

Contact

arehmancheema@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/ar3 (LinkedIn)
disasters.massey.ac.nz/team.htm
(Company)

Top Skills

Agricultural investments

Land Tenure

Human Rights

Languages

Urdu, Arabic, Punjabi, English

Certifications

AI Accountability Essential Training

Digital Citizenship

Blockchain Basics

Effectively Leading Digital
Transformation

Artificial Intelligence Foundations:
Thinking Machines

Honors-Awards

Three Minute Thesis (3MT)
Competition Finalist

Best Social Contribution Award

Shortlisted for the position of
Economist for the IMF Resident
Representative Office Pakistan

Resource Person for Academic
Research Writing Skills Workshop

Session Chair at 3rd International
Conference on Emerging Issues and
in Management and Economics

Publications

Managing the invisible: improving
groundwater governance in Pakistan
through multi-stakeholder platforms

No ordinary hazard: Risking climate
change

Pakistani universities must capitalise
on Chinese investment

Dr Abdur Rehman Cheema

Economic & Social Policy, Planning & Development Specialist| Asia
| International Development | Strategic Leadership, Governance &
Reforms - Winner of Ideas in Action Award| Lead Author Pakistan
SDGs Status Report

Pakistan

Summary

To me, the lives of all of us, human beings, are related since we are the creature of one God. The aim of my life is to please God. To achieve this aim, I seek to serve His creature with all faculties of mind, body and heart that are available to me within my limitations. In particular, I seek to improve the quality of life of those who have been disadvantaged and marginalised because of our direct or indirect actions.

I feel, over time, I have developed and demonstrated leadership and managerial skills to undertake challenging tasks by building effective teams and with due diligence. I look forward to opportunities that involve working with people for expanding their choices and control on their lives.

Experience

UNICEF

Social Policy and Development Specialist

April 2025 - Present (1 year 6 months)

Lahore

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Water Governance and Institutional Specialist

September 2022 - March 2025 (2 years 7 months)

Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan

The Regional Researcher -Water Governance and Institutional Specialist is responsible for performing water governance, and institutional analysis tasks in the FCDO funded Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Programme: Component 1 (Climate Resilient Solutions for Improving Water Governance (CRS-IWaG). I work closely with the Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader to review and workplan for strengthening the institutional and

governance aspects of the newly formulated Water Resources Commission to implement the Integrated Water Resources Management and Irrigation Demand Management framework in the pilot district.

My general duties and responsibilities are:

- Review and document the existing and proposed water and climate relevant policy and legal frameworks at federal and provincial level.
- Review institutional capacity and implementation of already developed framework ensuring appropriate governance and accountability (externally and internally), with a vision and roadmap for the responsible agency for investment, implementation, and operation and maintenance for the immediate, medium and long term.
- Consider appropriate responses to institutional and governance issues that will attend to the Punjab Water Act 2019 at the pilot district.
- Review current institutional arrangement within the Water Resources Commission (WRC) while meeting the requirements of the Punjab Water Act 2019.
- Establish interactive platforms for stakeholder dialogue, learning and dissemination for improving water governance interventions at federal and provincial levels.
- Analyse financial barriers, subsidies, and incentives in water supply/demand dynamics across sectors as related to water governance, climate change and conflict management.
- Identify gaps in policy and decision-making systems for climate change adaptation and opportunities for improved water governance.

National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST)

Member External Advisory Board

September 2021 - December 2024 (3 years 4 months)

Islāmābād, Pakistan

I am the external member of the Advisory Board for the Department of Economics, School of Social Sciences and Humanities at the National University of Sciences and Technology, H 12, Islamabad. My role is to provide technical input by reviewing the curriculum in line with the market trends in the discipline and in the industry.

Rural Development Foundation

Member Think Tank

July 2019 - December 2023 (4 years 6 months)

Islamabad, Pakistan

To provide advice and guidance on matters of rural advancement and economic growth through improvement in development policy and practice.

