

Social Protection

Social protection signifies the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance the quality of their lives on sustainable basis and create the conditions for all individuals to attain their full potential. Social protection can help build the resilience of the poor and vulnerable segments by supporting them against negative income shocks and protecting essential household expenditures such that on food, health and education.

The social and economic effects of COVID-19 are being felt with high intensity across least-developed, developing and emerging market economies irrespective of their income levels. Most of these will experience a low GDP growth during the pandemic period coupled with decline in employment levels leading to a worsening situation in respect of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The COVID-19 pandemic is posing an unprecedented challenge to countries' social protection systems. Informal workers are at a high risk as they are not covered by any formal social assistance or social insurance mechanism. The socio-economic consequences includes a decrease in demand for goods and services, supply chain disruptions and, employment and income losses. Concurrently, capacities and resources vary across the world to overcome this pandemic and its health, social and economic challenges associated with it.

Social protection, therefore has a central role to play in mitigating the social, economic and health dimensions of the crisis. It fulfils three interrelated roles: (i) protecting critically threatened livelihoods; (ii) preserving and strengthening capacity for recovery; and (iii) building future resilience. Pakistan's poverty reduction efforts have been widely documented and acknowledged. Remittances, safety net transfers and informal system of philanthropic networks have contributed to poverty alleviation. Under social safety nets, Pakistan's Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme has helped to counter the socio-economic fallout of the pandemic.

Multilateral assistance through specific global financial initiatives can help further cushioning the impact of the pandemic. The IMF has enhanced the access limits for its emergency financing facilities, extended grant-based debt service relief and is helping vulnerable countries with new financing through other lending facilities. Other elements of the global financial safety net have also been activated to alleviate international liquidity shortages in emerging markets, including central bank swap lines. The longer

the pandemic and its aftermath persist, greater the need to enhance efforts to support financially constrained economies.

To achieve “No Poverty” by 2030 is part of a comprehensive SDG Agenda-1 that calls to end poverty (extreme) in all its manifestations by ensuring social protection, increase access to basic services and support people from economic, social and environmental shocks. Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Provincial Planning and Development Departments and the UNDP carried out an extensive series of divisional level workshops on sensitization to SDGs at the grass root levels, localization of SDGs, prioritization of SDGs and data gap analysis for proper monitoring and reporting.

Indicator Description	Baseline Value/Year	Latest Achievements ¹	Target 2030
1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/ rural)	3.90% (2014-15)	-	-
1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	Overall=29.5% Urban=18.2%, Rural=35.6% (2013-14)	Overall=24.3% Urban=12.5%, Rural=30.7% (2015-16)	9.00%
1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Overall=38.8% Urban=9.4%, Rural=54.6% (2014-15)	-	19.00%

