

Newsletter



Ministry of Finance
Government of Pakistan
Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project

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Website
www.prsm.gov.pk

Designed & Edited by
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DATE: October 2008 to June 2009

Message

It is my privilege to introduce the first Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project Newsletter to you, our readers and our partners. The objective of the project is to strengthen institutional capacities for results-based monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction strategies at Federal and Provincial levels. Over all the project ensures improved capacity to formulate and implement pro-poor policies and efficient and effective spending aimed at poverty reduction. The project was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Finance with the technical and financial support of UNDP and its cost sharing donors, namely, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Mr. Mahmood Akhtar
Nation Project Director

Since its inception in 2008, the PRS Monitoring project has undertaken a number of activities which have been successfully completed under the project. The project, including others, provided technical support for the finalization of the PRSP-II document, facilitated in organizing Technical Working Groups (TWGs) meetings, provided extensive inputs in the Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation chapter of the PRSP-II document, and extended support in completion of first nation wide Time Use Survey and Valuation of Unpaid Care work. Our achievements have yielded positive results, and tremendous wealth of learning. The activities documented in this Newsletter cover the period between October 2008 to June 2009.

This initiative cannot be completed without mentioning the support of Poverty Reduction & Gender Unit of UNDP in the effective implementation of the project.

We hope that you will appreciate our efforts in sharing our activities and achievements with you and we look forward to your continued feedback and support.

Mahmood Akhtar
National Project Director/ Joint Secretary (EF-P)
Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project

Project Overview

Since the project initiation, this is the first newsletter, covering activities of three quarters from October 2008 to June 2009.

The overall experience with monitoring has demonstrated the need for monitoring different dimensions of poverty, particularly in the priority sectors and to strengthen the existing monitoring mechanism, upgrade institutional network, improve sectoral management information systems, and reinforce evaluation system at provincial and district levels. With the PRSP now entering into the second cycle, a system-wide improvement in conducting impact assessments is crucial. Realizing the need for a consistent monitoring of government's efforts particularly policies directly affecting the poor and vulnerable needs to be strengthened. Overall, the objective of the project is to strengthen institutional capacities for results-based monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction strategies at Federal and Provincial levels. The project will ensure improved capacity to formulate and implement pro-poor policies, efficient and effective spending aimed at poverty reduction, and an integrated system which will enable precise comparison of past achievements with future objectives.

Project Outputs

The project has the following three outputs:

- Improvement in quality, collection, analysis and management of PRSP data at national and province levels for effective tracking of PRSP targets.
- Review public spending and allocations in pro-poor sectors and analyze through a gender lens to better understand the contribution and needs of men and women.
- National engagement in PRSP monitoring mobilized through participatory processes.

Technical Coordination

To enhance technical coordination for effective PRS monitoring, an effective mechanism is established at the federal and provincial levels. *Technical Working Groups (TWGs)* at the federal level, with membership from technical agencies aimed at ensure coordination among the technical working

staff for pro-poor programming in each stakeholder agency; oversee needed improvements and provide technical advice at all tiers

Similarly PRS *Provincial Technical Committees* to assist and promote coordinated production and delivery of sectoral data to the PRP Secretariats at the provincial level are to be constituted.

Implementation Arrangements

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan and Provincial Planning & Development Departments. For this purpose a federal Project Management unit (PMU) has been established in the Ministry of Finance while one provincial PMU is located in the Planning & Development Department, Government of Punjab. Similar provincial PMUs are being created in all the other provinces. A multi-tiered oversight mechanism is devised at the level of the center and provinces, to ensure accountability and visibility of the PRS process at the highest levels through the formation of Project Steering Committee (PSC). At the center a Project Steering Committee chaired by the Additional Finance Secretary, Government of Pakistan has been notified for ensuring overall guidance and support to the project. Provincial PRS Monitoring Steering Committees will be chaired by the Planning & Development Departments.

