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PLASTIC POLICIES IN PAKISTAN

Country Profile

Acknowledgements

This Country Profile on plastic policies in Pakistan was prepared on behalf of the EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component (PSC) by Ms Maro Luisa Schulte and Dr Per-Olof Busch under the supervision of Ms Cosima Stahr and Dr Zinaida Fadeeva, Team Leader, SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component.

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Abbreviations

3Rs	Reduce, reuse, recycle
EPR	Extended producer responsibility
GER	Green Earth Recycling
GPAP	Global Plastic Action Partnership
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
ISO	International Organization for Standards
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
rPET	Food-grade recycled plastic
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature

1. Context

Pakistan generates almost 2 million tonnes of plastic waste per year, amounting to more than 8 kg of waste per capita per year. This is roughly one-quarter of the global average of almost 32 kg per capita per year, as well as half of average in countries that are covered by the SWITCH-Asia programme, which is just under 20 kg per capita per year (EA 2024) (Figure 1).

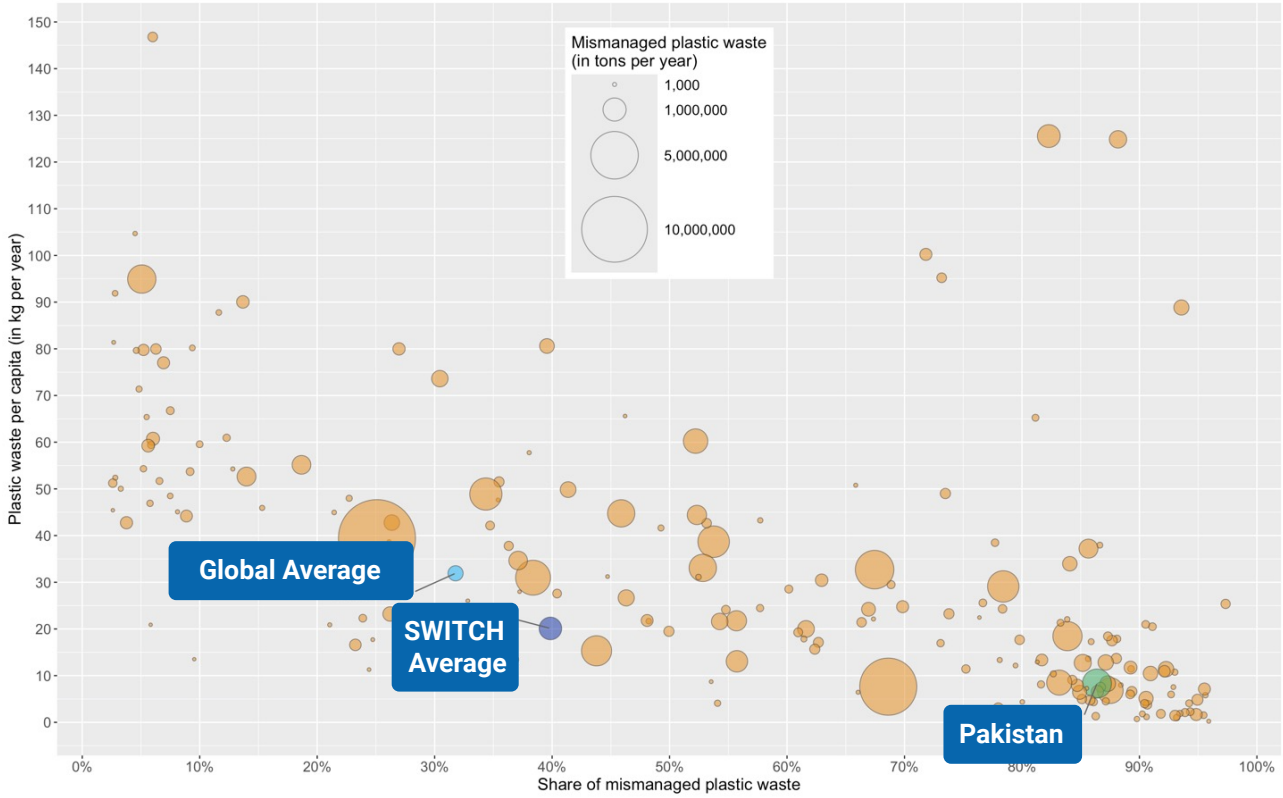

Figure 1. Plastic waste in Pakistan in 2023

Source: Earth Action 2024 data

Rank of Pakistan in global comparison (out of 192)	
Plastic waste in metric tonnes	**169**
Plastic waste per capita (kg/year)	**43**
Mismanaged plastic waste in metric tonnes	**183**
Mismanaged plastic waste per capita (kg/year)	**85**
Share of mismanaged plastic waste	**146**

