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**MULTI-REGIONAL
CLINICAL TRIALS**
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From Translation To Transformation

Advancing Clinical Research Competencies In Pakistan
Through The Urdu JTF Framework

Joint Task Force For Clinical Trial Competency (JTF)

Biannual Global Meeting 2025

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Director Research and Quality
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What happens when clinical research is only in English in a country where millions speak Urdu?



Navigational Challenges

Receiving a map in a foreign language leads to confusion and misdirection.

Essential Translation Needs

Translating materials is vital for accurate understanding and participation.

Clinical Trials Risk

English-only documents can diminish engagement and trust in participants.

Language barriers

Language barriers can undermine informed consent, community engagement, and understanding of trial procedures.





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Why Urdu Specifically Matters In Clinical Research



Choosing Urdu for translation is essential due to its national relevance and strong institutional support.

National Relevance

As the lingua franca of Pakistan, Urdu is widely understood across provinces, facilitating communication and unity.

Institutional Support

The National Language Promotion Department actively promotes Urdu, ensuring its growth and usage in various sectors.



The Challenge of Language in Clinical Research

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Limited Availability of Localized Resources

Misinterpretation of Technical Terms

Direct translation of complex medical and research terminology may cause misunderstanding. Leads to errors in protocol implementation, data collection, and ethical compliance

Training and Communication Barriers

- Workshops, seminars, and online courses are often conducted in English
- Researchers with limited English proficiency may struggle to grasp concepts fully

Cultural Nuances

Misunderstanding cultural context in translation may lead to mistrust or reluctance to participate among patients.



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Local Engagement in Clinical Trials



Trials Initiated Since 1992

5280

Since 1999, 5280 clinical trials have initiated in Pakistan.

Active Trials Today

480-500+

As of 2025, Pakistan has **around 480-500 active clinical trials** registered across WHO ICTRP and ClinicalTrials.gov

