access to social security.

- Allocate resources to implement the Islamabad Capital Territory Domestic Workers Act 2022.

- Introduce childcare facilities to assist working parents.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

Medium
PKR **45.13** Bn

High
PKR **0.1** Bn

Low
PKR **0.1** Bn

- Implement public information campaigns on GBV.

- Improve forensics and prosecution capacity.

- Establish counselling centres & other response mechanisms, including helplines and legal aid.

- Support social reintegration of women survivors or at risk of violence.

- Design and rollout gender-sensitization training of police and other first responders.

- Enhance compliance of laws against sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

Social Protection

PKR **1,109.03** Bn **Medium**

PKR **722.7** Bn **High**

Recommendations

- Provide beneficiary information, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, religion and geographical location.

- Ensure social protection reaches the most disadvantaged, including those facing or at risk of intersecting vulnerabilities due to ability or religious identities.

- Support nutrition-sensitive social protection interventions.

Climate Change

Medium
PKR **201.6** Bn

Low
PKR **4.2** Bn

- Include funds that have high gender-relevance, i.e., designed with the objective of empowering women and girls.

- Take into account the needs & interests of women and other vulnerable groups in designing actions to build resilience to climate change.

- Raise awareness about climate change and its impacts, especially on women, girls and other vulnerable groups.

- Include updated knowledge on climate change in the education syllabus.

- Use a climate change lens on projects and take actions to build resilience to its impacts in rural and urban areas.

Institutions for Women's Empowerment

PKR 0.35 Bn (high) and PKR 0.1 Bn (medium) are allocated for government and statutory institutions empowering women and children. These need increased and continued support.