According to a study by the WWF in 2018, Pakistan is one of the top ten plastic polluters in the world, with the vast majority of the plastic not being disposed of properly (Hussain 2023). Some 86% of the country's waste is mismanaged, which is well above the global average and the average in countries where SWITCH-Asia is active (EA 2024). In absolute numbers this amounts to a total of almost 1.7 million tonnes of mismanaged plastic waste per year, or more than 7 kg per capita, compared to the global average of 12.5 kg per capita, as well as the average of 12.2 kg per capita in countries that are targeted by the SWITCH-Asia programme. Pakistan is among the 10 countries that have the largest amount of mismanaged plastic waste in absolute numbers (EA 2024).

The economic relevance of the plastic industry is high in Pakistan (PBIT 2020), and it is an important part of the manufacturing sector. According to the latest estimates, in 2020 more than 11,000 small-, medium- and large-sized plastic processing and manufacturing companies contributed more than 15% to Pakistan's gross domestic product (or roughly USD 45 billion) and likewise 15% to the national tax revenue (or more than USD 861 million). The workforce in the plastic industry numbers 500,000 individuals (direct) and 1,500,000 (indirect). The total annual production capacity of the four companies that produce plastic raw materials in Pakistan was 745,000 tonnes.

Plastic-related trade data show that Pakistan imports most of the materials needed for manufacturing plastic products, and that it manufactures plastic products mainly for its domestic market (Figure 2).