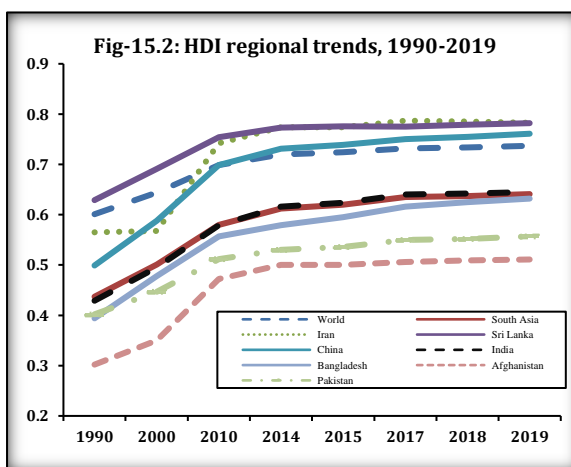
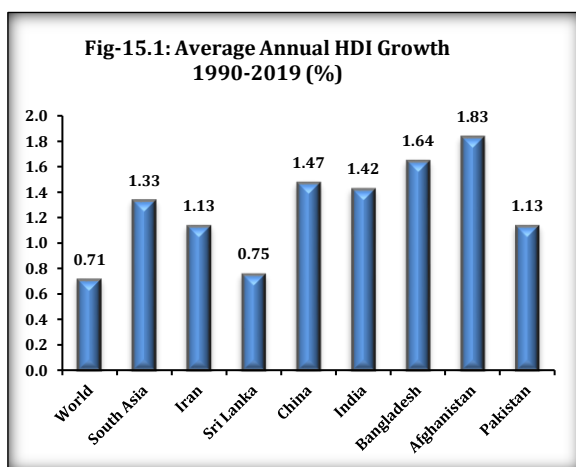
According to UNDP Human Development Report 2020, Pakistan's HDI value for 2019 remained at 0.557 which put the country in the ‘Medium’ category. Pakistan ranked at 154 out of 189 countries in the index based on Health (life expectancy at birth), Education (Expected years of schooling) and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. Between 1990-2019, Pakistan's HDI value increased from 0.402 to 0.557, an increase of 38.6 percent which is considerably less than the increase achieved by Bangladesh (59 percent) and India (52 percent). Pakistan’s life expectancy at birth increased by 7.2 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.9 years and expected years of schooling increased by 3.7 years respectively. Pakistan’s GNI per capita increased by 64.1 percent. From South Asia, Pakistan is compared with Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India which have HDIs ranks of 133, 169 and 131 respectively. Pakistan has shown some progress in human development indicators over the years, raising it to the Medium Human Development category yet, this progress is slower than all other South Asian countries except Afghanistan as given in the Table 15.1 below:

¹ Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives has constituted a committee to work out the latest poverty figures. The work on poverty figures is under process, once approved, will be published in the national document accordingly.

Table-15.1: Human Development Index and its Components

Country/ Region	HDI Rank	Human Development Index (HDI) Value (2019)	Average Annual HDI Growth (%) [1990-2019]	Life Expectancy at Birth	Expected Years of Schooling	Mean Years of Schooling	Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (2017 PPP \$)	Multidimensional Poverty Index
				SDG-3	SDG-4.3	SDG-4.4	SDG-8.5	Headcount (%)
World	-	0.737	0.71	72.8	12.7	8.5	16,734	-
South Asia	-	0.641	1.33	69.9	11.7	6.5	6,532	29.2
Iran	71	0.783	1.13	76.7	14.8	10.3	12,447	-
Sri Lanka	72	0.782	0.75	77.0	14.1	10.6	12,707	2.9
China	85	0.761	1.47	76.9	14.0	8.1	16,057	3.9
India	131	0.645	1.42	69.7	12.2	6.5	6,681	27.9
Bangladesh	133	0.632	1.64	72.6	11.6	6.2	4,976	24.6
Afghanistan	169	0.580	1.83	64.8	10.2	3.9	2,229	55.9
Pakistan	154	0.557	1.13	67.3	8.3	5.2	5,005	38.3

Source: UNDP Human Development Report-2020



Tracking the Pro-Poor Expenditures

Expenditure on pro-poor sectors stood at 9.5 percent of GDP in 2016-17 followed by 9.2 percent of GDP in 2017-18. It dropped to 8.1 percent of GDP in 2018-19 and slightly increased to 8.3 percent of GDP in 2019-20. In absolute terms, pro-poor expenditure increased to Rs 3,447.35 billion as compared to Rs 3,009.30 billion in 2018-19 shown in Table 15.2 below:

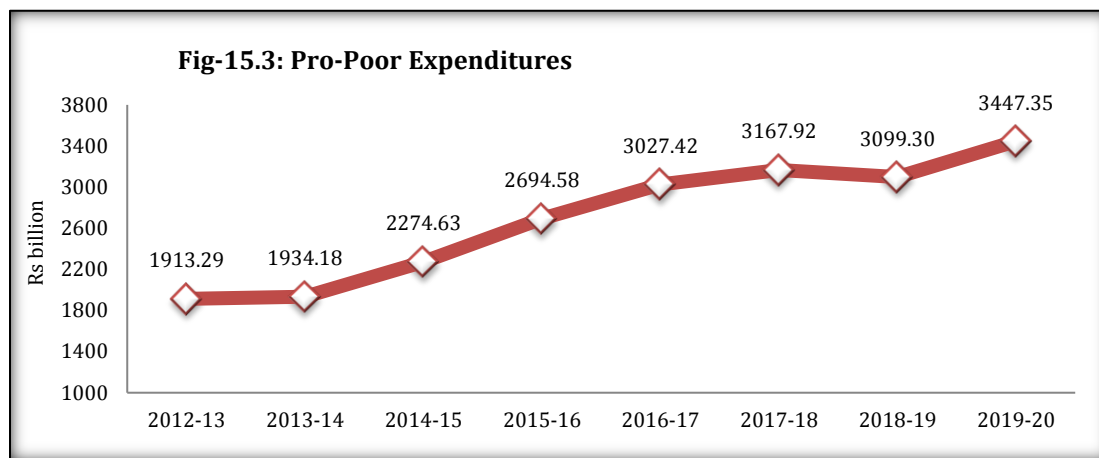
Table-15.2: PRSP Budgetary Expenditures by Sector	(Rs million)				
Sectors	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
Roads, Highways & Bridges	397,506	526,356	452,463	400,623	342,689
Environment / Water Supply and Sanitation	63,554	72,031	77,932	45,186	70,337
Education	663,356	699,222	829,152	868,022	611,015
Health	267,953	328,962	416,467	421,778	482,265
Population Planning	10,894	20,338	20,451	14,328	11,381
Social Security & Welfare**	173,532	259,455	257,534	173,443	280,258
Natural Calamities & Other Disasters	59,204	27,461	19,062	20,933	72,353
Agriculture	239,019	258,396	277,867	256,697	377,093
Land Reclamation	4,601	2,558	2,730	2,538	2,418

Sectors	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
Rural Development	37,419	30,934	42,127	11,958	29,738
Subsidies	437,087	403,139	327,767	387,092	635,816
Low Cost Housing	460	422	349	704	1,766
Justice Administration	33,255	41,926	53,461	65,937	72,737
Law and Order	306,738	356,217	390,556	430,063	457,487
Total	2,694,578	3,027,417	3,167,918	3,099,302	3,447,353
Total as % of GDP (2005-06 base)	9.3	9.5	9.2	8.1	8.3

*: Provisional

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

Source: External Finance Policy Wing, Finance Division



Two Years of Prime Minister's Ehsaas

On March 27, 2019, Ehsaas was launched by Prime Minister as Pakistan's largest ever social protection and poverty eradication initiative. Ehsaas aims at creation of a 'welfare state' by countering elite capture and leveraging 21st century tools—such as using information and digital payment systems, to create a modern safety net programmes; promoting financial inclusion and access to digital services; supporting the economic empowerment of women; focusing on the central role of human capital formation for poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development; and overcoming financial barriers to accessing health and post-secondary education.

The programme is unique because of its scale, multisectoral character, coverage, design process, management and governance, institutional arrangements and funding. Ehsaas is based on taking a whole-of-government multi-sectoral approach for innovative solutions; ensuring joint federal-provincial leadership; and mainstreaming the role of the private philanthropic sector on the one hand and fosters locally relevant innovation and on the other, protects livelihoods of the most vulnerable.

Ehsaas programme is specially designed for the ultra poor, orphans, widows, the homeless, the disabled, those who are at risk of health shocks, jobless, poor farmers, laborers, sick and undernourished, students from low-income backgrounds, poor

women and elderly citizens. This plan is also about supporting lagging geographical areas where poverty is higher.

Ehsaas' poverty reduction strategy is articulated in four pillars and it currently embodies more than 140 policy actions, which may be expanded as consultations on the programme are taken forward. The four pillars include: addressing elite capture and making the governance system work for a more equal society; implementing safety net programmes for the disadvantaged segments of the population; supporting jobs and livelihoods; and enhancing human capital development.

