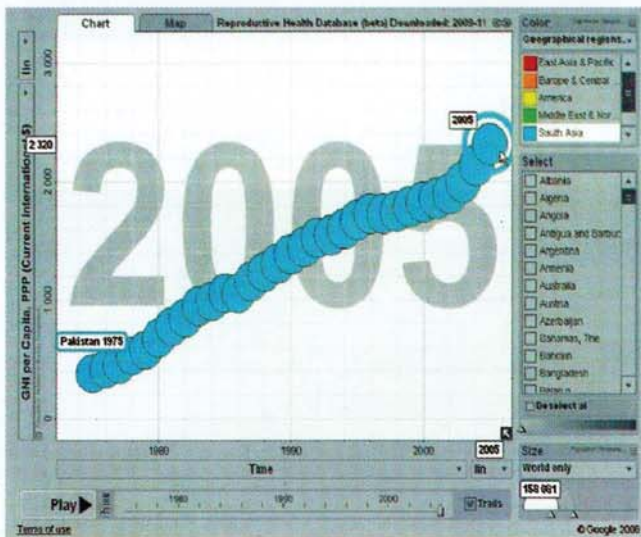


Pakistan on the Move

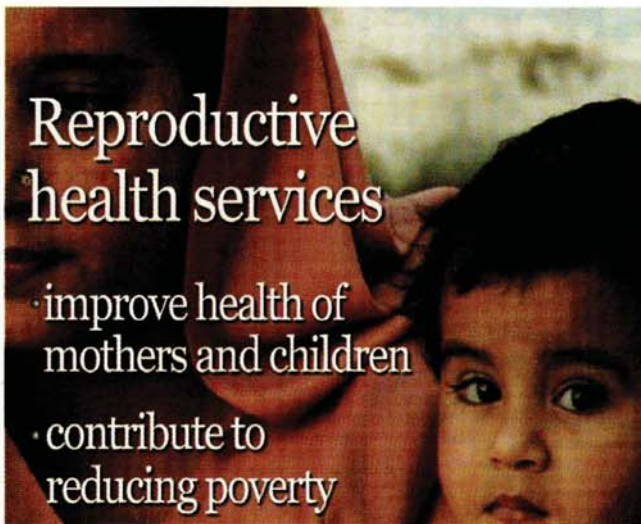
Achieving our economic and development goals



Pakistan has seen some remarkable changes over the last few decades with improvements in health, education, and the economy.

Gross national income (GNI) per person has increased considerably, from \$380 per person in 1975 to \$2300 per person in 2005.¹

However, while the overall national income per person has increased, 3 out of 5 Pakistanis still live in poverty. That means over half of the country lives on less than \$2 a day.²



One way to ensure that Pakistan's families are better off and fewer people are living in poverty is by meeting the reproductive health needs of Pakistan's couples.

Women are the primary caretakers of their children and families, and they also make an important contribution to the household economy and the national economy, making up one-third of the labor force.³



When women can't decide how many children to have and when to have them, they're more likely to suffer from poor reproductive health, and it becomes harder for them to meet the needs of their families and earn an income.

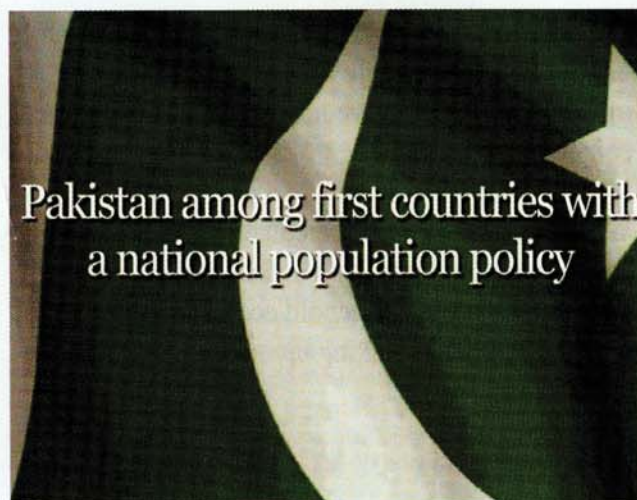
Women in Pakistan would like to have about three children.⁴



Pakistan has made some progress in meeting women's desires to limit their family size, but not enough.