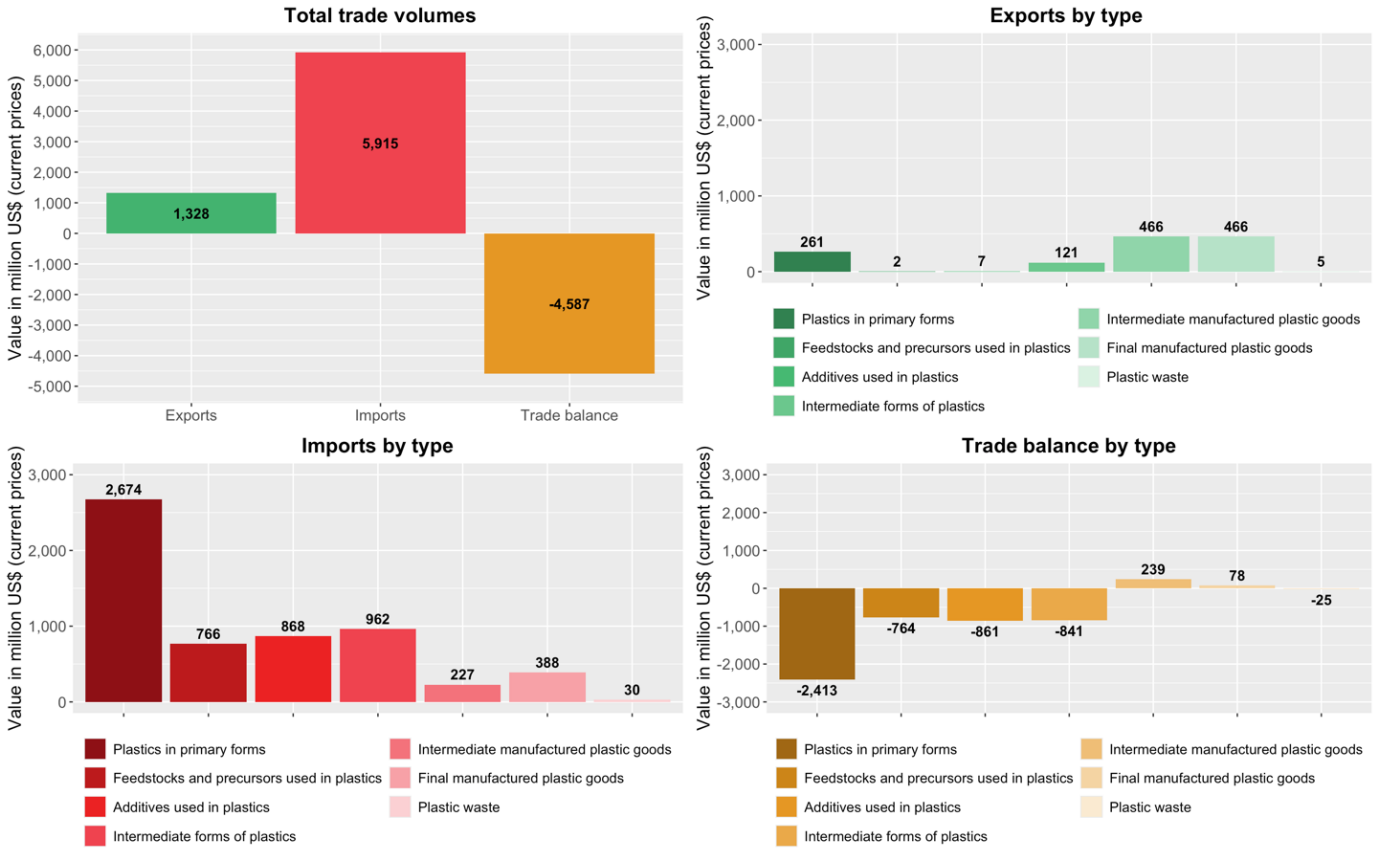

Figure 2. Plastic-related trade in Pakistan in 2022

Source: UNCTAD data

Overall, the import value of plastic materials needed for manufacturing plastic products amounts to USD 5.3 billion (including imports of plastics in primary forms, feedstocks and precursors used in plastics, additives used in plastics and intermediate forms of plastics), or an almost 90% share of all plastic-related imports. By contrast, the export value of intermediate and final manufactured plastic products that are put together from these materials amounts to roughly only USD 930 million.

2. Policy landscape

Pakistan has several policies that deal with plastic and plastic pollution. These policies are primarily command and control measures as well as information policies, whereas market-based measures are missing. Overall, four bans on plastic products are in place at the regional level, as well as two overarching policies that also address plastic waste while generally dealing with waste: the Environmental Act and Solid Waste Management Act and the National Hazardous Waste Management Policy. The existing policies tackle the manufacture, consumption, waste management, and trade of plastic. Only the first stage of the plastics lifecycle, the production of primary plastic polymers, is left untouched.

The bans that exist in three regions focus on the production, sale and use of certain single-use and avoidable plastic products. Already in 2006 for Sindh province, the manufacture, sale and use of black polythene bags including polythene bags below thirty-micron thickness were prohibited (Government of Pakistan 2006). However, the ban was not successfully enforced for years. In June 2024, the Punjab region also prohibited the sale of such bags. The ban of plastic bags that was introduced in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) in 2019 has led to more successful enforcement (Global Plastics Policy Centre 2022; Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency 2019). The third ban is the most comprehensive in terms of the plastic products covered. The Single Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations apply to the Islamabad Capital Territory, for phasing out and prohibiting the use of various single-use plastic items (Government of Pakistan 2023), namely polythene bags, drinking straws, crockery, cutlery, and food and beverage containers for delivery and stirrers. In addition, the regulations require that from August 2028 beverage containers must include at least 50% environmentally safe recycled content. Following these approaches, there are currently plans to implement a nation-wide ban on plastic bags (Packaging MEA 2024).

The Islamabad Capital Territory also introduced a policy prohibiting non-degradable plastic products (Government of Pakistan 2013), banning the manufacture, sale and use of non-(oxo-)degradable disposable plastic products made of polyethylene, polypropylene or polystyrene. This policy also prescribes that no pro-degradant additive shall be sold, distributed or imported without a registration that is guided by national and international (ISO) standards. Furthermore, all disposable plastic products made with oxo-biodegradable plastic need to be marked and labelled with the supplier of the pro-degradant additive. The Pakistan government has banned the production of non-degradable plastic since August 2023 (Gulf News 2023).

