
Chapter 16

Social Protection

16.1 Introduction

Pakistan is one of the few developing nations that clearly outlines social security as a fundamental right of every citizen in its constitution. According to Article 38 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the state must ensure social security, housing, clothing, food, healthcare, and education for all citizens without discrimination based on caste, race, creed, or gender.

Social protection is crucial in building a more robust, fairer, and prosperous society. It acts as a safety net against poverty, unemployment, illness, and other vulnerabilities. Promoting inclusivity and sustainable development enhances social cohesion, reduces inequality, and empowers individuals to break the cycle of poverty. It also stabilizes economies, fosters resilience, and ensures equity for all. Social protection is essential for paving the way toward a brighter future by promoting poverty reduction, equity, and societal inclusivity.

Pakistan faces several economic and human development challenges, such as inflation, rising electricity and gas prices, severe climate disruptions, and inadequate public funds to address development and climate adaptation needs. These problems hinder economic growth, innovation, and investment opportunities. Children from low-income families often have to choose between education and employment, leading to illiteracy and limited prospects. Furthermore, the repeated IMF programs' structural adjustment measures aimed at stabilizing the economy, including significant reductions in fiscal and current account deficits, have resulted in increased taxes, particularly on

consumption, reduced public spending, especially on social services and development projects, and the gradual elimination of subsidies. These measures limit economic opportunities, increase the cost of living, and further lower the living standards of the impoverished population.

The UNDP's World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024 report states that despite policy uncertainties and monetary tightening, the global economy showed unexpected resilience in 2023, thanks to strong labor markets and easing inflation. However, conflicts and climate-related shocks persist, hindering sustainable development progress. The report also highlights some challenges that affect the debt-laden global economy, such as elevated borrowing costs and tightened credit conditions, which necessitate increased investment and comprehensive social protection measures to mitigate the impacts on vulnerable populations.

16.2 UNDP's Human Development Report

According to the Human Development Report (HDR) 2023/2024 titled "**Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World,**" Pakistan falls under the 'low' human development category. In 2022, Pakistan's Human Development Index (HDI) value was 0.54, ranking 161 out of 192 countries worldwide. By 2023, Pakistan has dropped three places to 164 due to persistent social, economic, and political pressures, including macroeconomic challenges and the effects of the 2022 floods. The report highlights a widening human development gap, reversing the two-decade trend of diminishing inequalities between wealthy and poorer nations. This

gridlock hinders human development, amplifies polarization, and reduces trust in people and institutions worldwide, particularly regarding collective action on climate change, digitalization, poverty, and inequality.

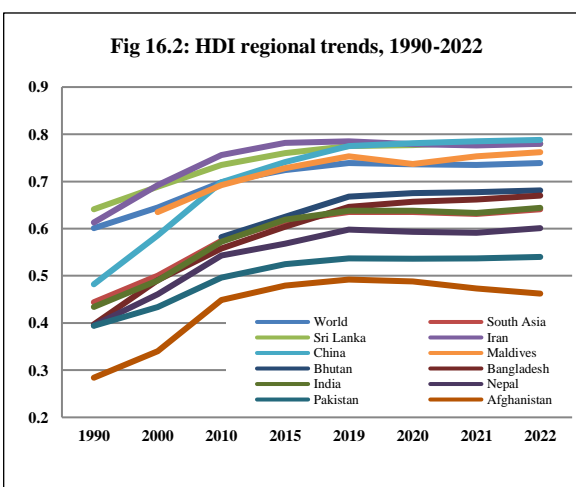
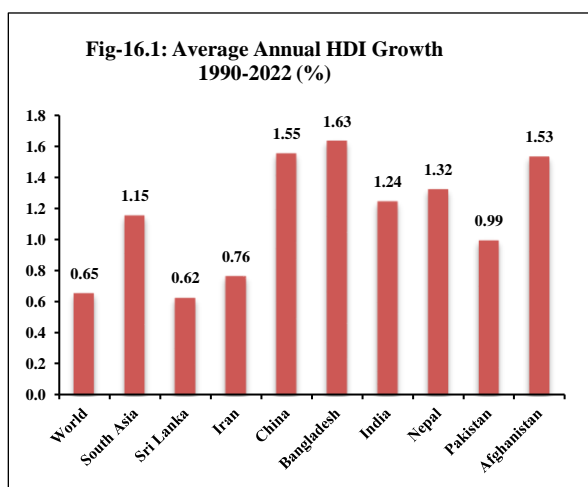
The report highlights that Switzerland is ranked first in human development, with Norway and Iceland following closely in second and third place. However, within the South Asian region, Pakistan's HDI ranking is lower than that of India (134th), Sri Lanka (78th), Bangladesh

(129th), Maldives (87th), Nepal (146th), and Bhutan (125th). Afghanistan trails behind at 182nd place. The report also provides the annual average HDI growth and trend between 1990-2022, which can be seen in Fig-16.1 and Fig-16.2, respectively. Looking at specific indicators, Pakistan has a life expectancy at birth of 66.4 years, with expected years of schooling at 7.9 and a gross per capita national income (2017 PPP) of \$5,374. These statistics are detailed in Table 16.1 below.

Table-16.1: Human Development Index and its Components

| Country/ Region | HDI Rank | Human Development Index (HDI) Value (2022) | Average Annual HDI Growth (%) [1990-2022] | Life Expectancy at Birth (years) | Expected Years of Schooling (years) | Mean Years of Schooling (years) | Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (2017 PPP \$) | Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (2010-2022) |
|--------------------|------------|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | SDG-3 | SDG-4.3 | SDG-4.4 | SDG-8.5 | Gini-coefficient |
| World | - | 0.739 | 0.65 | 72.0 | 13.0 | 8.7 | 17,254 | - |
| South Asia | - | 0.641 | 1.15 | 68.4 | 11.9 | 6.6 | 6,972 | - |
| Sri Lanka | 78 | 0.780 | 0.62 | 76.6 | 13.6 | 11.2 | 11,899 | 37.7 |
| Iran | 78 | 0.780 | 0.76 | 74.6 | 14.1 | 10.7 | 14,770 | 40.9 |
| China | 75 | 0.788 | 1.55 | 78.6 | 15.2 | 8.1 | 18,025 | 37.1 |
| Maldives | 87 | 0.762 | - | 80.8 | 12.2 | 7.8 | 18,847 | 29.3 |
| Bhutan | 125 | 0.681 | - | 72.2 | 13.1 | 5.8 | 10,625 | 28.5 |
| Bangladesh | 129 | 0.670 | 1.63 | 73.7 | 11.9 | 7.4 | 6,511 | 31.8 |
| India | 134 | 0.644 | 1.24 | 67.7 | 12.6 | 6.6 | 6,951 | 34.2 |
| Nepal | 146 | 0.601 | 1.32 | 70.5 | 12.6 | 4.5 | 4,026 | 32.8 |
| Pakistan | 164 | 0.540 | 0.99 | 66.4 | 7.9 | 4.4 | 5,374 | 29.6 |
| Afghanistan | 182 | 0.462 | 1.53 | 62.9 | 10.7 | 2.5 | 1,335 | - |

Source: UNDP Human Development Report-2023/2024



Box-1: 2024 UNDP’s Regional Human Development Report

The 2024 UNDP Regional Human Development Report for Asia-Pacific provides an in-depth assessment of human development in the region, recognizing substantial economic growth and poverty reduction. However, it emphasizes the unequal distribution of benefits, persistent income and wealth gaps, gender biases, and extensive informal economies. The report also underscores environmental challenges, including significant carbon emissions and biodiversity loss.