Post-COVID 19 scenario, necessitated for new forms of social protection and the need to reach out to various disadvantaged groups. Accordingly, Post-COVID Ehsaas Strategy of Ehsaas programme considers social protection as the cornerstone of relief and recovery efforts which also aim to address rising inequality in the wake of the pandemic. Therefore, pandemic was raging in the country, ground work had already commenced on several demand-side social protection interventions to protect human capital from negative shocks, which impact inter-generational poverty. As a result of these efforts, the education conditional cash transfer programme has been expanded nationwide, the new health and nutrition programme (Ehsaas Nashonuma) has been rolled out in timely manner and the expansion of the shock-oriented safety net (Ehsaas Tahafuz) is planned to be extended to other parts of the country in next phase. Additional resources have been allocated for the 'National Poverty Graduation Initiative'. Planning on social risk mitigation measures, for the informal sector has taken a higher priority. COVID-19 has exposed structural problems in the informal sector. A new programme has been designed being cognizant of the miseries of the poor, informal workers having inadequate savings and limited access to finance.

Prioritization of the Safety Net Pillar in the Ehsaas Framework:

The main instruments through which prioritization of Safety Net Pillar is being carried, include the following:

- 1) Increase in social protection spending by the government;
- 2) Enhanced scope and coverage of safety nets;
- 3) Strong focus on governance of institutions implementing safety net programmes;
- 4) Development of the new National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) to ensure a sound targeting mechanism;
- 5) System building for efficiency and integrity and
- 6) Service delivery through the One-Window Ehsaas.

A new federal division has been established to oversee implementation of the policies, programmes and initiatives related to poverty alleviation and social safety nets. Details related to the operationalization of the Safety Net Pillar are outlined in Panel 1.

Panel 1. Operationalizing the Safety Net Pillar of Ehsaas

Institutional arrangement	The Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD), now popularly known as the ‘Ehsaas Ministry’ was established in April 2019. All the agencies responsible for executing Ehsaas which were previously reporting to different ministries are now attached to the ‘Ehsaas Ministry’
Financial resources	Budget is set aside in the Federal Budget to broaden safety nets
Data	The Government is investing in building a new National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) to be completed in June, 2021 and big data analytics is in use for targeting
Governance and Integrity Policy	To eliminate abuse, misaligned incentives and inefficiencies and ensure effective targeting, a Governance and Integrity Policy has been pronounced. Compliance with the policy is binding for all PASSD agencies. The Ehsaas Governance observatory has also been setup to track implementation
Systems building	The Ehsaas digital payment system was installed in 2019
One-Window Ehsaas	The One-Window Ehsaas will facilitate citizen’s access to all the social protection programmes and online public goods
Scope (policies, programmes and initiatives)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ehsaas Kafaalat: stipends, financial and digital inclusion of women 2. Ehsaas Tahafuz, safety net to enable protection against catastrophic risks 3. Waseela-e-Taleem Digital, education related conditional cash transfers 4. Ehsaas Merit and needs-based under-graduate scholarships * 5. Ehsaas Nashonuma: health and nutrition-centered conditional cash transfer and specialized nutrition food for mothers and children up to 2 years 6. Ehsaas Langars² 7. Ehsaas Interest Free Loans 8. Ehsaas Emergency Cash 9. Ehsaas Amdan, asset transfer programme 10. Ehsaas Kafaalat for differently-abled and Overall Disability Policy** 11. Dar-ul-Ehsaas, new standards for orphanages expanding base 12. Ehsaas One Window 13. Sehat Card: a health insurance scheme**** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ *Executed by PASS in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission ▶ ** Multisectoral responsibility ▶ ***Execution: Ministry of Human Resource Development and Overseas Pakistanis ▶ ****Execution: Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination ▶ All others are executed through ancillary agencies of PASSD

²Soup kitchens to feed those who have no other means

Key Ehsaas Programmes and Initiatives

Since the launch of Ehsaas, many transformative initiatives and policy reforms have effectively been implemented nationwide. Some of the Ehsaas' early wins across various sectors include: Ehsaas Kafaalat, Ehsaas Emergency Cash, Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship, Ehsaas Nashonuma, Ehsaas Langars, Ehsaas Interest Free Loans, Ehsaas Amdan and several others.

