

STRENGTHENING PRS MONITORING PROJECT

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**Newsletter Strengthening
PRS Monitoring Project**

Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project

The Finance Division, Government of Pakistan with the technical and financial support of UNDP Pakistan 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.

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.*

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 provincial PMUs are located in all four Provincial Planning & Development Departments.

Strengthening PRSMP, Newsletter January - June, 2010



NEWSLETTER

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Finance

Jan-June, 2010

Strengthening Poverty Reduction Strategy Monitoring Project

MESSAGE



It gives me great pleasure to share the third Newsletter of the Strengthening Poverty Reduction Strategy Monitoring Project (SPRSMP). The project has effectively entered in the third year of its implementation which is commendable. The success in poverty reduction depends on the availability of resources, effective implementation of the strategy, continuous monitoring & evaluation (M & E) and regular feedback to policymakers for appropriate adjustment in programmes and policies. I must say that the development of result-based M & E system is, therefore, a critical component. The project was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Finance with the technical and financial assistance of the UNDP and its cost sharing partners, namely, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The main objective of the result-based M & E is to enable the government to make such decisions that would keep the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy on track.

The mid-year review witnessed number of new and on-going initiatives towards achieving the overall objectives, including PRSP Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports FY 2008/09; two studies: one on Communication Strategy and the other on Results based M&E Framework of the PRSP - II; launching of the seven research studies on Time Use Survey (TUS) data.

I hope that this Newsletter of SPRSM would be useful for agencies, individuals, donors, and international development organizations in getting prompt overview of the diverse activities of the project. We look forward to your continued support and feedback to further improve service delivery under the project.

Mahmood Akhtar

National Project Director/Joint Secretary (EFP Wing)
Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project

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- *Annual Progress Report FY 2008/09 of the PRSP- II*
- *Annual Progress Report-2009 Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project*

Website: www.prsm.gov.pk

*Edited & Layout Designed by:
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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Since the project initiation, this is the third newsletter covering activities of two quarters from January 2010 to June 2010. The overall experience with monitoring has demonstrated the need for recognizing different dimensions of poverty, particularly in the priority sectors to strengthen the existing monitoring mechanism, upgrade institutional network, improve sectoral management information systems and reinforce evaluation system at provincial and district levels. Overall the project aims to 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 a 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 provincial 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 contributions and needs of men/women; and
- National engagement in PRSP monitoring mobilized through a participatory process.

For implementing the PRS Monitoring agenda at the provincial level, the project has envisaged the establishment of PRSP Secretariats/Cells in all the provinces. The PRSP Secretariats/Cells have been operationalized in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces while the establishment of PRS Secretariats/Cells at Sindh and Baluchistan provinces is under process.

Implementation Arrangements

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan at federal level and by Provincial Planning & Development Departments at provincial level. A multi-tiered oversight mechanism is devised at the level of the centre and provinces to ensure accountability and visibility of the PRS process at the highest levels through the formation of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). At the centre, 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 have also been notified by all the four provincial governments and will be chaired by the Planning & Development Departments.

PROJECT TEAM

Mr. Mahmood Akhtar	National Project Director/Joint Secretary (EFP Wing) Finance Division, Islamabad
Mr. Sajjad Ahmad Shiekh	National Project Manager
Mr. Nouman Ghani	Poverty Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist
Dr. Naveeda Salam	Poverty Economist
Mr. Jamal Rafique	Admin & Finance Assistant
Ms. Sadia Ali	Consultant

LEADING ACTIVITIES

Fifth Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) headed by Additional Finance Secretary (AFS) has been constituted to oversee all project related activities and address strategic challenges and issues pertaining to SPRSMP. Fifth Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting of PRSMP held on January 16, 2010 in the Committee Room, Finance Division, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Saleem Sethi, Additional Finance Secretary (AFS). The meeting opened with welcome remarks by Mr. Sajjad Ahmad Sheikh, National Project Manager, Strengthening PRS



Monitoring Project. All members including representatives from UNDP actively participated in the meeting. Annual Work Plan and Budget for the year 2010 were accorded approval by the PSC.