Millions of people in Asia and the Pacific live under precarious conditions, facing multiple threats to their security—social, political, or environmental. South and Southeast Asian countries grapple with political

unrest, conflicts, and significant economic hurdles. The high levels of human insecurity and unmet aspirations can potentially lead to a volatile and combustible situation, making it even harder to achieve cohesive human development.

Despite significant progress in reducing monetary poverty, around 185 million people remain extremely poor in absolute terms, earning less than \$2.15 per day. Even more are living in relative poverty, with around 1.0 billion classified as 'societally poor,' living on less than half the median income. Another essential measure is the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which considers deprivations of education, health, and living standards. Asia and the Pacific region have around 500 million people who are multi-dimensionally deprived, which is half the world's total. Out of these, 400 million people are in South Asia.

Pakistan has been praised for its innovative approaches to development challenges. This was demonstrated through its effective handling of last year's floods, credited mainly to utilizing UNDP-supported flood mitigation infrastructure. Additionally, Pakistan's integration of fintech and agri-tech in agriculture has been recognized for its potential to enhance production, uplift the livelihoods of small-scale farmers, and drive economic growth. Pakistan has also taken legislative measures to protect migrant domestic workers, underscoring its commitment to equitable labor conditions. The report also examines the possibility of export-led growth to tackle economic crises and manage significant debt burdens. Moreover, adopting action plans for human rights and business underscores a deliberate effort to align business practices with international human rights standards. While taking lessons learned into account, Pakistan is encouraged to anticipate the multifaceted impacts of the climate crisis on health and social cohesion.

The UNDP report recognizes the progress made in the long term but also highlights persistent disparities and widespread disruption. It urges new directions to enhance human development as millions across Asia and the Pacific face precarious lives due to economic, environmental, social, and political threats. UNDP's index of perceived human insecurity reveals high levels in several South and Southeast Asian countries, especially those contending with conflict, unrest, or economic challenges.

According to the report, some countries in the Asia-Pacific region experienced increased insecurity in the second half of the 2010s. These countries, such as Malaysia, Pakistan, and the Philippines, already have high levels of insecurity. Meanwhile, countries like Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand, which had lower levels of insecurity, saw a decrease in insecurity. This resulted in a significant divergence in the region.

| Country | 2010-2016 | 2017-2020 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Australia | 0.22 | 0.28 |
| Japan | 0.46 | 0.43 |
| Malaysia | 0.60 | 0.66 |
| New Zealand | 0.22 | 0.19 |
| Pakistan | 0.63 | 0.66 |
| Philippines | 0.66 | 0.67 |
| Singapore | 0.30 | 0.31 |
| Korea (Republic of) | 0.33 | 0.26 |
| Thailand | 0.47 | 0.51 |

Source: 2024 UNDP's Regional Human Development Report

16.3 Tracking the Pro-Poor Expenditures

The expenditures within the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) have continued to rise across 14 sectors, indicating a strong commitment to prioritizing public spending aimed at helping the underprivileged. As per the data in Fig-16.3, the expenditures stood at 7.1%

of GDP in 2018-19, 7.9% in 2019-20, 7.6% in 2020-21, and 8.4% in 2021-22. In 2022-23, the total expenditures in these sectors reached Rs 6,199.7 billion, which was 7.4% of GDP. These figures demonstrate the government's unwavering dedication to implementing a sustainable plan to alleviate poverty, as shown in Table 16.2 below:

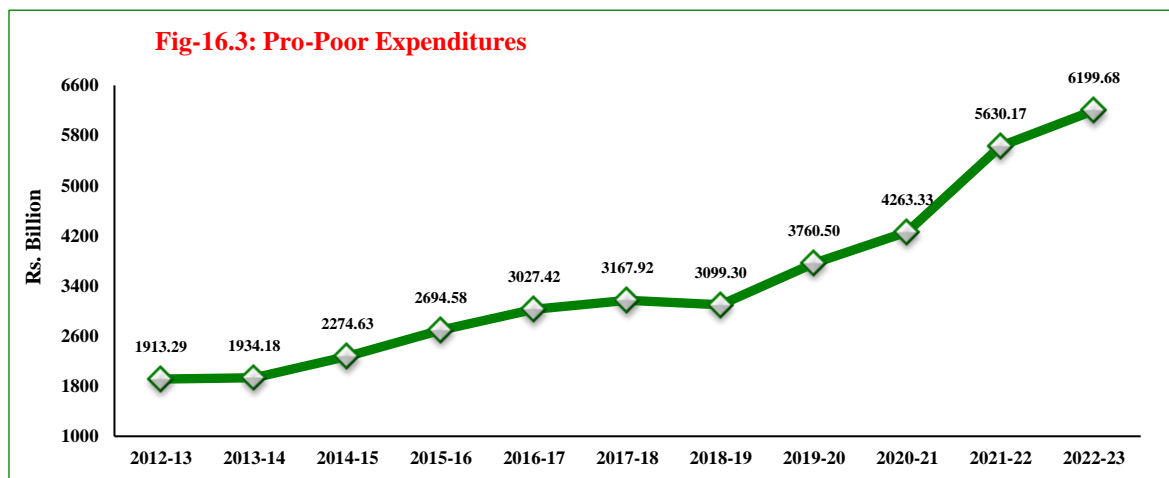
| Sectors | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Rs million 2022-23* |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------------------|
| Roads, Highways & Bridges | 400,623 | 342,689 | 327,971 | 518,928 | 569,304 |
| Environment / Water Supply and Sanitation | 45,186 | 70,337 | 64,783 | 119,017 | 124,381 |
| Education | 868,022 | 901,013 | 802,226 | 1,101,654 | 1,251,055 |
| Health | 421,778 | 505,411 | 586,270 | 919,418 | 843,179 |

| Sectors | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23* |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Population Planning | 14,328 | 11,381 | 11,257 | 17,968 | 16,925 |
| Social Security & Welfare** | 173,443 | 280,258 | 225,278 | 418,591 | 610,036 |
| Natural Calamities & Other Disasters | 20,933 | 72,353 | 89,138 | 130,043 | 393,940 |
| Agriculture | 256,697 | 377,093 | 327,286 | 388,678 | 496,613 |
| Land Reclamation | 2,538 | 2,418 | 3,054 | 4,666 | 6,690 |
| Rural Development | 11,958 | 29,738 | 49,703 | 68,110 | 65,971 |
| Subsidies | 387,092 | 635,816 | 1,184,070 | 1,252,935 | 1,110,765 |
| Low Cost Housing | 704 | 1,766 | 2,242 | 1,780 | 2,008 |
| Justice Administration | 65,937 | 72,737 | 79,866 | 95,207 | 110,435 |
| Law and Order | 430,063 | 457,487 | 480,187 | 593,176 | 598,375 |
| Total | 3,099,302 | 3,760,497 | 4,263,331 | 5,630,171 | 6,199,677 |
| Total as % age of GDP (2015-2016 base) | 7.1 | 7.9 | 7.6 | 8.4 | 7.4 |

*: Provisional

** : Social Security & Welfare includes the expenditure of BISP, SDGs, and PBM.

Source: External Finance Wing, Ministry of Finance



16.4 Social Safety Programmes

Social safety net programs are essential for reducing poverty among the impoverished and vulnerable. Our poverty alleviation strategy includes several vital initiatives, such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), along with non-budgetary measures like Zakat, the Employees Old-Age Benefit Institution (EOBI), the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF), and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). Additionally, specialized financial institutions offer microfinance services to those facing economic disadvantages.