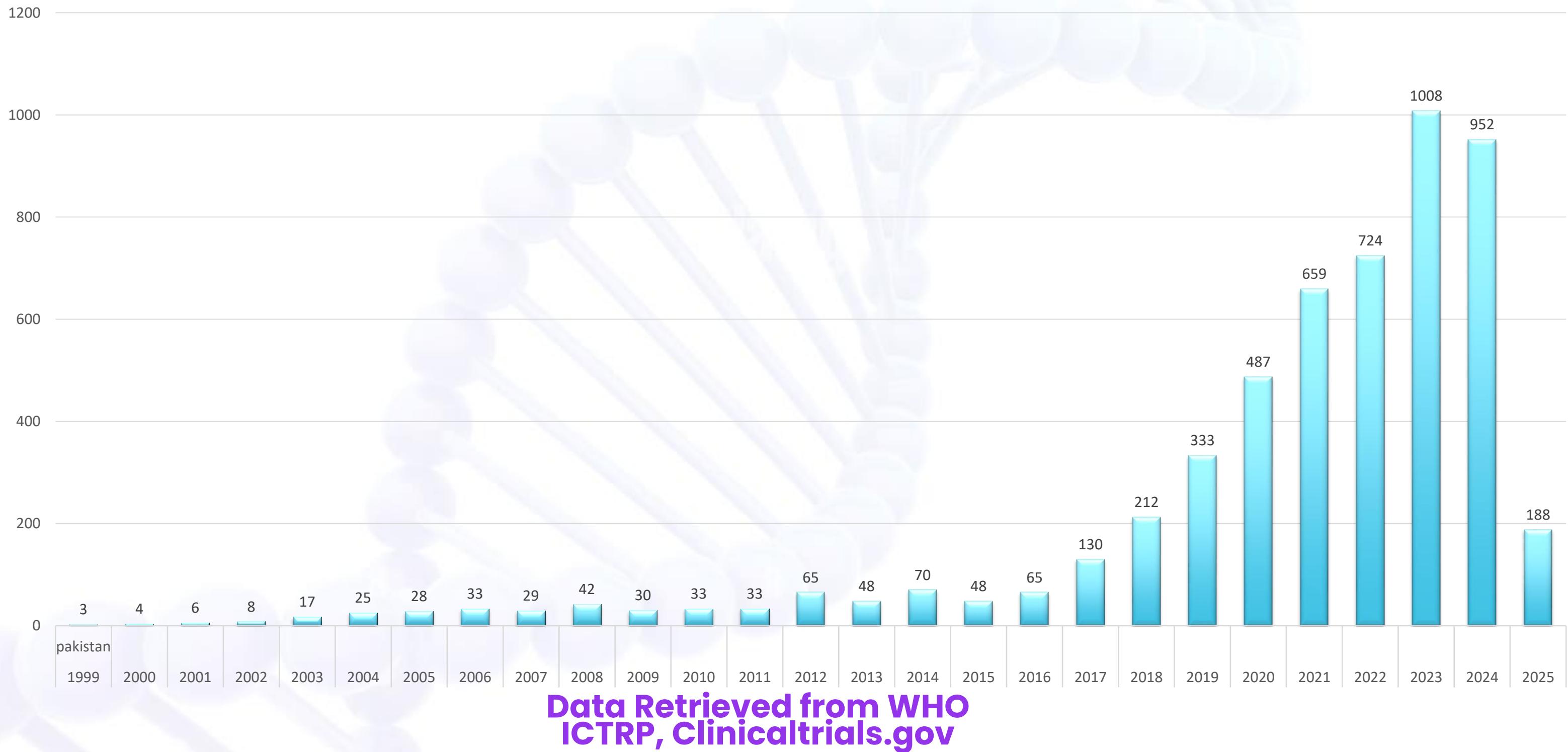
Global Contribution Rate

~0. 35%

Pakistan's contribution to global clinical trials is roughly at 0.35 %, reflecting a potential area of focus.