Project Team

Mr. Mahmood Akhter
National Project Director/
Joint Secretary, (EF-P)
Finance Division,
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**Mr. Sajjad Ahmed
Shaikh**
National Project Manager

Mr. Nouman Ghani
Poverty Monitoring &
Evaluation Specialist

Ms. Naveeda Salam
Poverty Economist

Ms. Aisha M. Ahmed
Consultant

**Mr. Aijaz Mehmood
Qureshi**
Admin & Finance Officer

Mr. Jamal Rafique
Admin & Finance
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ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL PRS SECRETARIATS/CELLS

In order to setup a formalized structure for regular consultation, implementation and monitoring of poverty reduction strategies at the provincial level, the project envisages to setup provincial PRS secretariats in all four province in the Planning and Development Department.

The Punjab PRS Secretariat/ Cell has been operationalized since January 2008 with nomination of the Provincial Project Director and the constitution of the project steering committee. Recruitment of National Project Manager, Admin & Finance Assistant have been done with the Punjab project office and fully functional since 2008.

The establishment of Provincial PRS Secretariat/ Cell (Baluchistan and Sindh) has also been initiated with the nomination of the Provincial Project Director and the constitution of the Provincial Project Steering Committee.

The establishment of provincial PRS secretariat/ cell NWFP has been established with the nomination of Provincial Project Director and the constitution of the Provincial Project Steering Committee . The recruitment process was initiated with National Project Manager/Poverty & Gender Specialist and Administrative & Finance Assistant are on board .

TIME USE SURVEY REPORT

A first nation wide Time Use Survey initiated by Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative, Finance Division and Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) to reveal the macroeconomic implications of unpaid care work has been completed under the auspices Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project.

Why a Time Use Survey

The Time Use Survey (TUS) is one of the tools of Gender Responsive Budgeting survey, which is meant to reveal the macroeconomic implications of unpaid care work (such as caring for children and sick people and general housework) and to ensure that the government's budget and associated policies geared toward realizing the productive potential of men and women.

What to Expect from a Time Use Survey

- Detailed, nationally representative information about how men, women, girls and boys spend their time
- Information for policy makers and other stakeholders about the time taken to access both public and private education and health services in urban and rural areas.
- Feedback as to what extent standard instruments such as the labor force survey are successfully capturing all forms of economic work.
- Provide basis for the measurement of quality of life or general well-being

- Actual assessments for time spent on 'economic' work which is counted in gross domestic product (GDP) or SNA, non-economic work (unpaid care work) such as housework and caring for children, ill and old people in the household and community or extended SNA, and non-productive activities such as sleeping, eating, socializing and learning or non SNA activities.

The Time Use Survey takes an exhaustive stock of household activities. It has generated a wealth of data to provide empirical perspective for a wide range of socio-economic pursuits and research objectives for a wide range of audience ranging from researchers, planners, academicians, sociologist and other interested users at large. In addition this would be use to generate numerous reports on different social, economic and cultural issues. The information on unremunerated work will be crucial in formulating and implementing socio-economic development plans with gender equality dimension. Time use statistics have great value informing the government development policy process.

Major Findings of TUS:

The survey findings reveal that one half of the women (50%), compared to one-seventh (14%) of men are unpaid family workers. In broad socio-economic grouping, about one-fourth (24%) of men are white collar (senior officials and

professionals) workers compared to about one-eighth (13%) of women. In contrast 69% women are brown collar (service, agriculture and trade workers) workers compared to about 50% men.

Urban men in Pakistan, in contrast to urban women, spend five times more time in economic activities than in para economic activities such as household maintenance, care for children, sick and elderly and community services. However rural women spend more time in economic activities as compared to rural men. Urban men and

women spend more time in socio-cultural activities compared to men and women of rural areas. The productive life time of Pakistani women is being spent mostly in undertaking household activities highlighting the immense contribution women make not only towards the well being of the household and towards subsidizing the cost of the economy.

DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP OF TIME USE SURVEY

Dissemination Workshop of Time Use Survey was held on May 22, 2009 at Islamabad Club. The objectives of the Dissemination workshop was to



Project Director, UNDP Deputy Country Director, Ms. Mikiko Tanaka spoke on this occasion. They praised



create awareness about the time spent by people in Pakistan on market and non-market economic activities, personal care and related activities.