Ehsaas Kafaalat

Launched by the Prime Minister on Jan 31, 2020, Ehsaas Kafaalat is the Government's un-conditional cash transfer programme which disburses cash stipends of Rs 2,000 per month and has led to opening of bank accounts of the most deserving and poorest women across the country. Kafaalat is a key initiative of the Ehsaas programme. The number of Kafaalat beneficiaries has been increased to 7 million and a policy on indexation of cash transfers has been approved by BISP board. Quarterly stipend has also been increased from 5,000 to 6,000 per quarter. Enrolment of new beneficiaries is dependent on the data from the new Ehsaas survey. With the Ehsaas survey now 87 percent complete, payments to those that have been identified through the new survey have commenced. All those that are being identified for enrolment through the new survey are given Rs 2000 a month on a continuing basis, to assist them with their basic needs. In total, 7 million beneficiaries will be included in Ehsaas Kafaalat. Government servants and their spouses, taxpayers, car owners, people with history of multiple foreign travels are not eligible under Kafaalat. Data analytics are being used to include or exclude individuals on these parameters. All payments are made through the new biometric Ehsaas Digital Payment System ensuring transparency.

Ehsaas National Socio-economic Registry Survey

Ehsaas is conducting a door-to-door survey all over the country so that data can be gathered about the socioeconomic status of households. The survey is the first ever computer aided survey that continues in various districts across the country to enroll deserving households in Ehsaas. As of May 9, 2021 the survey is currently 87 percent completed in the country and is progressing smoothly to be accomplished by June 30, 2021. According to the inclusive social protection policy of Ehsaas, the results of the survey will facilitate proper targeting of poor households across the country for a multitude of Ehsaas initiatives. To ensure transparency and integrity in data collection, the entire survey process has been digital from end-to-end. Field teams are collecting the socio-economic data of households at the doorstep through an android based application. Owing to the technical nature of the computerized Ehsaas survey, widespread training of master trainers, trainers, enumerators and supervisors is an important element of the Ehsaas survey methodology. These reforms have helped prompt decision making through analytics and intelligent live reporting systems.

Ehsaas Registration Desks/ Effective Grievance Redressal

To facilitate deserving households in self-registration, Ehsaas registration desks are being launched at Tehsil level in the country. The opening of registration desks is linked with the milestone of survey completion in each district. In this regard, Ehsaas has

partnered with NADRA to establish Ehsaas Registration Centres(ERC). These are desk-based data collection centres through which the registration of missed households as well as updation of any demographic information is carried out. Initially, 63 Ehsaas registration desks were established in 15 districts and now more desks are being established in 50 more districts. All these districts have achieved 70 percent household coverage under Ehsaas survey. Further, Ehsaas has also revamped its call center mechanism and improved information management to ensure effective grievance redressal for beneficiaries.

Ehsaas Emergency Cash

In addition to dire health consequences, COVID-19 affected livelihoods at an unprecedented scale; according to estimates, it negatively impacted ~160 million people in Pakistan. In response, the Government of Pakistan delivered Rs 179.8 billion as one-time emergency cash assistance to 14.8 million beneficiaries at risk of falling into extreme poverty. Given the family size, this meant helping over 100 million people or half the country's population, representing the largest and most extensive social protection intervention ever in the history of the country. Each family was meant to receive Rs 12,000 for immediate subsistence. Digital capabilities established over the past year as part of Ehsaas, Pakistan's new poverty alleviation frame-work, were adapted to deliver Ehsaas Emergency Cash, in particular, a new biometric payment system, a demand side SMS based request seeking platform and a new wealth profiling big data analytics mechanism.

A hybrid targeting approach was adopted, combining emergency assistance for the known vulnerable with demand-based support for the "new poor". Requests were sought through an 8171 SMS short code service and web-portal. Data analytics enabled eligibility ascertainment, using unique national identification numbers and drawing on the National Socio-Economic Registry and wealth proxies (travel, taxes, billing, assets ownership data and government employment status). The system was end-to-end data-driven, fully automated, rule-based, transparent and politically-neutral. Payments were biometrically verified.