In 2021, Pakistan published its updated National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) (Government of Pakistan 2021), which also makes reference to plastic. This policy directs the national government to support the provincial governments in the development and implementation of waste management practices following the principle of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), as well as in finding alternatives or substitutes for plastic. The policy further advocates for awareness-raising campaigns to induce behaviour change with respect to single-use plastics.

Two such regional awareness raising campaigns are the 'No to Plastic' campaign in Punjab and the 'Say No to Plastics' campaign in Islamabad. Both campaigns have been launched to raise public awareness about the severe health risks associated with plastic pollution. The initiatives are part of a broader effort to ban polythene bags in various regions of Pakistan (ProPakistani 2024; We News English 2024).

Similarly, the 'Plastic-Free Pakistan' campaign as well as the 'Clean, Green Pakistan Initiative' are government-led campaigns, aiming to mitigate the long-term environmental repercussions of plastic waste. The former focuses on addressing the contamination of the land, water bodies, and marine life caused by plastic pollution, and it highlights the detrimental effects of plastics on biodiversity and their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions (Packaging MEA 2024). The latter showcases how plastic bags block drainage systems, pollute water streams and canals, and harm wildlife (Gulf News 2019).

In addition, a 10-year strategy to reduce plastic pollution was adopted in June 2023. Its aims are to reduce the consumption of disposable plastics including plastic bags, expand recycling efforts, and reduce waste (ProPakistani 2023). Finally, the Pakistan government adapted its procurement policies and is obliging all government institutions and divisions to use refillable water bottles and containers, and to ban all single-use polythene items (Gulf News 2023).

While these initiatives are commendable, there have been challenges regarding their enforcement. This is due to several factors, an important one being that alternative options are oftentimes not available at the same cost, or currently available alternative materials, while being biodegradable, have inferior characteristics in use compared to plastics. Oftentimes, it is not possible to identify the manufacturers or users of plastic products that end up as waste; for example, generic plastic bags or single use products, which makes it impossible to impose potential fines or other penalties. In addition, the different provincial and national efforts, and the unclear status of implementation and enforcement, have created an environment of legal uncertainty; for example, local bans can still be circumvented by purchasing banned products elsewhere, and product use of banned items can still end up in wastage. Therefore, the political commitment, while valuable, has so far not led to wide-spread investment into alternative product innovation, or public-private partnerships, due to this ambiguous implementation and enforcement.

In addition to these polices that directly refer to plastic, there are also overarching frameworks in Pakistan that consider waste management and the environment. Waste management in Pakistan is regulated at the provincial level, e.g. through the Sindh Solid Waste Management Act from 2021 (Government of Pakistan 2021). This policy manages the establishment and organisational structure of waste management boards in various provinces. These boards can then authorise activities such as segregation, collection, recycling, and disposal of waste, among other responsibilities. Even though plastics are not mentioned directly, this policy organises the overarching structure for waste management.

The overarching Sindh Environmental Protection Act (2014) (Government of Pakistan 2014) also deals with adverse environmental effects and the prevention or control of discharges and emissions that harm the environment; thus this Act potentially includes plastic even though it is not specifically mentioned in any of its sections.

The National Hazardous Waste Management Policy (NHWMP2022) addresses imported hazardous plastic waste as part of common provisions for all types of hazardous waste in Pakistan. It aims to ensure environmentally sound management of hazardous (plastic) waste in Pakistan, protect human health and the environment, and facilitate compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, most importantly the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. To this end, the NHWMP follows an approach based on the waste hierarchy (which prioritizes the prevention and reduction of waste as well as reuse and recycling before considering incineration or landfill disposal) and several basic principles such as the precautionary and the polluter-pays principles. The NHWMP will adopt and implement several different command-and-control, market-based and information measures, including bans and prohibitions; mandatory reporting requirements; extended producer responsibility schemes; occupational health and safety regulations; permitting, licensing, classification, labelling and certification schemes; penalties; research and development; and/or technical guidelines (Government of Pakistan 2022). The Policy identifies five priority areas for these measures:

1. Transboundary movement of hazardous waste
2. Environmentally sound and efficient hazardous waste management system
3. Licences, monitoring and reporting mechanisms
4. Human resource development, research, occupational health and safety, and information dissemination
5. Sustainable financing mechanism

There is no information about inter-ministerial coordination on this subject publicly available; yet, the fact that there has been an initiative to curb use of plastic water bottles through procurement policies, speaks in favour of this happening behind the scenes. Inter-ministerial coordination regarding plastics is an important part of effective plastic policies, and should involve, inter alia, Ministries that cover topics as wide-spread as environment and climate, trade, industrial policies, finance (and public procurement) as well as sectoral Ministries (buildings, SMEs, etc). However, before this typically cumbersome process is coordinated, it would be important to coordinate among regional efforts to curb plastic pollution and use, and further development nation-wide regulations and their enforcement processes.

Table 1. Overview of plastic-related policies in Pakistan

Source: Authors' own representation

	Production (primary polymers)	Manufacturing (plastic products)	Consumption	Waste management/ End-of-life	Trade
COMMAND AND CONTROL					
Mandatory performance/outcome standards (incl. targets)					
Mandatory process standards (incl. targets)				• Regional: Sindh Solid Waste Management Act 2021 (2021) • Updated National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) (2021)*	
Technological standards (incl. targets)					
Prohibitions/bans (incl. phaseout)		• Regional: The Sindh Prohibition on Manufacture, Sale and Use of Polythene Bags Act (2006) • Regional: ICT Prohibition of Non-degradable Plastic Products (manufacturing, sale and usage) (2013) • Regional: Sindh Environmental Protection Act, (2014) • Single Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations (2023) • Ban on the production of non-degradable plastic (2023)	• Regional: The Sindh Prohibition on Manufacture, Sale and Use of Polythene Bags Act (2006) • Regional: ICT Prohibition of Non-degradable Plastic Products (manufacturing, sale and usage) (2013) • Regional: Sindh Environmental Protection Act, (2014)		• Regional: The Sindh Prohibition on Manufacture, Sale and Use of Polythene Bags Act (2006) • Regional: ICT Prohibition of Non-degradable Plastic Products (manufacturing, sale and usage) (2013) • Regional: Sindh Environmental Protection Act, (2014)
MARKET-BASED					
Taxes/levies					

	Production (primary polymers)	Manufacturing (plastic products)	Consumption	Waste management/ End-of-life	Trade
Subsidies/grants/tax reductions					
Public procurement			Requirement for all government institutions to use refillable water bottles and containers and to ban single-use polythene items (2023)		
EPR/deposit refund schemes					
Liability schemes					
INFORMATION					
Taxonomies					
Data collection, reporting and disclosure					
Labels					
Awareness raising/ capacity development				• Updated National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) (2021)* • Plastic-Free Pakistan • Say No to Plastics (2023) • Clean, Green Pakistan	
GOVERNANCE/COORDINATION					
Roadmaps, plans and strategies	• 10-year strategy to reduce plastic pollution (2023) • National Hazardous Waste Management Policy (2022)				
Inter-ministerial coordination	There is no information about inter-ministerial coordination on managing plastic issues; procurement directives regarding single-use plastics exist.				
Public-Private partnerships	There are several partnerships that involve public authorities and the private sector in order to reduce plastic pollution, for example the programme Zero Plastic Waste Cities along the Indus. Consumer good companies from the private sector and international organisations, like UNDP, or national and local authorities, like municipalities or national government, participate in these partnerships (see below, Section 3, Private Sector Good Practices for more information).				

	Production (primary polymers)	Manufacturing (plastic products)	Consumption	Waste management/ End-of-life	Trade
SPECIAL FOCUS SECTOR: CONSTRUCTION					
	The plastic building materials trade data for Pakistan reveals a sector heavily reliant on imports, particularly from China, while exports remain relatively small but are growing (OEC 2024). The significant trade deficit presents both challenges and opportunities for Pakistan's construction industry and policymakers to develop domestic production capabilities and explore new export markets. Since there are no regulations that mandate the use of recycled material or the recycling of building materials, there is a large potential for both approaches to grow. Pilot projects, predominantly led by large oil firms, have started to introduce plastic waste as a material used in road construction.				