I. Benazir Income Support Programme: BISP is an unconditional cash transfer program with a targeted approach focusing on impoverished women. The program aims to achieve long-term

goals aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including eradicating extreme and chronic poverty and empowering women.

BISP has a nationwide presence, with its headquarters in Islamabad and 16 zonal offices in all regions and provinces. Additionally, 154 district offices and 257 sub-divisional/Tehsil offices are spread nationwide.

BISP is implementing the following major programs;

a. National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER): In February 2023, the NSER underwent a significant transformation. Thanks to the implementation of the Multiple-Entry-Localized Access (MELA) approach, it evolved from a static registry into a dynamic one. This change has elevated the registry's status to that of a national asset. The data hosted by NSER carries

profound implications for Pakistan's social protection interventions.

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has established 647 Dynamic Registration Centers (DRCs) throughout the country to allow citizens to register themselves in their respective tehsils, making the registration process more accessible and efficient. These centers also address citizens' complaints, including those of households that were missed during the door-to-door coverage or those needing additional information or updating existing data due to identified discrepancies.

b. Un-Conditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Programme: BISP's primary initiative, Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT), also known as "Kafaalat," was launched in 2008. The program identifies beneficiaries through the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) survey. The Proxy Means Test (PMT) assesses household welfare status on a scale of 0-100. Families with a PMT score of 32 or below are eligible for assistance. However, households with disabled members have a relaxed threshold of 37, as decided by the BISP Board based on fiscal constraints.

The government has gradually increased the cash grant size under Kafaalat from Rs 3,000/- per quarter to Rs 10,500/- per quarter per beneficiary. Currently, there are approximately 9.4 million beneficiaries enrolled in the program. From July to March FY2024, Rs 256.3 billion has been disbursed to 9.4 million regular Kafaalat beneficiaries. Besides BISP Kafaalat, other initiatives and Emergency cash Transfers under UCT are also available, given in the following:

- **Provision of Financial Assistance to Daily Wage workers in Chaman District:** As per the directives of the Federal Government, the BISP is providing cash assistance to daily wage workers at the Chaman Border whose livelihoods have been affected by the border closure and implementation of the One Document Regime. The Government of Balochistan has identified 8,000 daily wage workers with cash assistance of Rs. 20,000 monthly for six months. From July to March FY2024, Rs. 29 million was disbursed to

around 1,700 beneficiaries.

- **PM Ramzan Package 2024:** The Prime Minister of Pakistan has announced the Ramzan Package 2024 to protect the poor and vulnerable population from the effects of inflation and rising prices of commodities. The approved budget for the PM Ramzan package is Rs. 2.87 billion, which will be disbursed to 1.435 million beneficiaries at Rs. 2,000/- per beneficiary through BISP's partner banks, including Habib Bank Ltd. and Bank-Alfalah. As of the reporting period (Jan-Mar 2024), Rs 1.827 billion has been disbursed to 0.913 million beneficiaries through BISP's partner banks in Balochistan, AJ&K, GB, and Islamabad.
- **Transgender Policy:** The BISP's UCT Programme was previously limited to providing cash assistance to ever-married women. However, the program has now been expanded to include transgender individuals. To qualify for this assistance, transgender individuals must get CNICs from NADRA that indicate their gender as 'transgender' and undergo surveys at designated Benazir Registration Centers. PMT cut-off restrictions are relaxed for transgender applicants who complete the survey. Once NADRA verifies the data, transgender individuals are declared beneficiaries and receive cash assistance through BISP's partner banks. Currently, 221 transgender individuals receive cash assistance under Kafaalat.
- **Payments Related Grievance Redressal System:** BISP (Benazir Income Support Programme) has recently launched an automated Payment Complaint Management System (PCMS) in all of its Tehsil, District and Zonal Offices. This system is designed to efficiently address payment-related grievances of the beneficiaries, allowing them to register and resolve their complaints easily. PCMS is also integrated with the Complaint Resolution Mechanisms (CRMs) of BISP's partner banks, further enhancing the overall efficiency of resolving the issues.

- **Financial Inclusion and Digital & Financial Literacy Programme (D&FLT):** BISP has launched a pilot project, Digital and Financial Literacy Training (D&FLT) for Kafaalat beneficiaries, as part of its Financial Inclusion Strategy. The curriculum and trainer and trainee manuals/methodology have been developed with the support of M/S Karandaz Pakistan. During the operational phase, UNICEF and the German Government, through GIZ, provided training to 7,250 beneficiaries by March 31, 2024. The future rollout of the program will be determined based on the evaluation of the pilot phase. BISP is also creating video tutorials with the assistance of the German Development Cooperation.
- **Hybrid Social Protection Scheme:** BISP is working on a Hybrid Social Protection Scheme (HSPS) that combines social assistance with risk mitigation for informal sector workers. The scheme's objective is to encourage savings for emergencies and help the government provide additional support during times of crisis. HSPS will offer contributory savings with matching incentives based on successful models worldwide. The pilot phase is currently being implemented in 13 districts across Pakistan, including AJ&K and GB.
- **Indexation of Cash Transfer:** The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), in collaboration with the Finance Division and the World Bank, has established a mechanism to update cash transfers regularly. The Indexation Committee meets annually to determine adjustments to the stipend amount under the Kafaalat Programme based on factors such as inflation. The latest meeting, held on January 11, 2024, resulted in a decision to increase the stipend by Rs. 1,750 per quarter per beneficiary.
- **Designing of Beneficiary Centric Payment Mechanism:** Initially, the BISP used Pakistan Post to transfer cash to beneficiaries every quarter. However, they later decided to shift to technology-based

payment methods such as the Benazir Smart Card, Mobile Phone Banking, and Biometric Verification System (BVS) to increase efficiency and transparency. Currently, all beneficiaries are paid through the BVS system. BISP collaborated with Karandaz Pakistan to conduct a Beneficiary Needs Assessment (BNA) Survey, which enhanced the BVS system. The procurement process for hiring financial institutions to facilitate the transition was completed in February 2024, and the transition is expected to begin in the first quarter of the next financial year.

- **Social Protection Accounts (SPAs):** BISP launched the pilot phase of Social Protection Accounts (SPAs) on July 7, 2023, collaborating with four participating banks: NBP, UBL, JS, and BAFL. The pilot phase covered seven districts: Sukkur, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Sanghar, Dera Ismail Khan, and North Waziristan.