Data Retrieved from WHO ICTRP, Clinicaltrials.gov

Graph showing number of clinical trials in Pakistan since 1999 to 2025

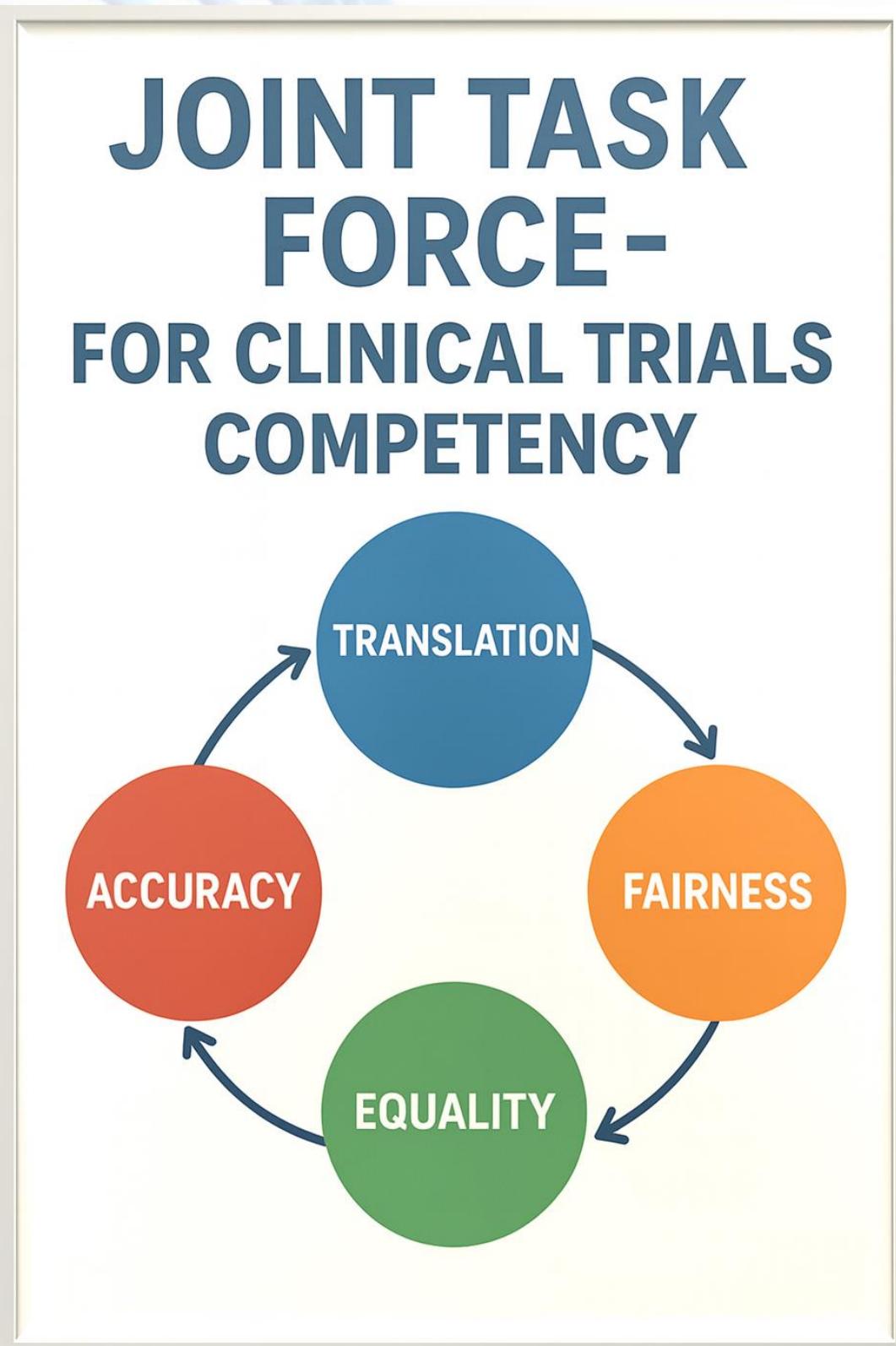




The JTF (“Joint Task Force”) Concept

A **Joint task force for clinical trial competency framework** which aims to define the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for conducting safe and high-quality clinical research. The framework includes 8 competency domains that encompass various aspects of clinical research, such as patient care, regulatory knowledge and study management.

- **Structured process** to translate clinical research materials (guidelines, sops, consent forms, training modules) into different languages.
- **Goals:** improve comprehension, facilitate training, ensure ethical conduct, build local capacity.
- **Components:** translation + validation + training + dissemination.





Why Linguistic Accessibility Matters in Clinical Trials

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Workforce & System-Level Benefits

- **Enhances Comprehension of Complex Clinical Research Concepts**
- **Standardizes Knowledge Across All Disciplines** involved in trials
- **Improves Capacity Building Nationwide** through accessible training
- **Empowers Local Workforce & Promotes Inclusivity** in clinical research
- **Ensures Accurate Implementation of Global Standards** in local settings

Participant-Facing Benefits

- **Enhances Participant Understanding** by delivering information in a familiar language
- **Improves Informed Consent Quality** and supports ethical decision-making
- **Increases Recruitment & Retention** by reducing language barriers
- **Promotes Data Accuracy & Reliability** through clearer communication
- **Supports Regulatory & Ethical Standards** requiring linguistic accessibility





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“Translating Excellence: JTF Competency Guide In Urdu”

- Bringing global clinical research standards to Pakistan.
- Making complex competencies easy to understand in Urdu.
- Supporting training & professional growth.



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BRINGING GLOBAL CLINICAL RESEARCH STANDARDS TO PAKISTAN



اردو



MAKING COMPLEX COMPETENCIES EASY TO UNDERSTAND IN URDU

SUPPORTING TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



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How We Achieved It



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- **Expert Task Force-Formation** of a Multidisciplinary Working Group – Clinicians, Clinical Researchers, language experts, QA professionals.
- **Accurate Translation –Initial Translation (Forward Translation)** Iterative process with cross-checks.
- **Validation & Quality Assurance** – Clear, consistent, culturally relevant.
- **Stakeholder Feedback** – P-tested in local institutions Pilot.