* Updated National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) (Government of Pakistan 2021): Goals of developing and implementing plastic waste management tools and support substitutes for plastics as well as raise awareness to establish a behavioural change when it comes to single-use plastics.

3. Good practices of the private sector

There are several innovative approaches being proposed in Pakistan by or for the private sector aiming to tackle plastic pollution. In particular, there are several public-private partnerships.

One such partnership is the UNDP **Innovation Accelerator Lab Pakistan**, which partners with the private sector to combat plastic pollution through several innovative approaches. One notable initiative involves collaborating with local businesses to develop and implement sustainable packaging solutions. These efforts include the use of biodegradable materials and the promotion of reusable packaging to reduce single-use plastics. Additionally, the AccLab supports startups and entrepreneurs in creating products and services that address plastic waste, such as recycling technologies and waste-to-energy projects. By fostering a culture of innovation and leveraging private sector capabilities, the AccLab aims to drive systemic change in plastic waste management in Pakistan (UNDP Accelerator Labs; UNDP 2023).

Another public-private partnership is being led by **Coca-Cola İçecek Pakistan** and the **Coca-Cola Company**, who have worked with Pakistani food authorities to launch 2.25 L bottles made from 100% recycled plastic. The bottles are composed of food-grade recycled plastic (rPET) material produced from old plastic bottles that were broken down into micro-pellets and reworked into bottles for Coca-Cola and Fanta. The initiative was launched in Sindh and should now be copied in other provinces in Pakistan (Coca-Cola İçecek Pakistan 2022).

In another initiative, the Pakistan government joined the **Global Plastic Action Partnership** in June 2022. The Partnership is an initiative of the World Economic Forum that seeks to promote transformations and system changes to eradicate plastic waste pollution (GPAP 2022). In this context, the government has initiated a programme called the Zero Plastic Waste Cities along the Indus that is currently in its pilot phase. Estimated to cost between USD 1.5 and 2 billion over the next year, this programme aims to make the largest cities along the Indus zero plastic waste cities, especially Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Hyderabad, Multan, Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta. To this end, it intends to leverage private sector initiatives and scale them up, as for example the partnership between Unilever and UNDP planning to make Rahim Yar Khan a zero-waste city by creating a circular economy system for plastic waste management (Living Indus 2024).

Meanwhile, **Green Earth Recycling** (GER) proposes to recycle plastic waste into new and reusable products that will be able able to withstand competition from non-recyclable plastics because the GER products will be of higher quality and lower price. GER produces various objects such as outdoor furniture, pallets, manholes and gully gratings, and tuff board for shed construction. Since 1994, GER has been working towards recycling and waste management, following the goals of a zero-landfill model (Green Earth n.d.).

Another initiative in Karachi has built a road using recycled plastic waste. **Shell Pakistan**, in collaboration with **BRR Enterprises** and the **District Municipal Corporation (DMC) South**, spearheaded the project. Over 2.5 tonnes of discarded Shell lubricant bottles were recycled to construct the road (222 m long by 18 m wide) adjacent to Shell House in Karachi. The initiative aims to mitigate plastic waste and promote sustainability by incorporating plastic into asphalt roads using the dry-process method, alleging benefits such as enhanced flexibility, durability, and a lifespan nearly three times longer than conventional roads, along with reduced construction costs because of the availability of plastic at minimal expense (The Express Tribune 2023). While the project is commendable for addressing the pressing issue of plastic waste, it will nonetheless be crucial to critically examine the potential drawbacks of using plastic waste in road construction. First, the long-term environmental impact of microplastics released from such roads warrants thorough investigation. And second, the durability claims, although promising, will require extensive long-term studies under a variety of climatic conditions to ensure that these roads will be able to withstand extreme temperatures and heavy traffic without significant deterioration. Hence, while Karachi's plastic road project represents a forward-thinking approach to tackling plastic waste, it will be essential to continue evaluating and addressing potential environmental and practical challenges to ensure long-term viability and sustainability.

