INTRODUCTION:
Approximately 29.6% of the global population, 2.4 billion people, were moderately or severely food insecure in 2022, of which about 900 million (11.3% of people in the world) were severely food insecure.

As of 2022, 18.5% of Pakistanis are undernourished, 12.9% of the population is severely food insecure and 42.3% is suffering from moderate food insecurity. Therefore, Pakistan's food policy landscape requires action to improve food and nutrition security in the country.

The availability of credible, updated, and usable data is required to effectively influence, and transform existing and future policies (to support the food systems transformation process) among other regulations and initiatives and support national and sub-national level stakeholders with impactful decision-making.

The Pakistan Subnational Food Systems Dashboard has been led and co-developed by GAIN, The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The Columbia Climate School, and Johns Hopkins University with international collaborators from academia and research.

RATIONALE:
The ‘Subnational Food Systems Dashboard’ will help bridge this gap by collecting national and local (city/district) data across a range of key food systems indicators to support stakeholders with the data they need to better understand national and subnational food systems. It is the key comprehensive data source for stakeholders to help identify what kinds of actions are needed and where to transform food systems to improve diets and understand the impact on the climate.

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), and the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives are demonstrating a leadership role to strengthen the evidence gap that exists in the country landscape where the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and Provincial Bureaus of Statistics are playing an integral role in data collection across various indicators around food systems.

2. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. (2023)
KEY OBJECTIVES:
The Subnational Food Systems Dashboard (PSFSD) will help bridge this data and evidence gap by collecting credible national and local data across a range of key food systems indicators. It will be the first place that local decision makers (from government, municipalities, NGOs, civil society, donors, UN, and academia/research) go to for curated, high-quality, and filtered national, provincial, and city-level data. It has three core objectives:

- Track progress and accountability against national and local commitments or action plans that support food systems transformation.
- Support policymakers in strengthening the country’s policy landscape through the review and formulation of new policies and programmes (interventions) in favour of food systems transformation.
- Benefit people at risk of hunger, malnutrition, economic and climate shocks, and environmental degradation.

APPROACH
There are four key steps adopted in building the Subnational Food Systems Dashboard and help create its uptake:

BUILDING
- Consultations with policymakers and experts to identify how the PSFSD can best support decision-making and promote government ownership.
- Build subnational and city Dashboard platforms.

ADOPTION
- Increase gathering, sharing, and use of robust evidence on national and sub-national levels.
- Advocate for and support country stakeholders’ efforts in using and taking ownership of the Dashboard.

POTENTIAL IMPACT:
The potential long-term impacts are:

- Improved awareness and visibility of food systems drivers/indicator at subnational levels.
- Strong stimulation towards more data-based policies and projects to ensure improved access and availability of safe and healthy diets.
- Increased interest and resources for actions to support food systems transformation.

The establishment of a Subnational Food Systems Dashboard is aligned with GoP’s policy and governance priorities. It will:

- Help policymakers understand more about their food systems.
- Inform decision-making and policy formulation at national and city levels.
- Encourage government departments to improve coordination and integration of policies and actions on food systems.
- Support the monitoring progress of changes in food systems over time.

For more information, please visit: https://www.foodsystemsdashboard.org/

TEAM AND CONTACT INFORMATION:
Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), The Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), Government of Pakistan.