SPAs offer beneficiaries Full Mandate Accounts, allowing for easy processing of bulk payments through the RAAST payment gateway and API integrations with participating financial institutions. In the pilot phase, at least 500 beneficiary accounts were opened in each participating bank per district, and two payment tranches were deposited into these accounts to test the operational model of SPAs. From July to March FY2024, 9,072 SPAs were opened for BISP beneficiaries across the four participating banks.

- **Improved Service Delivery:** BISP has a nationwide presence at the tehsil level to assist beneficiaries with its initiatives. It has set up a dedicated Call Center in collaboration with NTC at NTC Regional HQ in Islamabad. This center serves as the primary point of contact for beneficiaries and the public to inquire about BISP's schemes and lodge complaints via the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. The Toll-free number (0800-26477) operates from 08:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is staffed with 35 call agents to address queries.

c. Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programme:

- i. **Benazir Taleemi Wazaif (Education Programme):** The Government of Pakistan is dedicated to achieving universal primary education that aligns with the SDGs. To address the issue of children from BISP beneficiary households not attending school, the government introduced a Co-Responsibility Cash Transfer in October 2012, providing additional cash per quarter for primary education. Since July 1, 2021, the program has been expanded to include secondary and higher secondary education, gradually rolling out nationwide. The stipend rate of students is raised during FY2024 and is given as below:

| Level | Per Boy / quarter (Rs) | Per Girl / quarter (Rs) |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Primary Level | 2,000 | 2,500 |
| Secondary Level | 3,000 | 3,500 |
| Higher Secondary Level | 4,000 | 4,500 |
| Bonus on Primary Graduation to Girls | A one-time bonus of Rs 3,000 will be given to girls upon graduation from primary education. | |

- 4-12 years of Primary Education
- 8-18 years of Secondary Education
- 13-22 years for Higher Secondary Education

Achievements of Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme:

Enrolment: So far, 14.8 million children have been enrolled and paid through the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Programme, and 2.2 million children were enrolled from July to March FY2024.

Disbursement: Since the programme's inception, Rs117 billion have been disbursed, of which Rs 36.9 billion were disbursed during July-March FY2024.

- ii. **Benazir Nashonuma (Health & Nutrition Programme):** Pakistan's high rates of malnutrition (40.2% stunting, 28.9% underweight, and 17.7% wasting) are indicative of an ongoing child nutrition crisis. Such levels of malnutrition rank Pakistan as the second-highest-burdened country in the region. The programme

focuses upon a 1000-day window of opportunity to prevent malnutrition in Pregnant & Lactating Women (PLW) and Children under two years of age within the BISP Kafaalat Program households. The comprehensive package of interventions is being implemented through "Facilitation centres" established on the premises of Tehsil/Taluka/District level government health facilities.

The Programme aims to address stunting among PLW and their children of less than two years of age through the provision of additional cash of Rs 2,000/- per quarter per PLW / boy child and Rs 2,500/- per quarter per girl child of BISP beneficiary families. In return, mothers must commit to attending regular antenatal health checks and awareness sessions during pregnancy, consuming Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF), and taking their children for immunization and regular health checks.

The primary objectives of the intervention include:

- To prevent stunting in children under two years of age
- Improved weight gain of pregnant women during pregnancy
- Reduce anemia and micronutrient deficiencies
- Improved awareness of maternal and early child health/nutrition
- Reduced disease burden through improved uptake of available health/nutrition services
- Prevent low birth weight

The Nashonuma Programme is operationalized in 158 districts through 545 Facilitation Centers, including 35 mobile sites in Sindh, 2 in Punjab, and 27 in KPK. Till March FY2024, Rs10.83 billion has been paid to 1,873,557 beneficiaries as Conditional Cash Transfers under the Programme.

- iii. **Benazir Undergraduate Scholarship Project:** The project envisages providing merit—and need-based scholarships over 4-5 years of undergraduate education, including tuition fees and a stipend to cover living expenses, to qualified undergraduate students from low-income families to study

in HEC-recognized 135 public sector Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in all regions of Pakistan, including Azad Jammu &

Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. HEC is the project's executing agency.

| Brief Details of the project | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Duration: | FY 2019-2020 to 2025-2026 |
| Total Budget: | Rs. 38.015 billion |
| Total Scholarships: | 102,000 |
| Date of Launch: | September 20, 2019 |
| Eligibility Criteria: | Family income of Rs. 45,000 per month or less |
| Special Considerations: | 50% of scholarships are reserved for females, whereas 2% are reserved for students with different abilities. |
| Disciplines Covered: | All academic fields are eligible, except vocational training programs offered by TEVTAs. |
| Approved Degree Programs: | Any regular 4-5 years undergraduate degree program (except distance learning programs). |
| No. Of Participating Universities: | The initiative encompasses 135 public sector universities/HEIs, excluding private and distant learning intuitions. |
| Scholarship Coverage: | Scholarships cover tuition fees and a living allowance/stipend of Rs. 40,000 per annum. |
| Allocation Methodology: | Scholarship slots for universities were allocated on a pro-rata basis by their enrollment in undergraduate programs. |
| Phased Allocation: | All the allocated scholarships have been granted in three batches. The selected students will continue to receive support until their graduation. |
| Updated Status | Rs 29.1 billion was disbursed till June 30, 2023. After 2021-22, the Project is closed for new intakes, and only onboard scholarship awardees will receive funds until they complete their degree programs. |

BISP Financial Progress:

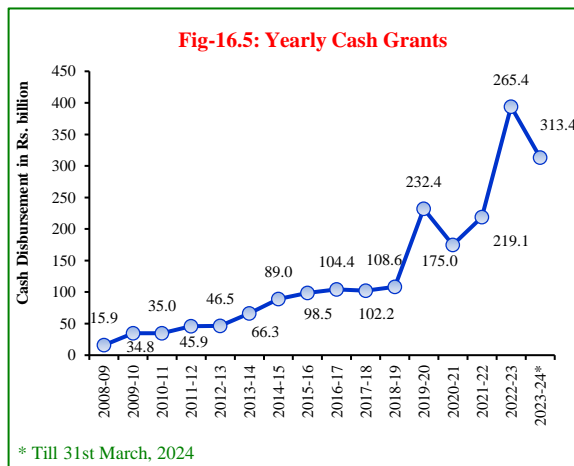
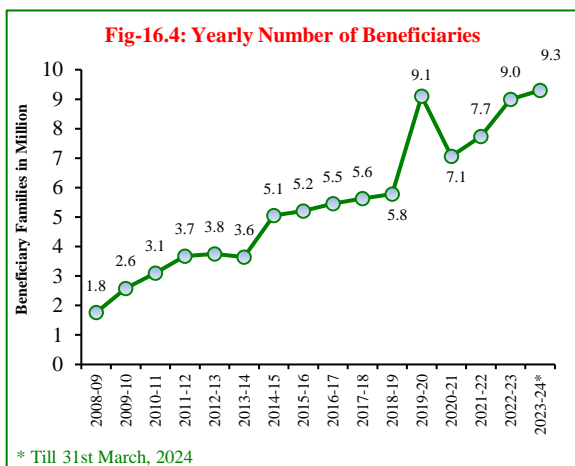
Since its inception, BISP has managed to disburse Rs 2081.06 billion to UCT and CCT