Ehsaas received 139 million requests of which 66 million were unique. 16.9 million individuals were declared eligible; over 14.8 million individuals collected their payments by the closing date on September 30, 2020; by then, Rs 179.221 billion had been disbursed. Payments to those with biometric failure and the next-of-kin of dead beneficiaries continued for a month beyond that date.

Many challenges were encountered during the disbursement process. The largest social protection operation in the country was rolled out with lock downs in effect, public transport suspended and risk of disease spread looming. Additional challenges related to issues of logistics, connectivity, liquidity, cyber-attacks, biometric failures and limitations of data-driven messaging. The government approach, public private synergy and real time evaluation helped to successfully address these challenges swiftly. Fiscal measures were adopted to incentivize retailers to work in a difficult environment; communication measures were taken to address low financial and digital literacy.

Ehsaas Emergency Cash will be an important component of the redesign of social protection, post COVID-19 and will assist in the global re-imagining of social welfare envisaged in Ehsaas. The Ehsaas Strategy has been revamped, post COVID-19 and there is a practical demonstration of increased attention to social protection under the Ehsaas umbrella despite the post-COVID financial constraints (Ehsaas Official 2020). Furthermore, this programme has also accelerated progress towards achievement of the gender equality and financial inclusion goals within the Ehsaas framework since nearly 54 percent of the recipients were women.

In terms of global experience sharing, the case of Pakistan provides useful lessons for other countries that utilize unique personal identification systems. It shows that by combining phones, internet connectivity, national IDs and commercial payment systems, a digital and innovative demand-based social protection system can be created to enable those in distress to seek social support during crises. Ehsaas Emergency Cash also demonstrated how cash transfer programmes can be deployed to counter socio-economic fallouts due to external shocks such as COVID-19 which present a long-term predicament. The approach can also address rising inequality and advance attainment of SDGs in a post COVID-19 world.

Education Conditional Cash Transfers

Education Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) are an important pillar of Ehsaas and are included in the Ehsaas framework as Policy #73 'Education Conditional Cash Transfers'. Initially, the programme covered primary school enrollment of 3.69 million children, supply capacity assessment of 160,246 public and private schools, constitution of 100,505 beneficiary committees for social mobilization and disbursement of Rs 15.7 billion as of 30-06-2020.

The Rs 80 billion Education CCT programme has been expanded and massively reformed under Ehsaas to bring 5 million deserving primary school children into its fold from across all 154 districts of Pakistan over a 4- year duration. Over the last year and a half, a comprehensive and deep-rooted reform was designed and deployed as a result of which far reaching changes have been made in the programme. There are four key pillars of reform: First, end-to-end digitization of a number of processes, which were previously managed manually. Apps have been developed which are used by staff to register children and monitor compliance. Secondly, cost-effective changes in institutional infrastructure were implemented to expand this programme nationwide and reliance on NGOs was eliminated. Because of this, operational cost has been reduced from 8 percent to 3 percent. Third, the stipend given to children has been modified as per Ehsaas' new Stipend policy. Children of poorest families will now be provided conditional cash grants of Rs 1,500 for a boy child and Rs 2,000 per quarter for a girl child on attainment of 70 percent attendance in school. Finally and most importantly, the programme is being expanded to all districts of the country.

Ehsaas Nashonuma

To ensure that malnutrition does not continue to compromise the human capital required to sustain the socioeconomic development, Ehsaas has rolled out a conditional

cash transfer programme covering health and nutrition, Ehsaas Nashonuma. The programme aims to address stunting in children under 23 months of age. 49 Nashonuma Centres are being opened in 14 districts in the first phase of Ehsaas Nashonuma programme. The flagship initiative of the government has been designed to tackle stunting and improve the nutrition of the poorest children through a combination of cash stipends, nutritional food, medical examination and training. The programme will be expanded to other districts in the next phase. The total budget of the three-year programme is approximately Rs 8.52 billion. The programme is fully funded by Government of Pakistan. The programme targets improving nutrition and health in the first thousand days of life, which is the most critical period in early childhood development, starting at conception and finishing at age of two. Every quarter, conditional cash-transfers are being provided to the poorest pregnant and lactating women and those with children under two years old; Rs 1500 for a boy child and mother and Rs 2000 for a girl child. Nashonuma stipends are disbursed to mothers through the biometrically-enabled Ehsaas payment system. Payments are conditional upon the consumption of specialized nutritious food, immunizations and attendance in health awareness sessions.

Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship

Prime Minister granted Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships for academic year FY2019 to the first batch of deserving students on March 2, 2020. Aiming to provide higher education opportunities for 200,000 students (50 percent girls) coming from under-privileged backgrounds, the 4-year Ehsaas undergraduate scholarship programme worth Rs 24 billion is the largest ever need based scholarship programme in the history of the country. Last year, 50,762 scholarships worth Rs 4.8 billion were granted to bright yet brilliant students. The scholarship offers full-tuition fee and a living stipend (Rs 4,000 per month) for bright yet disadvantaged students to earn an undergraduate degree at any of the 125 public sector universities across Pakistan (including GB and AJK) recognized by the HEC. As part of the policy, the scholarship support will be continued to the awardees throughout the course of their undergraduate degree programme based on their academic performance. The HEC portal is currently closed and will be opened for the next phase of applications after June 2021. For the academic year FY2021, total 67,000 scholarships worth 6.53 billion have been approved to benefit deserving students.

Financial Inclusion and Ehsaas Saving Wallets

Through Ehsaas Saving Wallets (ESWs), Kafaalat beneficiaries will have the option of either drawing their money or saving money in digital wallets. For the first time, the poorest women in Pakistan will have the option to save their payments. Financial and digital inclusion of 7 million households is one of the seven overarching goals of the Ehsaas Strategy. ESWs initiative is predicated on the understanding that digital and financial inclusion will open avenues for women to take better advantage of opportunities offered under the Ehsaas Interest Free Loans. ESWs is also an essential component of the Ehsaas Financial Inclusion Strategy, which was launched by the Prime Minister in the presence of H.E. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands when she visited Pakistan in November 2019.

Initially, ESWs pilot is being rolled out in thirteen districts of the country including Haripur (KP), Muzaffarabad (AJK), Hunza Nagar (GB), Quetta (Balochistan), Islamabad (ICT), Faisalabad, Okara, Sheikhpura, Sargodha (Punjab), Matiari, Karachi Malir, Sanghar and Khairpur (Sindh). Based on lessons from the pilot, the initiative will be upscaled all across the country for the benefit of 7 million Ehsaas Kafaalat beneficiaries.

The initiative will also focus on financial literacy of Kafaalat beneficiaries to ensure that women draw maximum benefit from this empowering initiative. Financial inclusion is a central goal of Ehsaas and key to unlocking the potential of millions of the most disadvantaged women, in Pakistan. By providing deserving women with access to secure, useful and affordable financial products and services like transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurance, Ehsaas will ensure their financial empowerment.

Currently, Kafaalat beneficiaries are getting their cash grants through Limited Mandate Accounts (LMA) after biometric verification. The Saving Wallets will be linked to existing LMA accounts of Kafaalat recipients, providing them the option to save money and even purchase goods through the wallets. The facility will cover a set of transactions including balance inquiry, cash in/ cash out, transfer in from LMA-II, mobile top-up, utility bills payment and money transfers. Two specialized features: saving against deposit and cash back against purchase are also embedded in digital wallets. This model will also ensure end-to-end transparent audit trail of disbursed funds. Changing lives of millions of women, ESWs will help the marginalized people manage expenditure ranging from that related to long-term goals as well as unexpected emergencies.

Ehsaas Interest Free Loans

Launched in July 2019, under Ehsaas strategy, Interest Free Loans are a major component of the National Poverty Graduation Initiative. It aims to graduate the poorest households out of poverty and set them on a course of economic and social prosperity. As part of Ehsaas framework, 80,000 interest free loans (50 percent women) are being disbursed every month across Pakistan to reach 2.28 million households over the next four years. The range of loan size is Rs 20,000 – Rs 75,000. Any Pakistani aged between 18-60 years belonging to 110 districts (the information and list of which is available on the PPAF website (www.pfaf.org.pk/NPGL.html)) can apply for an interest free loan under the Ehsaas Initiatives. Interest free loans are accessible through 1100 existing loan centers operated by partnering organizations which are manned with competent people to guide the borrowers. Overall, 1,100 loan centers/branches have been established in about 110 districts by 24 partner organizations across the country.