Valuation of Unpaid Care Work, Pakistan Report Dissemination

The Time Use Survey (TUS) quantified the time period used by the respondents for activities relating to data in respect of: i) System of National Accounts (SNA), ii) Extended SNA, and iii) Non-SNA. The Valuation of Unpaid Care Work in Pakistan was carried out to calculate the value of extended SNA activities using these time periods by four methods. The objective was to highlight the contribution made through unpaid work to the calculation of GDP and highlight the invisible and document part of the economy. A dissemination





workshop of the report “Valuation of Unpaid Care Work in Pakistan” was held on February 04, 2010 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The objective of the workshop was to share key findings of the report “Valuation of Unpaid Care Work in Pakistan” written by Ms. Debbie Bundlender, International Gender Budgeting Specialist, South Africa. Mr. Nouman Ghani, Poverty M & E Specialist presented the major findings of the report. Participants from various UN and bilateral agencies,

Government Line Ministries, Gender Reforms Action Plan (GRAP) Members, National Research Organizations, PRSP Secretariat and Strengthening Poverty Reduction Strategy Monitoring Project (SPRSMP) attended the workshop.



Workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)

Gender Responsive Budgeting aims at analyzing the differential impacts of public expenditure as well as revenue policy on women/girls and men/boys. In order to integrate Gender Budget analysis in the budget making process, Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) consultants have been provided training by SPRSM project on gender mainstreaming of Budget Call Circular. Subsequently, personnel of six pilot ministries who were involved in budget formulation also trained in incorporating gender sensitive amendment and indicators stage.



Towards this objective, a two-day workshop on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) was held on February 24th 2010 at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. UNIFEM has taken a keen interest in this initiative and collaborated with SPRSMP to organize the event. The speakers emphasized the importance of



the training highlighting the issues related to Gender Responsive Budgeting, which was aimed at assisting respective ministries to work on proper and equitable resource allocation in future. A total of five ministries participated in the workshop.

Inception Workshop to Launch Research Studies based on TUS Data

One of the key outputs of the SPRSM project is the first ever Time Use Survey in Pakistan conducted in 2007. The TUS takes exhaustive stock of round the clock activities of the everyday life. It has generated abundant data to provide empirical perspective for a wide range of socio-economic pursuits and research objectives. TUS holds the potential of research in variegated areas such as macroeconomics, national income accounting, labor

economics, social protection and others. The research can be applied to illustrate the magnitude of this new survey's possible applications. Finance Division, UNDP Pakistan, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the World Bank agreed to commission research papers to further explore the use of TUS data, specifically from social protection perspective.

Researches were invited to submit proposals for the papers. These papers are meant to contribute directly or indirectly to review national social protection strategy of Pakistan. A total of seven studies have been commissioned keeping in view the feasibility, novelty and relevance of research proposals. An Inception Workshop to launch Research Studies based on Time Use Survey data was held on March 25, 2010 at Holiday Inn, Islamabad. The objective of the workshop was to share the scope of work by the researchers on their studies with a wider audience. The workshop intended to generate meaningful debate regarding research questions and fill gaps in the scope of research. The workshop attracted participants from a wide variety of stakeholders including policy makers, academia, non-governmental organizations, researchers, UN Agencies.

Consultations with Development Partners

- Monitoring and Review of Research Studies based on TUS data have been periodically conducted. Several meetings have taken place involving PRSP Secretariat, UNDP, World Bank and SPRSM Project. These meetings focused on the progress of studies; the direction of research and the quality of submitted research drafts.
- SPRSM Project is working with the DFID team engaged in strengthening the National Statistical System in collaboration with the Statistics Division to explore synergies. In this regard, several consultative meetings between the two have taken place to discuss the areas of mutual interest. As a result of these meetings, SPRSM Project and DFID are hopeful towards a joint effort in institutionalizing the key surveys and overcome the shortcomings in statistical system of the country.

PRSP Quarterly Progress Reports

The SPRSM Project develops Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports of PRSP on regular basis. Since inception of the SPRSPM Project, three Quarterly and one Annual Progress Report FY 2008/09, one quarter and a mid-year report FY 2009/10 have been completed by the project. The work on third Quarter July-September 2010 is in process now. The purpose of the Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports is to review the progress of Budgetary and Non-Budgetary expenditures incurred on 17 pro-poor sectors.