The dissemination workshop was chaired by Mr. Asif Bajwa, Additional Finance Secretary (EF-P), Ministry of Finance. Mr Rana Asad Amin, National

Federal Bureau of Statistics for the successful completion of the first nation wide Time Use Survey which has a wealth of data to provide empirical prospective for research on various issues. Almost fifty participants have participated in workshop including different government officials, development partners and researchers.

GENDER ANALYSIS OF BUDGET & GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT

Gender Analysis of Budget: In order to provide a snapshot of government budgetary prioritization process by analyzing the budget from a gender perspective, report of Gender Analysis of Budget 2008-09 has been prepared. The report gives an analysis of the federal and provincial budget from a gender lens by dividing and examining the budget in categories of allocations specifically targeted for gender and for mainstreaming programs. The said report upon finalization is currently under printing process. .

Gender Budget Statement: A gender budget statement (GBS) is an accountability tool which a govern-

ment uses to inform parliamentarians and members of civil society about its initiatives for advancing gender equality. The tool is linked to the budget because unless adequate money is allocated to implement policies, programmes and projects, they will not be effective. The GBS thus shows accountability in terms of intention to do something and shows the government in putting money behind the intention. A Gender Budget Statement (GBS) 2008-2009 has also been developed under the project.

CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS FOR FINALIZATION OF DRAFT PRSP - II

Embodied in the PRSP framework is the expectation that participation by national stakeholders and international development partners in developing and implementing the poverty reduction strategies will, firstly, deliver a sense of broad-based ownership, not only by government but by civil and political society at large. Recognizing that the participation of various stakeholders in the PRSP process needs to be further bolstered for the strategy to become more effective, consultations for finalization of the draft Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP-II) were held at three levels. The following consultation workshops were held during November - December, 2008:

- (a) Consultations workshop with National Stakeholder;
- (b) Consultations workshop with Development Partners;
- (c) Consultative workshop with Parliamentarians.

Consultative workshop with National Stakeholders

To deepen the sense of local ownership of the PRSP process, and to institutionalize participation of National stakeholders including government ministries/ departments, academia, civil society, youth and beneficiaries at community level, a workshop for sharing the Draft PRSP-II was held on November



14, 2008 at National Library Auditorium, Islamabad. The workshop was conducted with the aim to bring the public officials,

civil society representatives and participants from all walks of life onboard and to take into account their views in the formulation of the PRSP-II document. The workshop attracted participants from a wide variety of National stakeholders including policy makers, academia, representatives from non-governmental organizations, students, researchers and community representatives.

Consultative workshop with the Development Partners

In order to secure development gains and progress in the efforts for poverty reduction, a consultative workshop to share the draft PRSP-II with the International



Development Partners was organized on November 19, 2008 at the Finance Division, Islamabad.

The workshop was attended by a large number of various international organizations. Officials from line ministries and departments were also present. Detailed discussion on the draft document was carried out in three breakup groups for a focused discussion on various aspects of the Draft Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP-II).

Consultative workshop with the Parliamentarians

To institutionalize the role of Parliamentarians in the formulation of the PRSP-II, a consultative Workshop to share the draft PRSP-II was held on December 4, 2008 in P-Block Auditorium, Islamabad. The workshop was attended by members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and senate.

Mr. Faisal Kareem Kundi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly chaired the workshop. Mr. Shoukat Tareen,



Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Revenue enlightened the Parliamentarians about the poverty reduction strategy as outlined in the draft PRSP-II. Ms. Hina Rabbani

Khar, Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs dilated upon the crucial role of Parliamentarians in empowering and enabling the poor while, utilizing Parliamentary oversight to ensure implementation. A detailed discussion session with the parliamentarians followed wherein productive feedback/comments on the PRSP document came forth.



TRAINING PROGRAMS ATTENDED

1. Training on SAP-R3

In order to enhance the capacity of the PRS Secretariat staff for timely access to data and generation of pro-poor expenditure reports, **training on SAP-R3** was organized by PRSP Secretariat in coordination with the PIFRA Directorate.

