

MEDIA COVERAGE



Roundtable dialogue on “Housing Matters: Climate-Responsive Housing”

August 25, 2026

The News International

<https://www.thenews.pk/print/1433884-experts-stress-climate-smart-affordable-housing-solutions>

APP Pakistan

<https://www.app.com.pk/business/pide-calls-for-collaboration-to-make-pakistans-housing-climate-resilient/>

Islamabad Post

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-leads-the-way-in-reimagining-pakistans-homes-for-a-climate-resilient-future/>

Aaj News

<https://english.aaj.tv/news/330469256/pide-leads-the-way-in-reimagining-pakistans-homes-for-a-climate-resilient-future>

Global News Pakistan

<https://globalnewspakistan.com/pide-leads-the-way-in-reimagining-pakistan/>

Urdu Point

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/pide-calls-for-collaboration-to-make-pakistan-2241274.html>

Sabah News

<https://sabahnews.net/english/news/pide-leads-the-way-in-reimagining-pakistans-homes-for-a-climateresilient-future/>

Infora News

<https://inforanews.com/pide-leads-the-way-in-reimagining-pakistans-homes-for-a-climate-resilient-future/>

August 25, 2026

Call for collaboration to make housing climate-resilient

STAFF REPORTER

Speakers at a PIDE dialogue here on Monday stressed the need to shift Pakistan's housing agenda from policy commitments to practical, evidence-based and scalable solutions through stronger collaboration among communities, experts, institutions and markets.

"Climate-responsive housing cannot be achieved through policies alone; it requires collaboration among communities, experts, institutions and markets to create practical solutions that reflect Pakistan's realities," said Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Registrar Dr Nasir Iqbal said.

He was speaking at a roundtable dialogue on "Housing Matters: Cli-

mate-Responsive Housing", organised by PIDE in collaboration with Shehersaaz under the global Urban Thinkers Campus series.

The dialogue brought together architects, urban planners, policy-makers, academics and local government representatives to discuss affordable, sustainable and climate-resilient housing solutions for Pakistan.

Speakers emphasised that the country's housing challenge was not simply about constructing more homes, but developing affordable housing that was environmentally responsible and capable of responding to changing climate conditions.

They called for stronger local government capacity, clearly

defined institutional responsibilities and rigorous assessment of pilot projects before their expansion nationwide.

Dr Shafaat Nawaz, PhD Graduate in Urban Planning and Manager RASTA, PIDE, highlighted the potential of biophilic urbanism and climate-sensitive design, including natural ventilation, suitable building materials, shading and green spaces, to improve thermal comfort and reduce energy consumption. Participants also stressed the importance of reviving indigenous architectural practices, including courtyards, shaded verandas, thick walls and locally available materials, which historically enabled communities to adapt to local climatic conditions.

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Experts stress climate-smart, affordable housing solutions

Rasheed Khalid
Islamabad

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Registrar Dr Nasir Iqbal has said that climate-responsive housing cannot be achieved through policies alone; it requires collaboration among communities, experts, institutions and markets to create practical solutions that reflect Pakistan's realities," said while emphasizing the need for sustainable and inclusive approaches to address Pakistan's growing housing challenges.

Dr Iqbal was addressing a roundtable dialogue on "Housing matters: climate-responsive housing" organised here by PIDE in collaboration with Shehersaaz under the global Urban Thinkers Campus series.

Almas Shakoor, Executive Director, Shehersaaz, shared her organisation's work with UN-Habitat and the Adaptation Fund on water facilities and progressive housing programmes in Rawalpindi and Nowshera, highlighting the importance of community-centred approaches.

Dr Shafaat Nawaz from PIDE presented research on biophilic urbanism and explained how climate-sensitive design approaches, including natural ventilation, appropriate building materials, shading techniques and green spaces, can improve

thermal comfort while reducing energy consumption.

Huma Baig of Earthwise highlighted the importance of passive solar design, permaculture and sustainable materials such as rammed earth, while participants also discussed straw-bale construction as a potential affordable and context-appropriate housing solution.

Waseem Bajwa highlighted the Shehersaaz pilot project as an example of translating policy ideas into practical interventions and called for faster progress in climate-responsive urban development, waste management, rainwater harvesting and rooftop gardening.

Dr Inayat Ullah, Director, PIDE, stressed that pilot projects should not be scaled up without proper impact assessment. He emphasised the importance of evidence-based evaluation and proposed collaborative research initiatives to examine the feasibility and effectiveness of housing interventions.

Dr Anjeela Khuram from PIDE and Dr Nayyar Hussain from the CPEC Centre of Excellence emphasised the need for improved building energy performance and alignment with the Energy Conservation Building Code. Dr Muhammad Faisal Ali of PIDE stressed that future climate planning must consider evolving climate patterns rather than relying only on historical data.