کلینیکل ریسرچ پروفیشنل کے لیے کورس کمپیٹینسی فریم ورک - ورژن 3.1

مہارت یافتہ (Skilled)، اور اعلیٰ (Advanced) سطح

A - بنیادی سطح	B - ہرمند سطح	C - اعلیٰ درجے کی سطح
ڈو میں نمبر 1: سائنسی تصورات اور تحقیقی ڈیزائن: کلینیکل ٹرائیلز کے ڈیزائن اور تجزیہ سے متعلق سائنسی تصورات کا علم اس میں شامل ہے۔		
1.1. حیاتیاتی طبی علوم (بائیومیڈیکل سائنس) کے اصول پر مبنی تحقیقی مصنوعات کی دریافت، ترقی اور صحت سے متعلق روئیوں کا مداخلتی اطلاق زیر بحث ہے۔		
A1 - اس بات کا ادراک کہ سائنسی اصول کو حیاتیاتی علوم کی تحقیقاتی مصنوعات اور صحت سے متعلق مداخلتی روئیوں اور تبدیلی کی دریافت و ترقی میں لا گو کرنا ضروری ہے۔ A2 - وہ بنیادی سائنسی اصول بیان کرنا جو حیاتیاتی علوم کی تحقیقاتی مصنوعات اور صحت سے متعلق مداخلتی روئیوں اور تبدیلی کے دوران لا گو ہونے چاہئیں۔	B1 - طب یارویہ کے مطالعہ میں سائنسی اصول کا اطلاق کریں۔ B2 - سائنسی اصول کے مطابق اور پروٹوکول ڈیزائن کی بنیاد پر ڈیٹا آنھا کرنا۔	C1 - سائنسی اصول کے مطابق بائیومیڈیکل ریسرچ کا منصوبہ بنائیں۔ C2 - سائنسی اصول کے مطابق ڈیٹا مینیجنمنٹ پلان تیار کریں۔
مثال: جب کلینیکل ریسرچ پروٹوکول دیا جاتا ہے، تو تحقیق فرق بیان کرتا ہے کہ کون سے اصول اس پر اثر انداز ہو سکتے ہیں اور یہ کہ ڈیٹا کیسے آنھا کیا جائے اور کیسے بہترین طریقوں پر عمل درآمد کیا جائے؟		
1.2 ایسے سائنسی سوالات کی نشاندہی کریں جو ممکنہ طور پر قابل آزمائش طبی تحقیقی مفروضے پر مبنی ہوں۔		



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Dr. Baber Saeed Khan, MBBS, MPH, CPI, FAPCR
Director Clinical Trial Unit



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Turning Knowledge into Action



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- Standardized clinical research knowledge across Pakistan
- Enhanced understanding & compliance with international standards
- Strengthened professional development & capacity building



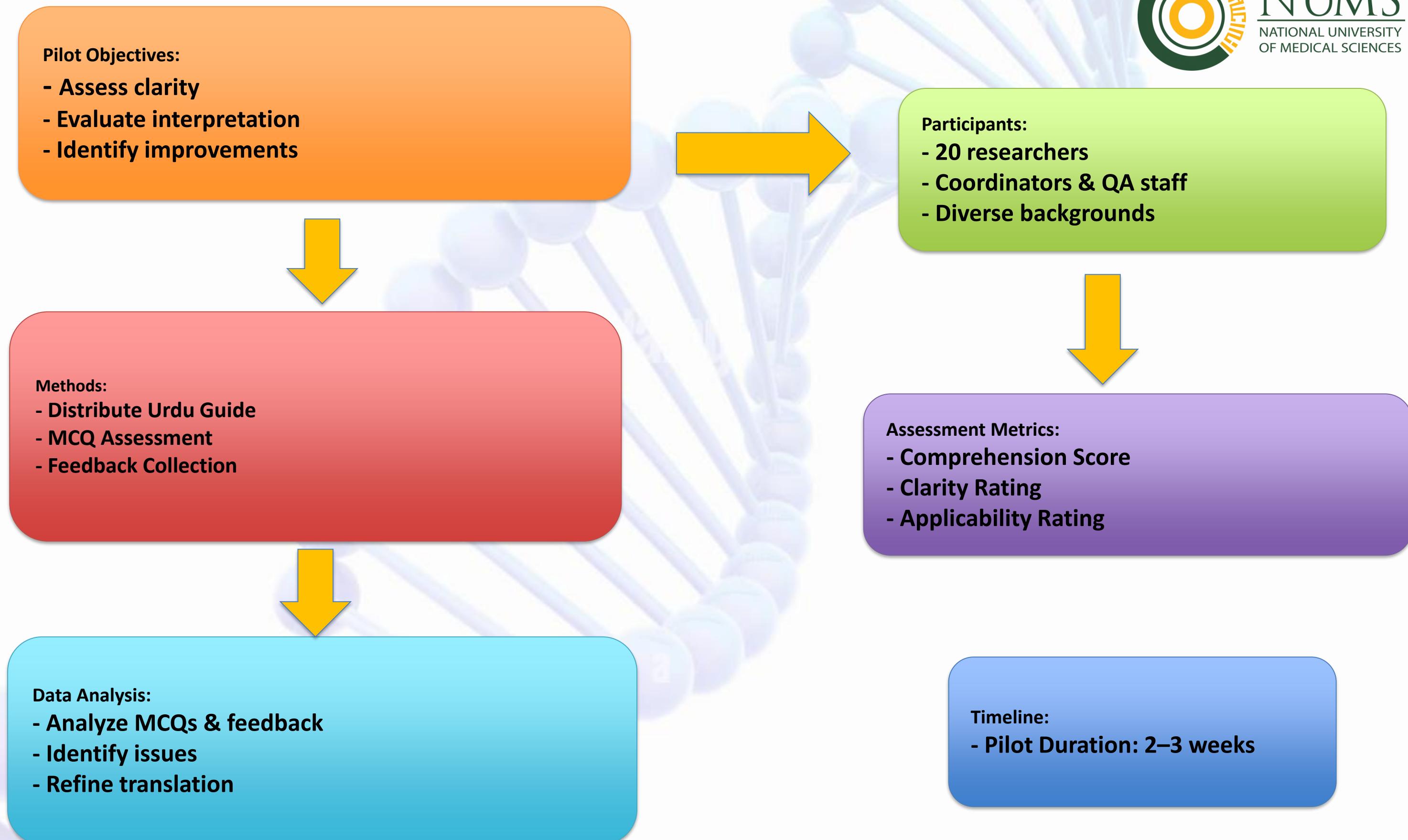
Standardized clinical research knowledge across Pakistan