The training was held on March 19 – 21, 2009 at 'Q' Block, Pak Secretariat and was attended by the federal and provincial project staff including PRSP Secretariat team members.

2. Training on Financial Software (ATLAS)

In order to align UNDP CO and the projects operational offices to use the similar financial software (ATLAS), access to all project offices has been provided. For basic orientation and complete understanding of the ATLAS Financial Software, one day training was held on March 25, 2009 at UNDP CO. The training was attended by Mr. Sajjad Ahmed Shaikh, National Project Manager, Mr. Aijaz Mehmood, Admin & Finance Officer and Mr. Jamal Rafique, Admin & Finance Assistant.

PUBLICATIONS

Booklet: Gender Responsive Budgeting in Pakistan: An Evolutionary Process

On completion and merger of Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative (2005-2007) into Strengthening PRS monitoring Project, a booklet titled: 'Gender Responsive Budgeting in Pakistan: An Evolutionary Process' has been prepared. The booklet highlights the achievements of the Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative project with an aim to answer basic queries about GRB, and to enhance awareness on Gender Responsive Budgeting work carried out in Pakistan. The booklet has been printed and widely distributed among relevant stakeholders



Time Use Survey

The Time Use Survey (TUS) is one of the tools of Gender Responsive Budgeting survey, which is conducted to profile the quantum and distribution of paid/unpaid work as a means to infer Policy/Programme implications from the perspective of gender equity and to collect and analyze the comprehensive information about the time spent by people on market and non-market economic activities and personal care and related activities that cannot be delegated to others. The said report was disseminated among relevant stakeholders through Dissemination Workshop of Time Use Survey held on May 22, 2009 at Islamabad



Gender Aware Beneficiary Assessment

This study presents findings of a gender-aware beneficiary assessment conducted as a part of the Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative (GRBI) of Government of Pakistan. The main objective was to analyze issues of accessibility, the manner and degree of utilization, and satisfaction of actual and potential beneficiaries of education services from a gender perspective. The ultimate goal is to inform the budgetary processes so that spending on education addresses the needs of boys and girls, men and women equitably. The focus of assessment rests on the key education services provided by the federal, provincial, and district government Jacobabad.



Gender Aware Policy Appraisal Education Sector Sindh

Gender Aware Policy Appraisal is one of the priority tools for Gender Responsive Budgeting which analyzes policies and programs funded through the budget from a gender perspective by asking whether policies and their associated resource allocations are likely to reduce or increase gender inequalities. GAPA of Education Sector - Sindh initiated under Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative has been carried out under Strengthening PRS Monitoring project. The said report has been printed and disseminated among a wide range of stakeholders.



Publications of Brochures

For awareness and advocacy purposes a number of brochures have been prepared. Following are some brochures prepared and disseminated among a wide range of stakeholders :

1. Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project
2. Briefs of Gender Aware Policy Appraisal - Education sector
3. Briefs of Gender Aware Policy Appraisal -Health sector
4. Consultative Process in Poverty Reduction Strat-

egy Paper (PRSP) – II “Voice Of Poor”

5. Formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) - II, Final Round of Consultation.
6. Brief of Gender Aware Policy Appraisal - Population Welfare sector



PROJECT WEBSITE

A consolidated project website has been developed and uploaded. The website has been hosted on government official URL: <http://www.prs.gov.pk>. The objective of the website is to create awareness about the project and provide a resource base regarding PRS Monitoring and Gender Responsive Budgeting related material.

The project website is expected to serve as project knowledge base as well as offer a forum to share ideas and knowledge. The knowledge base provides access to the project documents, latest publications and extensive material and information about Gender Responsive Budgeting and Poverty Reduction Strategy Monitoring.



**STRENGTHENING
PRS MONITORING
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Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project

The Finance Division, Government of Pakistan with technical and financial support of UNDP Pakistan and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has initiated the Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project (2008-2012). The aim of the project is to strengthen institutional capacities for results-based monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction strategies at Federal and Provincial levels.

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