Lastly, while these initiatives show that there is interest in public-private partnerships also from the side of industry, it would be important to create an environment conducive to further strengthening and solidifying private sector contributions to solving the plastics waste challenge in Pakistan. This would necessitate a strengthening of the national ambition to solve the plastics challenge along the entire value chain, thereby creating an outlook of policy security, followed by multi-level governance interventions, and improved enforcement.

This would also strengthen investors' commitment to finance innovations that aim to solve for a circular approach to the plastics challenge, thereby creating positive momentum. For example, private sector innovations in terms of materials and business models are required to make existing (local) bans work, as well as demonstrate the feasibility of future (national) interventions, thereby assuring timely private sector investment into innovative alternative materials before bans take effect. Partnership between the public and private sectors, particularly large corporates, could also entail joint investment into a functioning waste management system that includes reuse and recycling practices as part of its key strategies.

4. Challenges

In general, plastic-related policies are highly fragmented and they vary across different provinces in Pakistan. Likewise, or even a result of this patchwork, there is no functioning institutionalised or formalised inter-ministerial coordination when it comes to plastic pollution (World Bank 2022).

Moreover, policies such as the regional ban of plastic bags in Sindh in 2006 failed as a result of the lack of enforcement combined with the absence of alternatives, plus an overall lack of awareness of policymakers and citizenry (Global Plastics Policy Centre 2022). The implementation of the Single Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations is furthermore deemed difficult for three reasons: resistance from the private sector, lack of products to replace the banned single-use products, and enforcement issues (MOCCEC 2024). For the banning of plastic bags in ICT in 2019, enforcement was increased and violators were controlled through penalties. In ICT as well as in other provinces such as Hunza, the measure was accompanied with an educational campaign to raise awareness (Global Citizen 2019; World Economic Forum 2021), demonstrating that including local residents and providing adequate information can lead to long-term behavioural change.

Overall, waste management remains a challenge in Pakistan. Generally, its management is inadequate, and waste is being dumped, burned or buried in landfills. This seriously contaminates the environment and thereby threatens human health (International Trade Administration 2024); infectious diseases, chronic illnesses and ailments like cancer and low birth weight are linked to polluted environments. Segregation of waste at the source (e.g., households, businesses) is not being implemented in Pakistan, and residents are dumping all different types of waste into a single bin (World Bank 2022). This complicates collection and management efforts and is known to keep public awareness of wasteful practices and plastic pollution low. In 2022, collection rates were estimated at only 50% of all municipal solid waste (World Bank 2022). While such a low collection rate is already a challenge in itself, adequate solid waste treatment and disposal facilities are also lacking (World Bank 2022), further aggravating the country's challenges in waste management. Even though major cities have implemented waste management policies, they face issues such as inadequate equipment and technology, as well as limited public awareness and inadequate infrastructure and urban planning coordination (International Trade Administration 2024). In general, the solid waste management capabilities of the various cities and provinces in Pakistan differ from each other. The cities of Karachi and Lahore, for example, have sanitary land-fill sites, while solid waste is merely dumped outside urban areas in other regions (International Trade Administration 2024). In rural areas, there is a lack of technological knowledge as well as lack of needed infrastructure for proper waste management, which are challenges that will need to be overcome.

Existing and "legacy" plastic pollution is another serious challenge, and its management needs to be urgently addressed, especially in already polluted waterways, to minimise further pollution of the marine environment.

5. Way forward

In recent years Pakistan has increased its efforts to fight plastic pollution. Furthermore, the country has recently joined the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), and thus aims at increasing its environmental efforts (Global Plastics Policy Centre 2022). To tackle the plastics challenge, in view of today's fragmentation of plastic-related policies, Pakistan would benefit from a more coherent, comprehensive and coordinated policy approach.