Enhanced understanding & compliance with international standards



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Execution Plan – Urdu JTF Competency Guide in Pakistan



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To disseminate the Urdu-translated JTF Competency Guide to clinical research stakeholders across Pakistan and ensure uptake through structured pilot testing and awareness.

Design Distribution Materials:

- Printed copies
- PDF/online version for easy access
- Accompanying MCQ assessment tool for comprehension

Stakeholder Identification

- DRAP and NBC
- Universities & Academic Institutions

Workshops & Training Sessions:

How can the Competency Framework be utilized?





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Implementation timeline



PHASE	TIMELINE	ACTIVITIES
FINALIZATION	Week 1–2	Incorporate pilot study feedback, finalize guide
MATERIAL READINESS	Week 3	Print copies, prepare PDFs, MCQs
DISTRIBUTION	Week 4–6	Deliver to DRAP, universities, Clinical Trial Units research centers across Pakistan
ORIENTATION & FEEDBACK	Week 5–7	Conduct sessions, collect comprehension data
EVALUATION	Week 20	Summarize feedback and refine implementation strategy



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OUTCOME & IMPACT

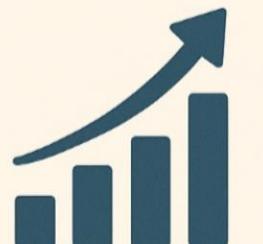
- Standardized **clinical research competency knowledge** in Pakistan.
- Broader reach through DRAP endorsement and university engagement.
- Improved research quality, compliance, and professional development.



**STANDARDIZED
CLINICAL RESEARCH
COMPETENCY
KNOWLEDGE
IN PAKISTAN**



**BROADER REACH
THROUGH DRAP
ENDORSEMENT AND
UNIVERSITY
ENGAGEMENT**



**IMPROVED RESEARCH
QUALITY, COMPLIANCE
AND PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



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Benefits of Translation to Clinical Research Competencies



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Translation in clinical research enhances understanding and compliance with regulations, thereby improving overall research quality.

Training and Capacity Building

Training staff in Urdu leads to enhanced understanding of GCP, ethics, and SOPs, boosting research quality and compliance.

Informed Consent

Participants show improved comprehension when materials are available in their native languages, enhancing informed consent processes.



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Call to Action/ Recommendations



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Stakeholders must take immediate action to drive transformation forward. Funders should prioritize funding for translating research materials into Urdu and engage community leaders in outreach initiatives. Businesses can develop partnerships to further expand the reach of resources.



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THANKS