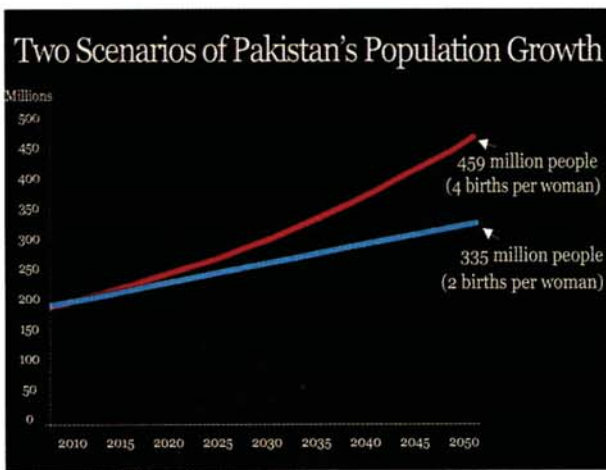
Women in Pakistan still have about 4 children each, while women in Iran and Indonesia have just about 2 children each.⁵

Iran and Indonesia have progressed further because the governments of these countries made a political commitment and financial investment towards family planning.



Pakistan was among the first countries with a population policy and program, but implementation has been slow.

Today, we have the sixth largest population in the world—with 180 million people.⁶



If women continue to have 4 children each, Pakistan would have a population of over 450 million people by 2050.⁷

However, the UN projection for Pakistan's population size in 2050 is about 335 million—but this depends on a decrease in fertility to about 2 children per woman by 2050.

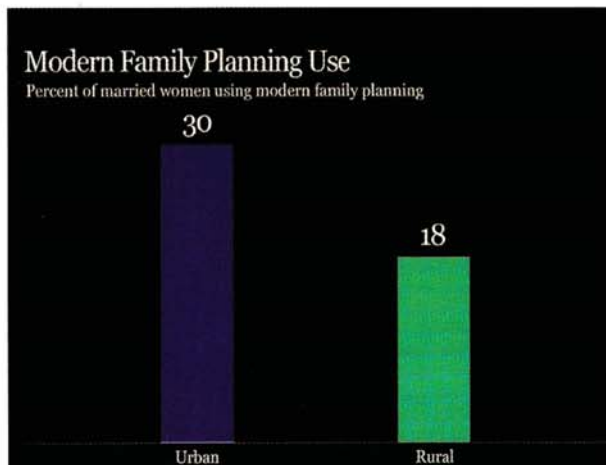
One of the objectives of the new draft of the Population Policy of Pakistan is reducing fertility to 3 births per woman by the year 2015.⁸

Growing population
Rising demand for public services
Pressure on government's budget
Crowds out other spending & investments
Slower economic growth

The growing population means more people in need of public services: housing, water, food, electricity, schools, and health care.

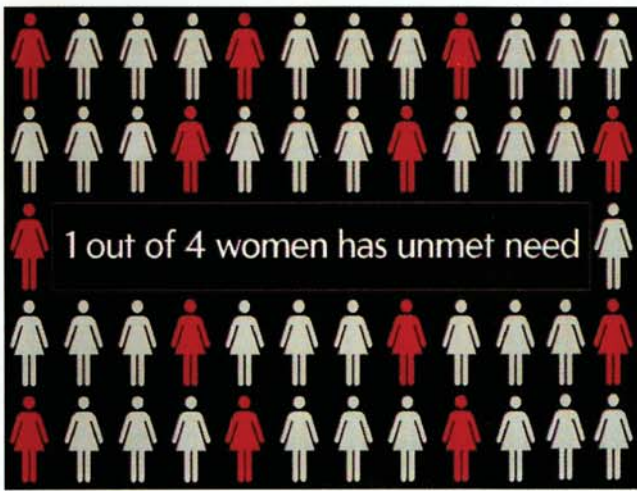
The government is already outstripping its current resources struggling to provide for the needs of today's Pakistanis.

By managing the size of the population, we can address these issues and contribute to Pakistan's development. And we can start by meeting the reproductive health needs of Pakistan's couples so they can plan and space their children.



