

MEDIA COVERAGE



Seminar on National Housing Policy

January 07, 2026

Tribune Express

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2586479/call-for-urgent-action-as-housing-crisis-deepens>

APP Pakistan

<https://www.app.com.pk/business/experts-call-for-urgent-action-to-address-pakistans-housing-needs/>

Business Recorder

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40401144>

Islamabad Post

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-seminar-calls-for-urgent-action-as-pakistans-housing-crisis-deepens/>

Lead Pakistan

<https://leadpakistan.com.pk/news/pide-seminar-calls-for-urgent-action-as-pakistans-housing-crisis-deepens/>

Global News Pakistan

<https://globalnewspakistan.com/2026/01/09/50-of-urban-population-lives-in-slums-and-informal-settlements-dr-malik/>

January 08, 2026

Housing ministry giving final shape to 'National Housing Policy'

RECORDER REPORT
ISLAMABAD: To address the growing nationwide housing shortage, the ministry of Housing and Works is giving final shape to the National Housing Policy 2025 and expected to be submitted to the federal cabinet shortly. The policy is based on a multi-stakeholder and evidence-based approach.

This was stated by Dr Malik Aqbar Naeem, Coordinator of the National Housing Policy Working Group and Chief Planner at the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) while speaking at a seminar titled "National Housing Policy: A Framework for Affordable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Shelter for All" organized by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) here on Wednesday.

Dr Naeem described housing as a fundamental human right and a shared national responsibility. While highlighting the gravity of Pakistan's housing crisis, noting that rapid population growth and accelerating urbanization have resulted in a housing shortage of nearly 9-10 million units. Approximately 50 percent of the urban population now lives in slums and informal settlements, including katchiswadis, he said.

Vulnerable groups, particularly low- and middle-income households, remain

disproportionately affected due to limited access to affordable housing, weak housing finance, regulatory gaps, and growing climate-related risks. The session was moderated by Usama Abdul Rauf, Assistant Chief (Policy) at PIDE, and brought together policymakers, academics, researchers, and practitioners to examine the structural causes of housing shortages and explore pathways for inclusive and sustainable housing development.

Key objectives and strategies of the housing policy include inclusivity and affordability to ensure access for low-income groups, treating housing as a basic right, sustainable urbanization to promote compact, vertical development to protect agricultural land, alongside slum upgrading and urban regeneration and climate resilience to develop green and resilient housing infrastructure.

The seminar emphasized that housing is recognized as a basic human right under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Pakistan is a signatory.

Despite this commitment, Pakistan continues to lag in providing adequate and affordable housing for large segments of its population. Dr Naeem explained that the initiative to update the National Housing Policy was undertaken on the direc-

tive of the Prime Minister to revise the outdated National Housing Policy of 2001, reflecting the urgency of addressing contemporary housing challenges.

Addressing concerns arising from the post-18th Amendment governance structure, Dr Naeem clarified that while housing is a provincial subject, the national policy serves as an overarching framework to guide coordination among federal, provincial, and local governments, while allowing provinces full autonomy to tailor policies according to local needs.

Dr Naeem outlined nine thematic pillars of the policy, covering land for housing, development of intermediate and secondary cities, housing finance, construction services, slum rehabilitation, low-cost housing, green housing, institutional and legal frameworks, and capacity building.

The discussion underscored the need to expand affordable housing finance, improve rental housing, and ensure quality accommodation for students and government employees.

Concluding the seminar, participants emphasized that sustainable urban planning, inclusive finance, corporate engagement, and stronger institutional coordination are essential to addressing Pakistan's housing shortage and ensuring equitable access to decent shelter for all.

PIDE Seminar Calls for Urgent Action as Pakistan's Housing Crisis Deepens

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) organized a policy seminar titled "National Housing Policy: A Framework for Affordable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Shelter for All" at the institute in Islamabad, to deliberate on Pakistan's worsening housing crisis and the policy responses required to address it.

Speaking at the seminar, Dr. Malik Asghar Naeem, Coordinator of the National Housing Policy Working Group and Chief Planner at the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), described housing as a fundamental human right and a shared national responsibility. He highlighted the gravity of Pakistan's housing crisis, noting that rapid population growth and accelerating urbanization



have resulted in a housing shortage of nearly 9–10 million units, while approximately 50 percent of the urban population now lives in slums and informal settlements, including katchi abadis.

The session was moderated by Usama Abdul Rauf, Assistant Chief (Policy) at PIDE, and brought together

policy-makers, academics, researchers, and practitioners to examine the structural causes of housing shortages and explore pathways for inclusive and sustainable housing development.

Providing an overview of the policy process, Dr. Naeem noted that the National Housing Policy 2025,

currently in its final draft stage and expected to be submitted to the federal cabinet shortly, is based on a multi-stakeholder and evidence-based approach. The drafting process involved extensive consultations with experts from academia, urban development authorities, civil society, and international development partners, including UN-Habitat, the World Bank, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to ensure practical relevance and alignment with international best practices.

Concluding the seminar, participants emphasized that sustainable urban planning, inclusive finance, corporate engagement, and stronger institutional coordination are essential to addressing Pakistan's housing shortage and ensuring equitable access to decent shelter for all.

Islamabad POST

January 08, 2026

Call for urgent action to address Pak's housing needs

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a seminar here on Wednesday stressed that sustainable urban planning, inclusive finance, corporate engagement, and stronger institutional coordination were critical to tackling Pakistan's housing shortage and ensuring equitable access to decent housing for all.

The policy seminar titled, "National Housing Policy: A Framework for Affordable, Inclusive, and Sustainable Shelter for All" was organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) to deliberate on Pakistan's housing crisis and the policy responses required to address it.

Speaking on the occasion, Coordinator of the National Housing Policy Working Group and Chief Planner at the Fed-

eral Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Dr. Malik Asghar Naeem highlighted housing as a basic human right and national responsibility, warning that rapid population growth and urbanization have created a housing shortage of 9–10 million units in Pakistan, forcing nearly half of the urban population into slums, with low- and middle-income groups most affected due to limited affordability, weak financing, regulatory gaps, and climate risks.

Dr. Naeem, informed participants that the initiative to update the National Housing Policy was launched on the directive of the Prime Minister to revise the outdated 2001 policy in response to evolving housing challenges. He explained that the National Housing Policy

2025 is currently in its final draft stage and is expected to be presented to the federal cabinet soon.

He highlighted that the policy has been developed through a multi-stakeholder, evidence-based process, involving wide-ranging consultations with academia, urban development authorities, civil society, and international partners such as UN-Habitat, the World Bank, and JICA, ensuring alignment with global best practices. He also addressed governance concerns following the 18th Amendment, clarifying that while housing remains a provincial subject, the national policy provides an overarching framework to strengthen coordination across federal, provincial, and local governments.—APP

