Pakistan’s export performance has deteriorated over the past 20 years. **Meanwhile, similar economies have grown manifold in the same period.**

In 2000, US$14 out of every US$10,000 worth of goods and services exported worldwide originated in Pakistan. This has fallen to only US$11 in 2021.

In contrast, Vietnam increased its export market share from US$23 to US$123 over the same period.

**How did this happen?**

- Distortions and resource misallocations arising from current policies
- Protectionist tariff policies that disincentivize exports
- The complex business environment discouraging foreign investment
- The state’s intrusive role within the economy

**How can these constraints be addressed?**

- Strengthen private sector access to finance
- Simplify the business environment
- Reduce the presence of the state in the economy
- Eliminate the current anti-export bias by overhauling trade policies

To learn more, read the World Bank Pakistan Discussion Note, Transforming Pakistan’s Private Sector, 2023