Only 22 percent of married women in Pakistan use a modern method of family planning.⁹

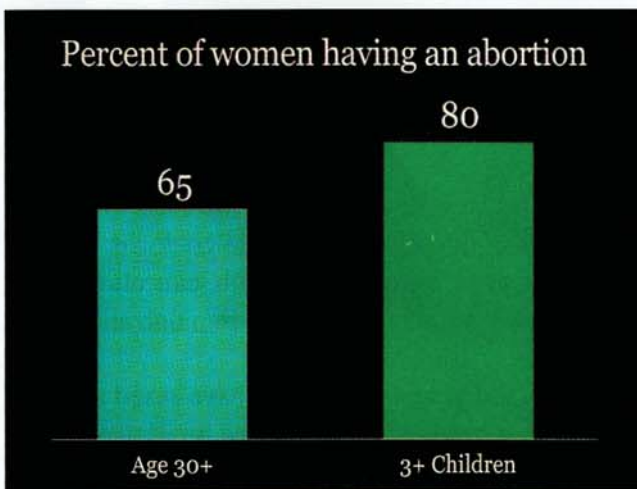
Looking at the differences between urban and rural areas... while 30 percent of women in urban areas use modern family planning, only 18 percent of women in rural areas do—which is about half the amount.



About 25 percent of Pakistani women would prefer to stop having children or wait two or more years before having another child, but are not using family planning. These women have an unmet need for family planning.¹⁰

As a consequence of high unmet need, one out of every three pregnancies in Pakistan is unplanned.¹¹

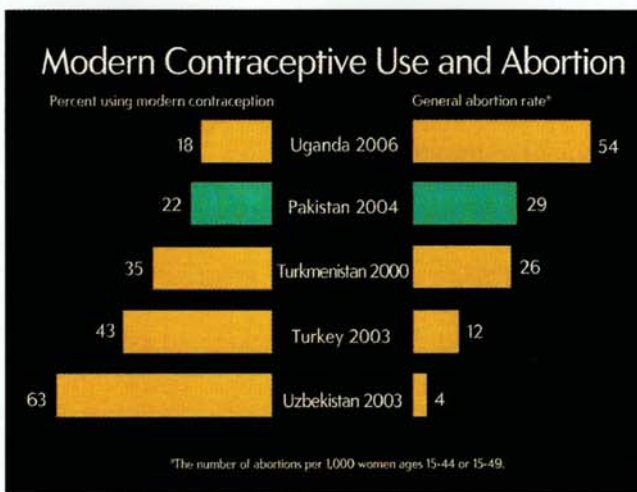
Large numbers of unplanned pregnancies can lead to higher levels of fertility and population growth, straining the country's economic development.



Unplanned pregnancies can also lead to high-risk births and abortion, and if safe abortion is not available, unsafely performed abortions.

In Pakistan, every year there are about 900,000 abortions, most of which are unsafely performed.¹² These numbers are high, and they indicate that abortion is a significant means of preventing unplanned births in Pakistan.

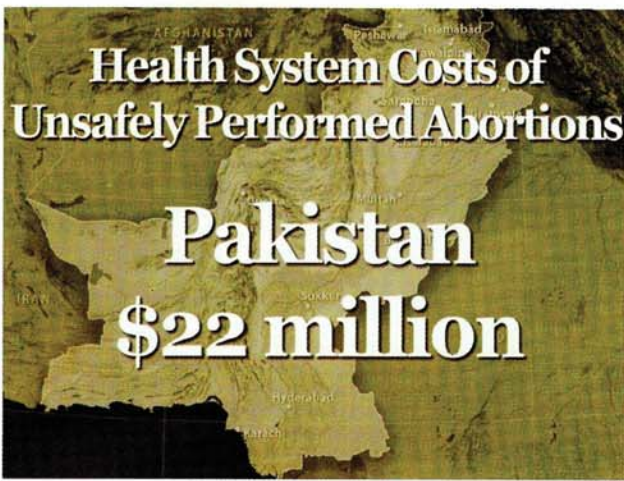
Most women who have abortions in Pakistan are age 30 or above, and they have three or more children.¹³



Increased family planning use has the potential to decrease the number of abortions by preventing unplanned pregnancies.

