

CDPR NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

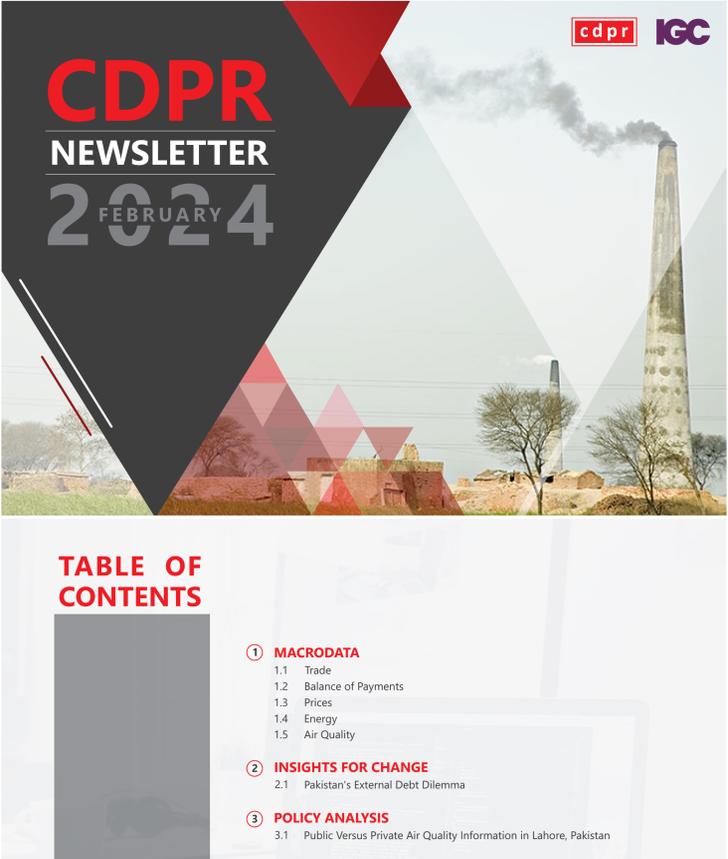


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MACRODATA

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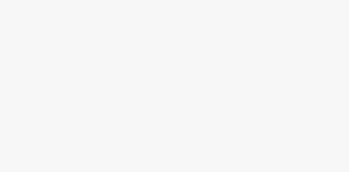
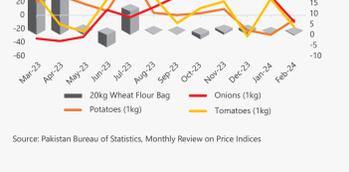
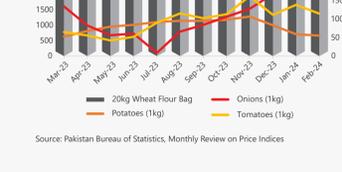
TRADE



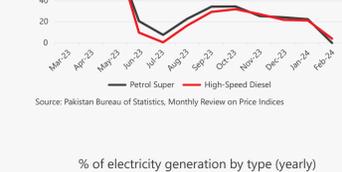
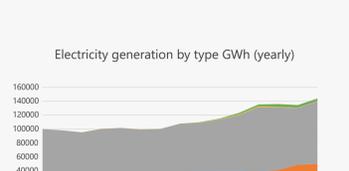
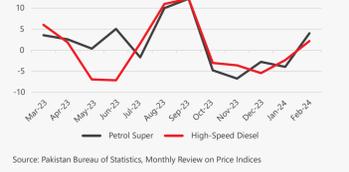
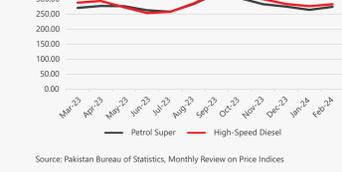
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS



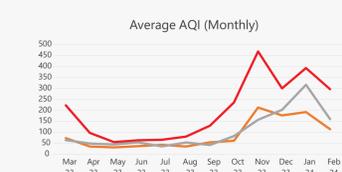
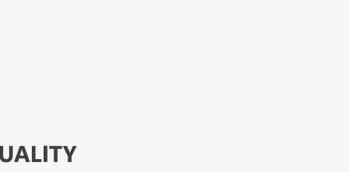
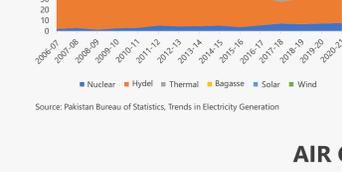
PRICES



ENERGY



AIR QUALITY



INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

CDPR's and IGC's 'Insights for Change' series attempts to take an analytical approach to devising action-oriented policy solutions. They are authored by economists and practitioners who are experts in their field.

Pakistan's External Debt Dilemma

In recent years, Pakistan has struggled to service its external debt and this month's Insights for Change article explores how poor export performance, using external debt for supporting government consumption, increasing reliance on quick-disbursing policy reform loans, and the hardening of debt terms, all contribute to Pakistan's external debt dilemma.

This article has been co-authored by Dr. Farrukh Iqbal, who has worked at the World Bank for over three decades and has previously served as the Executive Director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), and Dr. Ijaz Nabi, who has worked at the World Bank for over two decades, and serves as the Executive Director for International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.

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POLICY ANALYSIS

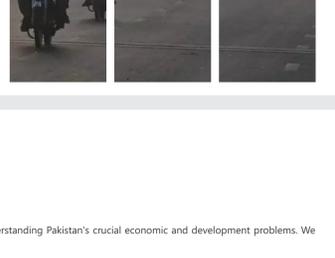
Public Versus Private Air Quality Information in Lahore, Pakistan

This study is funded by the International Growth Centre (IGC). The principle investigators are Dr. Sanval Nasim (Assistant Professor, Colby College), Isra Imtiaz (Researcher), Shotaro Nakamura (Economist) and Arman Rezaee (Graduate student, University of California – San Diego). Lahore, Pakistan's second most populous city and the capital of Punjab province ranks as one of the most polluted cities in the world. Reducing Lahore's particulate matter (PM2.5) levels to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) standards would lead an average resident to gain 7.5 life years. Thus, Lahore's severe pollution requires action for health purposes.