Gender Budget Analysis of Punjab budget 2009-10

A Consultant has been working on Gender Budget Analysis of Punjab budget 2009-10. First draft of the report is available submitted to various departments for their comments. Linkages have been strengthened with Finance Department, GRAP, PESR Punjab & PRMP to take forward work to GRB. Work has been started on tracking of district level budget/expenditure of Bahawalpur and Multan districts.

SPRSMP (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) Provincial Project Steering Committee Meeting

To attain provincial participation in PRS Monitoring Project, PRSMP cell at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has already been operationalized. In this regard, second meeting of the Provincial Project Steering Committee was held at Frontier House, Islamabad, on February 17, 2010 under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

In order to encourage and enhance the capacity of fresh graduates, an internship programme of six weeks was undertaken w.e.f. July 01, 2009. A total of eight

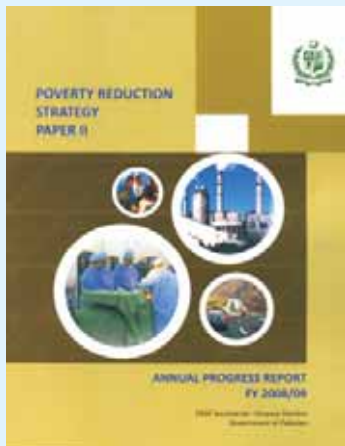


interns have so far completed internship. On completion of the said period, a presentation on learning experience was given by the interns. Currently, three interns are associated with the Project.



PUBLICATIONS

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper-II (PRSP-II) Annual Progress Report FY 2008-09:



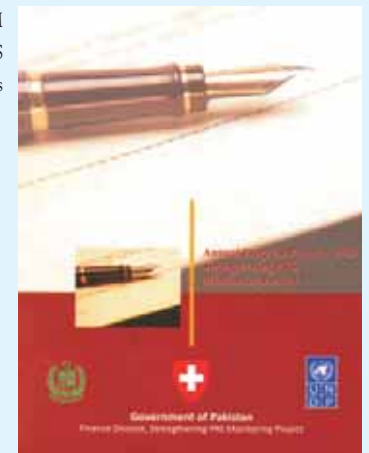
Since the establishment of the PRSP Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance in year 2000, the PRSP has been publishing many documents. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (PRSP-II) Annual Progress Report for 2008-09 is eighth in line. The PRSP Secretariat regularly reports budgeted and non-budgeted expenditures in selected pro-poor sectors followed by monitoring of the key output and outcome indicators. The purpose of the PRSP quarterly and Annual Progress reports is to keep track of the progress in all efforts directed towards poverty reduction in the country. This Annual Report FY 2008 is the first report since the PRSP-II was finalized in FY 2008/09.

The PRSP-II covers three year period from FY 2008/09 to FY

2010/11. PRSP Annual progress Report for FY 2008/09 begins with an introduction followed by an overview of the Pakistan's economy along with a brief on key macroeconomic indicators; the report gives a detailed analysis of budgetary expenditures in 17 pro-poor sectors; it highlights both Budgetary and Non-Budgetary modes to provide social protection to the poor; explains in detail the PRSP key output (intermediate) indicators revised in the PRSP-II Monitoring Matrix; gives an analysis of tracking performance of social sectors goals (outcomes) particularly about : Education, Health and Water Supply & Sanitation. This year's PRSP Annual Progress Report also provides a brief on Environment Management; on Performance of Microfinance Sector in Pakistan and a brief on Pakistan Labor Force Survey FY 2008/09.

Annual Progress Report -2009 Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project

In order to document the activities carried out by the SPRSM Project. Annual Progress Report -2009 Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project gives a broad view of the multifarious activities and achievements of the project made during the year 2009.



For further details:

A consolidated project website (<http://www.prsm.gov.pk>) has been developed, which is regularly updated at frequent intervals. Latest documents, events and pictures are uploaded to provide an updated resource base and comprehensive information about the Project and related activities.