Comparing family planning and abortion across several countries, one can see that as the percent of women using modern contraception increases, the general abortion rate goes down.¹⁴

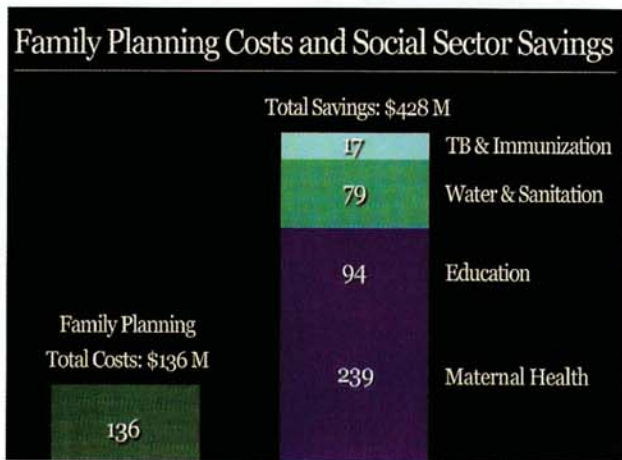
Pakistan has a relatively low level of family planning use and a relatively high rate of abortion.



Almost 200,000 women are treated in hospitals every year for complications from unsafely performed abortions in Pakistan.¹⁵

An approximate cost for treating these complications would be at least \$22 million, based on cost estimates for other regions.¹⁶

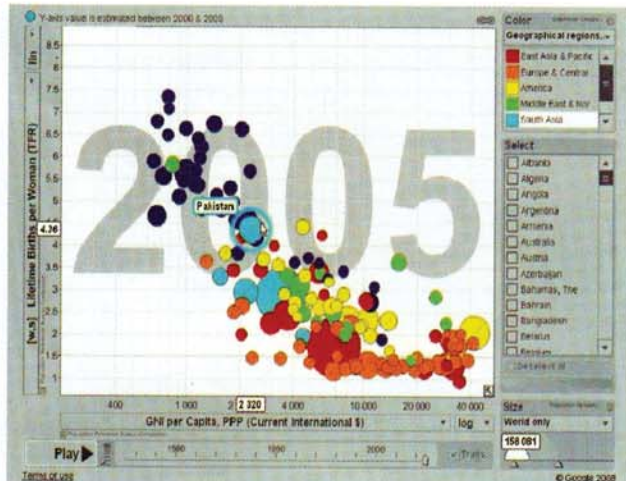
By increasing the use of family planning, Pakistan could prevent many unsafely performed abortions, and reduce costs to the healthcare system.



If the government increased investment in family planning by \$136 million between 2007 and 2015, which would satisfy the unmet need for family planning, substantial savings could be realized.¹⁷

As couples have fewer children, the costs to meet the needs of the population would go down, including costs for maternal health, education, water and sanitation, tuberculosis, and immunization.

By 2015, the government could have saved about \$400 million, which is about three times the amount it would have spent.



Many countries around the world have been able to make economic progress, in part by managing their population growth.¹⁸

Countries with smaller family sizes tend to have higher gross national incomes per person.

At about four children per woman and a gross national income of \$2300 per person, Pakistan still has a long way to go.



Investments for Economic Growth

- Expand reproductive health services
- Strengthen health systems
- Improve educational enrollment
- Create more jobs

In order to make economic progress, Pakistan must make a series of investments and step up the pace of its policy and program efforts.

Through simple, cost-effective interventions, like family planning and abortion-related services, Pakistan can have healthier women, help break the cycle of poverty among the nation's families, and build a more stable and prosperous country. By working together, we can keep the country moving forward and achieve Pakistan's economic and development goals.

Recommended Actions

- Ensure family planning and reproductive health programs, including abortion-related services, are priority interventions in provincial planning strategies and budgets.
- Strengthen budget allocations for contraceptives, especially at provincial and districts levels where many decisions are made, ensuring funds are directed towards rural and poor women.
- Issue public statements supporting family planning to mobilize political and popular support.

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