To address some of the challenges related to improving air quality, a randomized controlled trial with roughly 1,000 residents of a lower-middle-income Lahore neighborhood was conducted, where a forecast was developed to model day-ahead air pollution using data from both government and private sources. This forecast was then sent through SMS to all the respondents daily for two months. But the source of information was randomized.

The findings suggest that the citizens of Lahore value air pollution information as the respondents, residents of a working-class neighbourhood are willing to pay Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 238 on average to continue receiving air pollution forecasts for another two months. It further suggests that the source of information doesn't matter and does not lead to differences in willingness to pay for the forecasts.

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LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT

CDPR and IGC's podcast series called 'Let's Talk Development' is about understanding Pakistan's crucial economic and development problems. We engage experts in exploring critical development issues and trends in Pakistan.

Fostering an Inclusive Digital Landscape

When it comes to digital progress, till date Pakistan has dealt with a few persistent challenges such as macroeconomic headwinds, regulatory issues, digital inclusion, and literacy rates. Infrastructure availability, affordability and digital literacy contribute significantly to Pakistan's poor socio-economic performance, with digital inclusion for women emerging as an even greater challenge. Monis Rehman and Anam Malkani discuss the challenges and opportunities of the digital space in Pakistan highlighting policy options which may help reduce the gender differential in the digital practice.

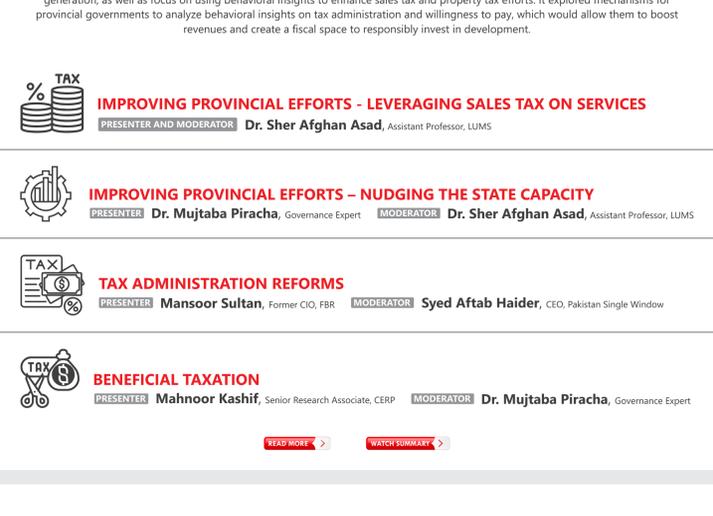
[LISTEN HERE](#)



How much Say do Voters have over Election Outcomes

In Pakistan, election decisions can be dependent on either the party's label or the party's ideology. Currently, Pakistan's political parties are facing a number of constraints in trying to influence the outcomes of voters' choice during election time. Dr. Niloufer Siddiqui and Dr. Asad Liaqat discuss these constraints and how the upcoming election outcomes can be influenced by the way parties are structured and the way they interact with voters.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



EVENTS

The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) in collaboration with SEED, IGC, Adam Smith International and UKAID held a workshop in Islamabad on the 22nd of February 2024 titled

Behavioral Insights & Technology for Revenue Collection: Lessons and Options

The aim of the workshop was to explore avenues for strengthening local service delivery, offer approaches to enhance revenue generation, as well as focus on using behavioral insights to enhance sales tax and property tax efforts. It explored mechanisms for provincial governments to analyze behavioral insights on tax administration and willingness to pay, which would allow them to boost revenues and create a fiscal space to responsibly invest in development.

TAX

IMPROVING PROVINCIAL EFFORTS - LEVERAGING SALES TAX ON SERVICES

PRESENTER AND MODERATOR **Dr. Sher Afghan Asad**, Assistant Professor, LUMS

TAX

IMPROVING PROVINCIAL EFFORTS - NUDGING THE STATE CAPACITY

PRESENTER **Dr. Mujtaba Piracha**, Governance Expert **MODERATOR** **Dr. Sher Afghan Asad**, Assistant Professor, LUMS

TAX

TAX ADMINISTRATION REFORMS

PRESENTER **Mansoor Sultan**, Former CIO, FBR **MODERATOR** **Syed Aftab Haider**, CEO, Pakistan Single Window

TAX

BENEFICIAL TAXATION

PRESENTER **Mahnoor Kashif**, Senior Research Associate, CERP **MODERATOR** **Dr. Mujtaba Piracha**, Governance Expert

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FELLOWS' ARTICLES

NEW REALITIES

FAISAL BARI
The writer is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives, and an associate professor of economics at LUMS

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THE RISE OF THE GLOBAL MIDDLE CLASS
AN INTERVIEW WITH HOMI KHARAS

HOMI KHARAS
Senior Fellow – Global Economy and Development, Center for Sustainable Development

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RUPTURES IN 2024

UMAIR JAVED
The writer teaches politics and sociology at LUMS

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 - 3.1 Why don't jobseekers search more? Barriers and returns to search on a job-matching platform in Pakistan
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AI in Education
 - 5.2 **Umair Javed**
Why Vote?
 - 5.3 **Riaz Riazuddin**
Imbalance from Birth

In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often uniformed by available research. The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) bridges this gap by communicating cutting-edge, evidence-based research of policymakers, students, the media and the wider public. With support from the International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.

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