

Abbottabad, Pakistan

Partner city

Status of the project: Ongoing technical assistance



Basic Information

Urban area: 1,967 km²

Population: 981,590 (district scale) | Growth rate: 1.82%

GDP per capita: USD 1,284 (Pakistan, 2019)

Modal split:

Walking: 64%

Formal public transport: 5% (including school and staff buses)

Informal public transport: 16% (minibus)

Private cars: 6%

Private motorbikes or 2-wheelers: 5%

Other: 4%

National GHG emissions per capita: 0.9 (tCO₂eq)

Exposure to climate change: HIGH

Context

The city of Abbottabad is located 61 km northeast of Rawalpindi, in the Hazara Division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in the northwest of Pakistan. It is a gateway to the picturesque Kagan valley. It is connected by road with Indus plain and the Kashmir region, and by rail with Peshawar. The city is a district market and trade center and stands out for being a communication route with China and northern parts of Pakistan. The population of Tehsil Abbottabad is 981,590, distributed over an area of 1,967 km². The administration of the city is under District Administrator Abbottabad.

Currently, the major issues related to urban mobility in Abbottabad are:

- High influx of vehicles due to tourism
- High number of commercial vehicles passing through the city, affecting capacity and safety
- Lack of infrastructure such as alternative routes/bypasses, underpasses/flyover, parking areas, intersection improvement, facilities for non-motorised transport
- Lack of road safety and traffic management
- Air pollution from vehicles
- Lack of master plan framework for urbanisation and transportation
- Lack of formalised institutional setup for addressing mobility issues

The Local Counterpart, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority, has the mandate and responsibility to finance mass public transport infrastructure. It does not have the authority to borrow from international finance sources. Systems and procedures are partially in place to monitor, evaluate and report on urban matters.

The SUMP elaboration aims to provide a comprehensive sustainable mobility plan at the urban scale and propose a conceptual design for priority projects to identify.

Support from the Partnership

Technical assistance: Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)

Funded by: AFD

Funding amount: EUR 1,200,000 global budget for SUMPs 3 cities within the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

Implemented by: AFD and ADB through MobiliseYourCity Asia

Local counterpart: Transport Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority

Supported activities:

- Support the SUMP process for the city of Abbottabad
- Conceptual design for priority projects to identify

Status of the SUMP process

Project start: 2021 Q3

Expected project completion: 2023 Q1

Completed outputs:

- Inception report
- Urban mobility diagnosis

Next expected outputs:

- Scenario building
- Action plan

Highlights in the past year

One SUMP process for three cities

As the financing of urban mobility lies within the purview of the provincial government, only one SUMP process is carried on developing the SUMPs of three cities, Abbottabad, Peshawar, and Mingora, located within the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The management and supervision of the SUMP is the responsibility of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA), recently created with support from the Asian Development Bank, to plan and regulate transportation within the province. The capacities of the transport authority will be strengthened throughout the planning process to facilitate the coordination with the three cities and the management of the elaboration and implementation of the SUMP. Additionally, the staff will be trained to use tailored software that will allow them to plan future investments more effectively in urban mobility – a prerequisite to ensuring the successful implementation of the SUMP.

The development of the SUMP is being conducted with the participation of both the provincial and local authorities, under the leadership of KPUMA. This coordination process has been facilitated by establishing three technical SUMP committees for each city, Abbottabad, Mingora, and Peshawar.

The urban mobility diagnosis was conducted and provided a clear situation of the mobility issues in Abbottabad. For instance, identifying the spatial mobility flows at the scale of Abbottabad shows that the urban traffic is channelled on the main road axis (RN No.35). The data collection process and activities are implemented by three different teams on the ground, one for each city. The SUMP for Abbottabad is now at the stage of elaborating and discussing the mobility scenarios.