UNDP Pakistan/ Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives

Programme & Research Analyst

March 2020 - September 2022 (2 years 7 months)

Islamabad, Pakistan

I am working for the UNDP team based in the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (MoPDR) to support localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level with a focus on 1) strengthening coordination, reporting and monitoring mechanisms for SDGs; 2) supporting integrated and innovative approaches to accelerate progress on priority SDGs; 3) and providing policy support through research, analysis and knowledge management. My role involves:

- Lead and provide support in substantive research on issues and drivers that could accelerate the achievement of SDGs in Pakistan;
- Support analysis and interpretation of economic and statistical data, thorough research of the economic and development issues in the country and preparation of policy papers;
- Prepare high-quality briefs for project management and senior officials (govt. and UNDP) and notes based on substantive analysis and research.
- Substantively review and analyse the key documents to ensure that all are accurate and complete;
- Assist in developing an institutional partnership with think tanks, academic and other concerned institutions and individuals with regard to research and policy work on SDGs;
- Provide support (logistics and substantial) in the arrangement of national/ regional and international workshops/seminars related to project activities;
- Assist project management related activities, such as monitoring of activities, logistical/procurement processes as and when required

Rural Support Programmes Network

Team Leader Research

October 2015 - March 2020 (4 years 6 months)

Islamabad, Pakistan

Sindh Union Council Community Economic Strengthening Support Programme (SUCCESS) is funded by the European Union. My main responsibilities include:

1. Manage and lead the research component of the SUCCESS.
2. Maintain close liaison and cooperate with the International Technical Advisor.
3. Prepare, implement and report against annual work plans.
4. Develop research concept notes, theoretical framework, methodology on poverty, it's dynamic and issues relevant to the SUCCESS programme interventions.
5. Undertake the desk reviews of the similar natures of the research projects and compile the basic information about best practices.
6. Coordinate with National and International Universities to engage students/ interns for collaborative research on topics of mutual interest to Rural Support Programmes Network/Rural Support Programmes under the SUCCESS Programme.
7. Lead and build the capacity of field researches towards achievement of research outcomes.
8. Undertake field visits to the research sites to ensure the quality assurance in data collection and adherence to ethical consideration.
9. Lead data analysis, and writing the research reports.
10. Publish research papers in international and national journal of repute.
11. Develop and implement an effective research dissemination strategy with assistance from the communication officer and SUCCESS programme management.
12. Document lessons from the research work and provide technical assistance to RSPN and RSPs in incorporating lessons in the programme.
13. Provide feedback and strategic guidance in research undertaken at the organisation or its partners.

14. Provide feedback and input in other programmes in RSPN and in particular, contribute to calls for expression of interest and funding proposals.

University of Oxford
Chevening Fellow
October 2018 - March 2019 (6 months)
Oxford, United Kingdom

I worked on my book proposal titled " Role of the mosque in building resilient communities".

Cardiff University / Prifysgol Caerdydd
Charles Wallace Fellow
September 2017 - November 2017 (3 months)
Cardiff, United Kingdom

Based at the Sustainable Places Research Institute in the School of Social Sciences, Carrdiff University, I worked on issues hindering rural development such as poverty, access to public services and lack of education.

COMSATS Institute of Information Technology
Assistant Professor
February 2014 - September 2015 (1 year 8 months)
Islamabad

As faculty member, here are some of the functions that I performed:

1. Prepared and maintained course curriculum including course outline, quiz questions, assignments and semester plan.
2. Interacted and maintained liaison with students, faculty, parents and staff, in facilitating the implementation of the program objectives.
3. Tracked student's performance and provided individual guidance and mentoring.
4. Processed all students' academic issues, such as, freezing of semesters, change of courses, semester withdrawals, course withdrawals, emergent leaves, etc.
5. Prepared new course offering for approval from Board of Studies with their market potential and ensured the economic feasibility of the courses for every course.

6. Responsible for teaching two courses (Lecturing, marking papers, and quiz) in each semester.
7. Actively participated in the proceedings of different departmental committees such as Campus Security Committee and Admission Committee. Assisted Admissions department during school visits and other marketing events.
8. Performed other works such as representing COMSATS at different forums as assigned by the Head of Department from time to time.
9. Supervised students of Bachelors and MPhil degrees during their thesis.
10. Conducted several faculty development workshops for COMSATS and other universities faculties. I was a regular resource person for the Faculty Development Academy of COMSATS.
11. In the aftermath of the Army Public School attack in Peshawar Dec 16, 2014, I served as an expert person on the campus security committee keeping in view my research expertise in disaster management.