grants. Year wise released and disbursement on CCT and UCT grants are reflected in Table 16.3 and Fig-16.4 & Fig-16.5:

| Year | Released | Funds Transfer to Cash Grants | | | Number of Beneficiaries (million) |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) | Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) | Total (UCT+CCT) | |
| 2008-09 | 15.32 | 0.04 | 15.81 | 15.85 | 1.76 |
| 2009-10 | 39.94 | 2.89 | 31.94 | 34.83 | 2.58 |
| 2010-11 | 34.42 | 5.30 | 29.66 | 34.96 | 3.10 |
| 2011-12 | 49.53 | 4.28 | 41.60 | 45.88 | 3.68 |
| 2012-13 | 50.10 | 3.17 | 43.30 | 46.47 | 3.75 |
| 2013-14 | 69.62 | 1.20 | 65.11 | 66.31 | 3.64 |
| 2014-15 | 91.78 | 0.45 | 88.59 | 89.04 | 5.05 |
| 2015-16 | 102.00 | 1.88 | 96.65 | 98.53 | 5.21 |
| 2016-17 | 111.50 | 2.27 | 102.10 | 104.37 | 5.46 |
| 2017-18 | 107.00 | 3.20 | 99.00 | 102.20 | 5.63 |
| 2018-19 | 116.50 | 4.01 | 104.60 | 108.61 | 5.78 |
| 2019-20 | 243.71 | 3.70 | 228.67 | 232.37 | 9.10 |
| 2020-21 | 194.29 | 5.57 | 169.40 | 174.97 | 7.06 |
| 2021-22 | 235.63 | 25.35 | 193.74 | 219.09 | 7.76 |
| 2022-23 | 412.33 | 61.24 | 332.91 | 394.15 | 9.00 |
| 2023-24* | 328.96 | 55.97 | 257.47 | 313.44 | 9.30 |
| Total | 2,202.60 | 180.51 | 1,900.55 | 2,081.06 | - |

*Till 31st March, 2024

Source: Benazir Income Support Programme, Islamabad



II. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF): PPAF is continuing to support communities by providing interest-free loans and enhanced access to improved infrastructure, energy, health, education, livelihoods, and resilience to disasters. It has outreach in 149 districts across all four provinces and regions of the country.

PPAF focuses on innovation, evidence generation, and scaling up effective models to align with Pakistan's national development agenda. The organization directs its efforts and resources toward achieving specific strategic goals:

- Foster institutions of and for low-income people to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive governance and development.
- Enhance sustainable and resilient livelihood opportunities to support households graduating from poverty.
- Address systemic deprivations that exacerbate poverty through local infrastructure development and community well-being initiatives.
- Strengthen organizational effectiveness by aligning resource mobilization, people capabilities, and partnerships to transform into a more agile, responsive, and effective institution.

Since its inception in April 2000 till March 2024, PPAF has disbursed approximately Rs241.57 billion to its Partner Organizations (POs) in 149 districts nation wide to implement multi-sectoral socio-economic development interventions. A total of 8.4 million microcredit loans have been

disbursed, with 60 percent loans to women and 80 percent financing extended to rural areas. The following are the key achievements under the PPAF:

- 39,600 health, education, water, and infrastructure projects completed benefitted 18 million persons;
- More than 440,000 credit groups and 150,800 community organizations formed;
- 1,161,000 individuals (48% women) received managerial and livelihood training;
- 200,300 productive assets transferred (63% assets to women) to ultra and vulnerable poor households;
- 3,215,000 interest-free loans (55% women) disbursed through Interest-Free Loan (IFL) Programme;
- 26,000 individuals, including women and youth trained in enterprise development under Waseela-e-Haq National & Waseela-e-Haq Sindh programmes of the BISP, facilitated in establishing their successful ventures; and
- 39,000 persons with disabilities rehabilitated.
- Approximately 1.5 million households, encompassing 11.3 million individuals, have benefited from PPAF's disaster response efforts.

Interest-Free Loan (IFL) Programme under PPAF: Under this programme, from July 2023 to March 2024, 274,730 interest-free loans (65% loans to women) amounting to Rs 12.20 billion (including reflows) were disbursed to borrowers.

From July 2019 to March 2024, 2,677,227 loans (53% loans to women) with a value of Rs 101.71 billion (including reflows) have been disbursed. The programme is being executed nationwide by

26 partner organizations (POs) through 736 Loan Centers/Branches in around 81 districts, as shown in Table 16.4 below.

Table 16.4: Interest-Free Loan (IFL) Progress

| Sr. # | Particulars | Progress during July–March FY 2024 | | | Cumulative Progress (July 2019 to March 2024) | | |
|-------|--|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---|-----------|-----------|
| | | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total |
| 1 | Number of loans disbursed to borrowers | 95,938 | 178,792 | 274,730 | 1,244,931 | 1,432,296 | 2,677,227 |
| 2 | Amount disbursed to borrowers (Rs billion) | 4.41 | 7.79 | 12.20 | 49.23 | 52.48 | 101.71 |
| 3 | Number of Loan Centers | 736 | | | | | |

Source: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Islamabad

Moreover, the provincial breakdown of loans and amount disbursed during the reporting

period, July-March FY2024, is also shown in Table 16.5 below:

Table 16.5: Province/Region-wise Interest-Free Loan (IFL) Progress (July- March FY 2024)

| Province / Region Name | No. of Loans | | | Amount Disbursed (Rs million) | | |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| AJK | 249 | 890 | 1,139 | 14.97 | 58.75 | 73.72 |
| Balochistan | 3,074 | 615 | 3,689 | 208.33 | 33.18 | 241.51 |
| Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) | 217 | 778 | 995 | 14.51 | 43.06 | 57.57 |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 8,302 | 7,590 | 15,892 | 457.09 | 333.14 | 790.23 |
| Punjab | 77,342 | 154,728 | 232,070 | 3,338.97 | 6,719.38 | 10,058.35 |
| Sindh | 6,754 | 14,191 | 20,945 | 377.95 | 599.53 | 977.47 |
| Total | 95,938 | 178,792 | 274,730 | 4,411.81 | 7,787.04 | 12,198.84 |

Source: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Islamabad

Poverty Graduation Initiatives under PPAF:

PPAF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are jointly taking forward the Poverty Graduation Approach to help low-income households climb out of poverty by providing them with livelihood opportunities leading to sustainable income generation. The following initiatives are being taken under this programme:

a) Provision of Productive Assets and Vocational Skills Training:

PPAF is committed to enhancing low-income households' sustainable and resilient livelihoods to help them escape poverty. By utilizing a comprehensive "Graduation" strategy, PPAF offers a structured package that includes income-generating productive assets, technical and vocational training, and financial access. It also

facilitates value chain connections to spur enterprise growth.