Formulating a clear objective and commitment, as well as developing overarching national regulations, plans or strategies would improve governance by setting a common framework for addressing plastic pollution. This could lead to a more effective implementation of the diverse and interrelated polices in the provinces and at national level that aim at a reduction of plastic pollution. For example, a concerted policy at the national level could include bans on certain problematic and avoidable plastic products, and also state recommendations on how to implement these bans at the provincial level. This would likely increase enforcement, thereby preventing a product from being prohibited in one province but allowed in another. Similarly, guidelines for environmentally sound waste management, as are currently discussed in the ongoing Treaty negotiations, could support the government in setting up a nationwide policy framework to guide provincial waste management legislations. A more coherent approach to policymaking should also target and improve institutional coordination. Ideally, it would establish an effective collaboration among federal, provincial, and local government entities involved in waste management, as well as among key waste and water management institutions. It would also require a cultural shift, as plastics is often still considered as a premium product, signalling innovation and cleanliness; whereas, caring for the environment is branded as a luxury in a country where food and shelter are still an economic priority, as quoted by participants in a household survey (UNDP, 2021).

Equally important as a shift in governance towards a national, coordinated effort, is an improvement of the waste management system. In particular, Pakistan could benefit from expanding waste collection services as well as the country's sorting, treatment, recycling, and disposal facilities. The process could start with requirements for waste segregation at the source in order to improve the recycling potential of waste. Furthermore, it will be necessary to invest considerable amounts of money in an adequate waste management infrastructure and capacity-building to improve services by local governments or waste management companies. Ideally, the expansion and improvement of the waste management system would be guided by a federal or regional waste management strategy, financed by multiple financing streams – by management fees levied from households and businesses, as well as from plastics manufacturers and users, supported by contributions from public authorities at different levels, and potentially, development cooperation or financing in support of international commitments.

In addition, in Pakistan, as in many other developing countries, effective waste-management improvement will require collaboration with informal waste collectors, who contribute significantly to waste collection and recycling nationwide.

The current waste management system itself can indirectly benefit from provisions as discussed in the Plastics Treaty negotiations that focus on the upstream stages of the plastics lifecycle. For example, a globally agreed reduction of the production of primary plastic polymers would automatically lead to decreased volumes of plastic waste, thereby removing pressure from country waste management infrastructures and systems. The demand for recycled materials would increase, thus potentially making them economically viable. Likewise, recycling businesses could profit from safer and cleaner feedstock, as a result of the global regulations of chemicals and polymers of concern in plastic.

While Pakistan has strong potential for circular economy approaches in textiles, food, and plastics, realizing this potential depends on investment, policy support, and infrastructure development. Currently, only USD144 million (15%) of the country's USD1.2 billion plastic waste market is utilized, suggesting an opportunity for

expansion (Azad 2024). However, factors such as waste sorting inefficiencies, market demand for recycled materials, and policy implementation will determine the scale of economic and employment benefits. A well-designed circular economy transition could create jobs and diversify the economy, provided the right conditions are met.

To make use of this potential, Pakistan could consider addressing the entire life-cycle of plastic as well as diversify national and local measures for combatting plastic pollution to include a broader range of products and processes, including improvements in waste management practices as well as targets and standards for plastic waste management. For example, the Sindh Solid Waste Management Act from 2021 could be adapted and improved to include quotas for recycling. These standards and targets could then be made mandatory for every province in Pakistan to ensure waste management throughout the country.

National market-based measures, such as extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, as well as important state-led mechanisms like taxes, levies, and tariffs could generate funding for waste collection and recycling infrastructure as well as for funding campaigns for awareness raising. Banning unnecessary and avoidable plastics is a step in the right direction, but for an effective and holistic approach, other measures will need to be implemented alongside them. Most importantly, a strong commitment to tackle the plastics challenge at the national level would set a new course for Pakistan.

How could the Global Plastics Treaty help?

- By providing funds for investing in improvements in waste management practices and the expansion of recycling capacities, leveraging financial resources through the financial mechanism of the Treaty
- By helping to make waste management more sustainable and environmentally sound by providing the guidelines and criteria for waste management
- By providing guidance for further phase-outs and bans of selected primary polymers, chemicals and plastic products by specifying criteria or identifying and listing specific products
- By decreasing the volumes of plastic waste through an obligation for countries to reduce the production of primary plastic polymers
- By providing guidance on the elements and design of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme

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