SZABIST

Programme Manager Development Studies

2013 - 2014 (1 year)

Islamabad, Pakistan

As Programme Manager, I was head of department and performed the following functions:

1. Prepared and maintained course curriculum plan.
2. Supervised the hiring process of Adjunct faculty members.
3. Identified vacant positions of full time faculties and offered courses in each semester according to curriculum and availability of faculty.
4. Monitored and evaluated the performance of faculty.
5. Responsible for preparing the course portfolio and ensuring that the faculty members in the program did the same.

6. Interacted and maintained liaison with students, faculty, parents and staff, in facilitating the implementation of the program objectives.
7. Tracked student's performance and provided references.
8. Ensured appropriate offering of courses to every student, based on the requirements of the program (ensuring enough elective and core courses).
9. Processed all students' academic issues, such as, freezing of semesters, change of courses, semester withdrawals, course withdrawals, emergent leaves, etc.
10. Ensured the economic feasibility of the courses for every program.
11. Responsible for teaching (03) three courses (Lecturing, marking papers, and quiz) in each semester.
12. Actively participated in the proceedings of the Academic Committee.
13. Assisted Admissions department during school visits and other marketing events.
14. Performed other works such as representing SZABIST at different forums as assigned by the Head of Campus from time to time.

National Accountability Bureau

Assistant Director

January 2003 - 2013 (10 years)

Islamabad, Pakistan

1. I Analysed and processed complaints with recommendations for actions under legal framework.
2. I wrote inquiry and investigation reports in the light of relevant sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, Pakistan Penal Code, Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order and National Accountability Ordinance.
3. I corresponded and visited financial institutions to collect information about financial transactions related to the alleged crimes.
4. I examined record and witnesses to verify the veracity of allegations

5. I liaised with government and non-government organisations for collection of evidence and prosecution of the accused.

6. I served as the President of the repair and maintenance committee and also President of the Cafeteria committees to perform different administrative tasks during my job at NAB.

7. My role involved understanding of the functioning of the government, finding loopholes in laws and practices and then suggesting remedies for improvement.

8. I appeared before the Session, High and Supreme Courts while pursuing different cases assigned to me. I also recorded my evidence in the court of law and I was cross-examined by lawyers.

9. As a part of my job as investigation officer, I conducted raids at different places to apprehend accused persons after having their arrest warrants through the process of law. I interrogated accused persons in custody and also examined witnesses and prepared case diaries.

Massey University

11 months

Graduate Teaching Assistant

July 2012 - October 2012 (4 months)

Palmerston North, New Zealand

I worked for the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Massey University, Manawatu Campus, Palmerston North. My main role to mentor graduate students in different phases of their study. Also, I used to suggest innovative ways and students' perspective to improve the functioning of the centre.

Graduate Research Assistant

December 2011 - October 2012 (11 months)

Palmerston North, New Zealand

I worked at the the School of People, Environment and Planning to assist in an ongoing research project.

Intellectual Disability Empowerment in Action (IDEA), Palmerston North, New Zealand

Community Support Worker

2011 - 2012 (1 year)

Palmerston North, New Zealand

1. I supported intellectually challenged individuals to undertake different tasks such as shopping, cleaning and cooking with minimum enabling supervision.
2. I participated in regular meetings other community support workers with the area manager to analyse, discuss and design strategies for service users.
3. I assessed and identified varying needs of the service users and then reported to the manager for undertaking corrective action.
4. I fulfilled the stringent background security check by the Police required for undertaking such a sensitive job with partially challenged persons.

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme

Research Fellow

April 2002 - September 2002 (6 months)

Skardu, Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan

I analysed the socio-economic data of Baltistan region, produced a research report and recommended strategies for designing poverty alleviation interventions in the region. I presented my work in-house and to the visiting monitoring team of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). During my work, I visited remote rural mountainous communities and participated in community dialogues that aimed to empower communities and encouraged self-help groups. I also took lead to interact and know the other development work in natural resource management, agriculture and livestock undertaken by the organisation.

Education

Massey University

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Development and Disaster
Studies · (2008 - 2012)

Columbia University

Sustainable Investments in Agriculture · (2023 - 2024)

Massey University

Postgraduate Diploma, Development Studies · (2007 - 2008)

University of Geneva

Water Resources Management and Policy · (2023 - 2024)

Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad

Master of Science (MSc), Economics · (2000 - 2002)