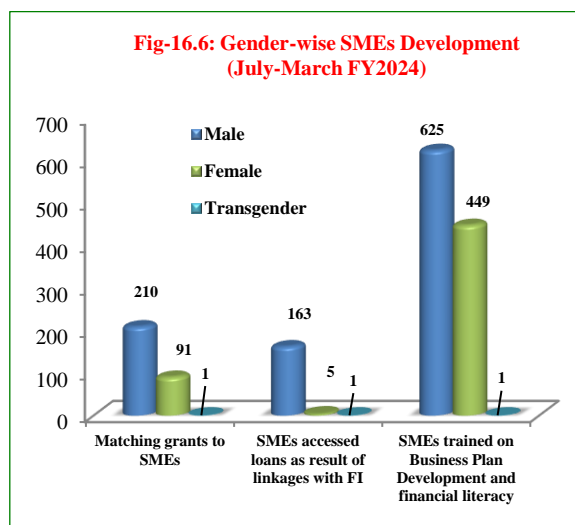
Asset creation uplifts the economic and social well-being of ultra and vulnerable poor households by providing income opportunities. Skill expansion enhances their employability and entrepreneurial capacity. The organization has developed key value chains like Embroidery/Stitching, Onion, Dates, Olives, Grapes, Livestock, Tomatoes, Mangoes, and Bananas.

During July- March FY2024, PPAF transferred 3,000 productive assets to ultra-poor and vulnerable households meeting pre-defined criteria, with over 41% allocated to women. During this period, PPAF also trained 3,057 individuals to enhance income and productivity, with 41% of trainees being women.

b) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development:

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan are pivotal for economic growth, driving technological innovation, supporting larger industries and cottage industries, and fostering economic revitalization and social progress. They are vital contributors to poverty reduction and national economic expansion and are fundamental to employment generation and social advancement.

Since 2021, PPAF has been enhancing SMEs in rural areas of Sindh and Balochistan provinces, focusing on primary production, services, and value addition. From July - March FY2024, 302 matching grants were given to targeted SMEs, with 30% allocated to women and 01 to a transgender individual. Additionally, 169 SMEs (3% women) were connected with financial institutions, resulting in 106 SMEs (31% women) obtaining loans. Moreover, 1,075 SMEs (625 men, 449 women, and 01 transgender individuals) received business planning and financial literacy training.



Financial Progress of the PPAF

During July-March FY2024, PPAF disbursed an amount of PKR 1.99 billion to its POs for various programmes funded by donors and its own resources. The component-wise financial progress is given in Table-16.6 below:

| | | Rs million |
|-------|---|------------------|
| Sr # | Programme Components | Amount Disbursed |
| 1 | Institutional Development/Social Mobilization (ID/SM)/Capacity Building | 500.46 |
| 2 | Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) | 735.85 |
| 3 | Water and Infrastructure (W&I) | 98.19 |
| 4 | Education, Health and Nutrition (EHN) | 176.30 |
| 5 | Interest-Free Loans (IFL) | 296.39 |
| 6 | Climate Change: Flood Emergency Response | 187.92 |
| Total | | 1,995.10 |

Source: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Islamabad.

During the reporting period, 438 community institutions were formed, and 1,462 community members (43% women) were trained under the Institutional Development and Social Mobilization component. Similarly, under the Livelihood Enhancement and Protection component, 3,057 individuals (41% of whom were women) received skills and entrepreneurial training, and 3,000 productive assets (41% assets to women) were transferred to ultra and

vulnerable poor households. A total of 24 physical infrastructure sub-projects were completed, benefitting 6,227 persons (including 43% women). Under the education component, 80 educational facilities were supported, and 11,503¹ students (42% of whom were girls) were enrolled in these facilities. A total of 274,730 (65% loans to women) loans were disbursed through the IFL Programme. The highlights of physical progress are given in Table-16.7 below:

¹ Scholarship support for fee was provided to 1,838 students (31% girls) from 19 education facilities. Also Accelerated Learning Programme was provided to 1,168 students (23% girls) from 15 supported Madrassahs.

| Table-16.7: Physical Progress of PPAF (July-March FY2024) | | Numbers |
|--|--------------------------|---------|
| Programme Components | Physical Progress | |
| Institutional Development and Social Mobilization: | | |
| Community Institutions Formed | 438 | |
| Community members trainees (43% women) | 1,462 | |
| Livelihoods Enhancement and Protection | | |
| Individuals received skills/entrepreneurial training (41% women) | 3,057 | |
| Productive assets transferred to ultra and vulnerable poor (41% women) | 3,000 | |
| Water and Infrastructure Sub-projects: | | |
| Sub-projects completed | 24 | |
| Sub-project beneficiaries (43% women) | 6,227 | |
| Education: | | |
| Education facilities supported | 80 | |
| Students enrolled and scholarship provided (42% girls enrolled) | 11,503 | |
| Health: | | |
| Health facilities supported | 3 | |
| Interest-Free Loans (IFL) Programme: | | |
| Number of Interest-Free Loans (65% women) | 274,730 | |

Source: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Islamabad.

III. Microfinance Initiatives: The microfinance sector emerges as a critical player in the fight against poverty and social inequality. This sector serves over 9.0 million clients across Pakistan to help them out of poverty. This sector is globally acknowledged as an essential tool to reach the marginalized segments of society, allowing them to improve their livelihoods, improve the health and nutrition of their families, and achieve a better social standing where otherwise, social norms would not allow them such social advancement.

The microfinance industry in Pakistan has been experiencing steady growth, with an average increase of 1.0 to 1.5 million clients over the past couple of years as Microfinance Providers ventured into digital finance, housing, renewable energy, and enterprise loans. Digital solutions improve services and outreach while diversification meets community needs, fostering socioeconomic development. The

microfinance industry broadly provides services in three categories: micro-credit, micro-savings, and micro-insurance. As shown in Table 16.8, the sector continued an upward trend. The micro-credit outreach witnessed a growth of 3.4 percent in Micro-Credit, with Active Borrowers increasing to 9.4 million during FY2023 compared to 9.1 million over the corresponding period last year. At the same time, the Gross Loan Portfolio registered 11.2 percent growth, reaching Rs546.6 billion during the same year. Micro-savings, on the other hand, posted a growth of 15.7 percent under active savers increased to 108.7 million, and their savings reached Rs596.6 billion, an increase of 16.0percent over the corresponding year. Micro-insurance also remained positive, wherein the number of policyholders increased by 3.7 percent and reached 8.6 million. Moreover, the sum-insured grew 2.7 percent and increased from Rs317 billion in 2022 to Rs325.5 billion in 2023.

Table 16.8: Active Borrowers, Active Savers, and Active Policyholders

| Details | Micro-Credit | | Micro-Savings | | Micro-Insurance | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| | Active Borrowers | Value (Rs million) | Active Savers | Value (Rs million) | Policy Holders | Sum Insured (Rs million) |
| 2023* | 9,397,888 | 546,612.5 | 108,687,815 | 596,618.7 | 8,572,031 | 325,522.7 |
| 2022* | 9,092,247 | 491,262 | 93,957,497 | 514,289 | 8,264,513 | 316,948 |
| Increase/decrease (Net) | 305,641 | 55,350 | 14,730,318 | 82,330 | 307,518 | 8,575 |
| Increase/Decrease (%) | 3.4% | 11.2% | 15.7% | 16.0% | 3.7% | 2.7% |

*: Calendar Year

Source: Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN)

The microfinance sector in Pakistan is committed to enhancing economic opportunities and fostering growth among marginalized communities. Recognizing that access to financial services alone is insufficient, microfinance providers (MFPs) prioritize social and developmental initiatives. These include expanding access to financial services, supporting the establishment and growth of enterprises, alleviating poverty, generating

employment, and advancing gender equality. It is provided as a package through Microfinance Banks (MFBs), Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), Rural Support Programmes (RSPs), and Others, including Commercial Financial Institutions (CFIs) and NGOs. Table-16.9 presents the cumulative number of micro-credit beneficiaries with outstanding loan portfolios and disbursements by loan providers up to December 2023.

Table 16.9: Microcredit beneficiaries, outstanding loans portfolio, and loan disbursement up to Dec. 2023

| Organization | Active Borrowers | GLP (PKR) | No. of Loans disbursed | Disbursements (PKR) |
|---|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Total for Pakistan MFN Sector | 9,397,888 | 546,612,490,727 | 9,500,283 | 131,468,496,892 |
| Microfinance Banks | | | | |
| Advans Pakistan | 17,912 | 3,227,395,047 | 2,555 | 723,996,011 |
| Apna Microfinance Bank | 101,713 | 11,616,128,635 | 5,977 | 1,306,221,088 |
| ASA Microfinance Bank | 615,537 | 19,464,524,459 | 164,041 | 9,047,487,000 |
| FINCA Microfinance Bank | 97,561 | 18,759,941,626 | 24,927 | 5,970,670,211 |
| HBL Microfinance Bank Limited | 477,389 | 100,932,231,541 | 79,078 | 447,551,050 |
| Khushhali Bank | 525,430 | 73,168,651,240 | 68,850 | 12,427,102,815 |
| Mobilink Microfinance Bank | 2,340,788 | 66,765,937,445 | 6,061,641 | 13,925,782,932 |
| NRSP Bank | 189,671 | 33,480,145,455 | 50,553 | 9,010,608,333 |
| Pak Oman Microfinance Bank | 47,917 | 4,081,833,013 | 9,215 | 1,166,434,632 |
| Sindh Microfinance Bank | 74,177 | 1,899,048,104 | 22,413 | 868,715,292 |
| Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited | 1,392,076 | 18,577,758,481 | 2,201,339 | 14,433,204,349 |
| U Microfinance Bank | 394,219 | 75,184,085,040 | 58,890 | 16,057,860,741 |
| Total | 6,274,390 | 427,157,680,086 | 8,749,479 | 85,385,634,454 |
| Microfinance Institutions | | | | |
| Agaha Pakistan | 53,781 | 1,818,715,559 | 13,390 | 830,674,000 |
| Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance | 663,389 | 32,168,786,771 | 110,342 | 7,698,347,900 |
| CSC Empowerment & Inclusion Programme | 38,087 | 1,616,119,566 | 8,572 | 603,475,015 |
| Damen Support Programme | 103,594 | 4,448,660,325 | 27,896 | 2,185,915,000 |
| FFO Support Program | 29,205 | 981,512,313 | 5,595 | 377,433,000 |
| JWS Pakistan | 175,892 | 5,986,123,053 | 46,068 | 2,904,095,000 |
| Kashf Foundation | 753,951 | 26,429,594,353 | 221,949 | 12,070,704,851 |
| Mojaz Support Program | 28,609 | 1,005,675,947 | 1,879 | 191,410,000 |
| OPD Support Program | 5,144 | 103,395,780 | 954 | 43,810,000 |
| Organization for Poverty Reduction & Charitable Trust | 22,576 | 738,956,069 | 5,107 | 313,590,000 |
| Sayya Microfinance Company | 208,235 | 8,705,183,435 | 54,711 | 3,882,265,000 |
| Safco Support Foundation | 7,311 | 240,752,544 | 1,570 | 63,540,000 |
| Shah Sachal Sami Foundation | 121,952 | 3,765,090,954 | 13,368 | 934,410,820 |
| Taleem Finance Company Ltd | 739 | 430,741,360 | 1,234 | 762,680,752 |
| Thardeep Microfinance Foundation | 71,690 | 3,151,195,561 | 1,858 | 197,390,800 |
| Union Bank | 704,00 | 82,962,459 | 313 | 37,315,400 |
| Total | 2,284,859 | 91,673,466,049 | 514,806 | 33,097,057,538 |
| Rural Support Programmes | | | | |
| National Rural Support Programme | 694,103 | 23,060,345,604 | 198,794 | 11,130,491,700 |
| Punjab Rural Support Programme | 44,706 | 1,505,144,397 | 10,958 | 624,090,000 |
| Sindh Rural Support Organization | 89,214 | 2,587,071,207 | 23,867 | 1,111,170,200 |
| Sarhad Rural Support Programme | 7,742 | 226,210,800 | 2,255 | 111,575,000 |
| Total | 835,765 | 27,378,772,008 | 235,874 | 12,977,326,900 |
| Others | | | | |
| Villagers Development Organization | 1,748 | 32,572,584 | 124 | 8,478,000 |
| MCB Islamic Bank | 1,126 | 370,000,000 | - | - |
| Total | 2,874 | 402,572,584 | 124 | 8,478,000 |

Source: Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN)

IV. Zakat: The Zakat system ensures equitable wealth distribution and is a preventative measure against poverty, aiming to mitigate community inequality. Zakat funds are utilized to assist the needy, orphans, widows, disabled individuals, and others needing sustenance or rehabilitation. The federal government oversees the collection and distribution of Zakat, adhering to the approved Zakat distribution formula set by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) across provinces and federal territories. A total amount of Rs 7,393.44 million has been distributed during FY2024 as per details in Table 16.10:

Table 16.10: Disbursement of Zakat

| Federal Areas/ Provinces | Amount (Rs million) |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Punjab | 3,944.02 |
| Sindh | 1,630.27 |
| Khyber Pakhtunkhwa | 950.25 |
| Balochistan | 351.36 |
| Gilgit-Baltistan | 96.11 |
| ICT | 181.86 |
| FATA* | 239.57 |
| Total | 7,393.44 |

*: Share of FATA released to KPK Province as approved by CCI in its meeting held on 07-04-2021

Source: Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety

V. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM): Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal plays a crucial role in reducing poverty through targeted services for the most vulnerable. The organization extends support to needy individuals, widows, orphans, people with disabilities, and others in need, focusing on rehabilitation. This includes providing

educational assistance to needy orphans, offering stipends to outstanding students who cannot afford higher professional education, ensuring residential accommodation and essential facilities for deserving individuals, delivering free medical treatment to needy, sick individuals, establishing free hospitals and rehabilitation centers for the impoverished and offering financial aid to charitable institutions, including educational and vocational setups. During FY2024, Rs 7.67 billion has been allocated to PBM, out of which Rs 4.32 billion is utilized during July-March for its following core projects/schemes:

a) Individual Financial Assistance (IFA):

Through IFA, the poor, widows, needy, and orphans are supported for medical treatment of catastrophic diseases like cancer, surgical, heart, and kidney and installation of Cochlear implants for children up to age five years @ Rs 1.5 million each child. Education stipend to brilliant and poor students & general financial assistance of widow and other needy segment of the society. PBM has envisioned providing wheelchairs to every disabled person in the country and Sewing Machines among skilled workers to empower them to earn their livelihood. A family having two or more special (disabled) children has been declared a “special family” are being provided financial assistance. An amount of Rs1.75billion has been disbursed country-wide for the period July to March FY2024, the detail of which is given in Table 16.11 below:

Table 16.11: Details of Individual Financial Assistance

| S# | Head | Beneficiaries | Amount Disbursed (Rs million) |
|----|---|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Medical Financial Assistance | 6,655 | 1,317.3 |
| 2. | Cochlear Implant | 218 | 239.0 |
| 3. | General Financial Assistance | 2,635 | 62.2 |
| 4. | Financial Assistance - Disable Persons | 3,139 | 17.8 |
| 5. | Education Financial Assistance – Deserving Students | 3,412 | 112.9 |
| 6. | Nos. of wheelchairs distributed | 436 | - |
| 7. | Nos. of Sewing Machines distributed | 803 | - |
| | Total | 17,298 | 1,749.2 |

Source: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Islamabad

b). Schools for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (SRCLs): Since 1995, PBM has established National Centres for Rehabilitation of Child Labour countrywide for primary (non-

formal) education. Children (male and female) between the ages of 5 and 6 are weaned away from hazardous labor and enrolled in these centers, which provide free uniforms, books, and

stationery. During July- March FY2024, Rs 422.78 million was disbursed.

c). Women Empowerment Centres (WEC): Vocational Training Centres, now called WECs, have been established nationwide since 1995. WECs provide free training to widows, orphans, and poor girls in different skills (e.g., cutting, sewing, knitting, computers, embroidery, and other trades). The trainees are provided with free training material. An amount of Rs 272.0 million has been utilized for July to March FY2024.

d). Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSHs): PBM has established Sweet Homes (orphanages) for orphan children, where they are provided free food, nutrition, medical treatment, boarding and lodging, and free education through well-reputed education institutes. During July-March FY2024, Rs 645.89 million was spent.

e). PBM Old Homes (for Shelter Less Senior Citizens): Old homes are established for enrolled senior citizens (above 60 years of age), where they are provided free of cost boarding/lodging, meals, and medical care. Rs 8.04 million has been utilized for the period July to March FY2024.

f). PBM Shelter Homes: PBM, an executing agency of Shelter Homes, mainly focuses on quality service delivery to shelter-less persons by respectably taking care of multiple aspects, including health care, safe/secure living environment, hygienic food, etc. An amount of Rs 137.82 million was utilized during July to March FY2024.

g). PBM Roti Sab KeLeay: PBM, an executing agency of Roti Sab KeLeay, has procured food vehicles to deliver food to the poorest segment of society. During July-March, FY2024, Rs 28.06 million was utilized.

h). Orphans & Widows Support Program (OWSP): The OWSP in Pakistan is a transformative initiative targeting orphan girls and matriculated children from closed PBM Sweet Homes. Focusing on health, education,

and family-based support, the program aims to comprehensively nurture orphans and widows' physical and mental welfare, striving for a more inclusive society. Rs 11.34 million was disbursed during July-March FY2024.

i). Institutional Rehabilitation for NGOs: Pakistan Bait ul Mal provides grant-in-aid to registered NGOs with excellent track records aimed at institutional rehabilitation of the poor and deserving members of society. Rs 29.73 million was disbursed from July to March FY2024.

VI. Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI): EOBI plays a vital social security role by paying pensions and grants to retired workers and their families. By April 2024, EOBI had 299,790 active old-age pensioners, 223,755 active survivor pensioners, and 6,766 active invalidity pensioners, proliferating. On average, about 40,000 pensioners are added every year.

Main Features of the EOBI Schemes:

- **Old-age pension** on attaining the age of 60 years in the case of male workers and 55 years in the case of female and mine workers.
- **Invalidity pension** sustaining invalidity affecting insured person's earning more than one-third of normal.
- **Survivors' pension** to the following in case of death of insured person/pensioner:
 - Surviving spouse 100% pension till life, or
 - Surviving male children till 18 years of age, or
 - Surviving female children till 18 years of age or their marriage, whichever is earlier, or
 - Surviving parents for five years if spouse or children do not survive any insured person/pensioner.
- **Old-Age Grant:** not meeting the benchmark for old-age pension.

The details of disbursed benefits during July-March FY2024 are shown in Table 16.12.

| Benefits | Pension Disbursement Type-Wise | | | | | | | | | Total Disbursement |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | |
| Old-age Pension | 2316.14 | 2274.03 | 3389.66 | 2703.04 | 2677.34 | 2721.69 | 2963.48 | 2726.03 | 2806.51 | 24577.9 |
| Invalidity Pension | 46.08 | 44.30 | 69.52 | 54.54 | 55.49 | 54.52 | 59.28 | 54.86 | 56.74 | 495.33 |
| Survivors' Pension | 1568.05 | 1556.61 | 2290.80 | 1863.00 | 1824.64 | 1869.95 | 2099.84 | 1865.25 | 1952.73 | 16890.9 |
| Old-Age Grant | 68.31 | 67.65 | 87.52 | 71.80 | 53.11 | 49.43 | 58.43 | 50.43 | 62.57 | 569.25 |
| Total | 3998.58 | 3942.59 | 5837.50 | 4692.38 | 4610.58 | 4695.59 | 5181.03 | 4696.57 | 4878.55 | 42533.4 |

Source: Employees' Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), Karachi

VII. Workers Welfare Fund (WWF): The WWF was established under the Workers Welfare Fund Ordinance 1971 to take initiatives for industrial workers by providing health, education, and low-cost housing services. This includes the provision of Marriage Grants, Death Grants, and Talent Scholarships, establishing and maintaining labor Colonies, and establishing and operating Workers' Welfare Schools at various priority locations throughout the country.

The WWF derives its receipts from the following three sources:

- An industrial establishment contributes 2% of its assessable income under the WWF Ordinance 1971 when it exceeds Rs 500,000/- in an accounting year.
- After distribution amongst workers, the leftover amount is under the Companies Profit Workers Participation (CPWP) Act, 1968.
- Income from investments.

In FY2024, from July to March, expenses of Rs 1.37 billion were spent on 12,303 scholarship cases. Additionally, Rs 660.14 million was given out as marriage grants, with each worker receiving a payment of Rs 400,000, benefiting the families of 4,107 workers. In addition, the WWF has paid out a death grant of Rs 575.5

million at Rs 800,000 for each worker, covering 1,060 incidents of accidents nationwide.

Concluding Remarks

Pakistan has taken significant steps towards establishing social protection programs to alleviate poverty, improve healthcare access, and enhance education opportunities for its citizens. Initiatives like the BISP have provided cash transfers to millions of vulnerable households to help them escape poverty. However, there remain considerable gaps in these programs' coverage, effectiveness, and sustainability. Many marginalized communities still lack adequate support, particularly in rural areas where poverty rates are high. Improving infrastructure, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and empowering marginalized communities are crucial for reducing poverty and fostering inclusive growth. Establishing a unified national social protection framework is essential to integrate federal and provincial initiatives, preventing duplication and inefficient resource allocation.

With a new government in place and ambitious reform goals, Pakistan's path to prosperity necessitates substantial mobilization of climate and SDGs funding, alongside a governance structure tailored to deliver planetary and digital 'global public goods' efficiently.