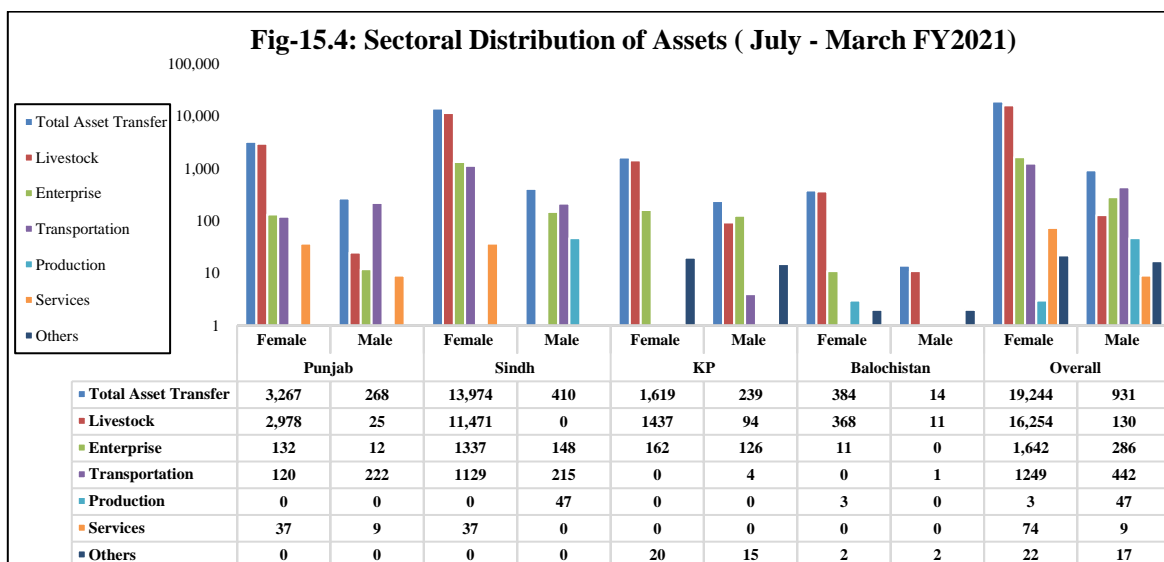
Since inception of the programme till March 2021, a total of 1.2 million loans (46 percent loans to women) have been disbursed with a value of Rs 44.42 billion. During July- March FY2021, a total of 490,368 interest free loans (47 percent loans to women) amounting to Rs 17.50 billion have been disbursed to the borrowers. The detail of physical progress of IFL programme is given below:

Sr. #	Particulars	July-March FY2021			Cumulative as of March 2021		
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
1	Number of loans disbursed to borrowers	257,542	232,826	490,368	687,108	584,194	1,271,302
2	Amount disbursed to borrowers (Rs million)	9,728.46	7771.78	17,500.26	25578.48	18,842.80	44,421.29
3	Number of Loan Centers	1,100					

Ehsaas Amdan (Income) Programme

The Ehsaas Amdan programme is one of several programmes under the umbrella of Ehsaas. Its primary objective is to create livelihoods opportunities for the most disadvantaged segments of the society. This programme is an integral component of government of Pakistan's Ehsaas Strategy and National Poverty Graduation Initiative (NPGI). It was launched by the Prime Minister on Feb 21, 2020. The programme involves giving small "assets" to those who live below the poverty line so that they can earn a living and escape from the shocks of poverty. Assets include livestock (goats, cows, buffaloes and poultry), agricultural inputs, body of Qingqi rickshaws and inputs for small retail outlets and small enterprises. The Rs 15 billion programme has been rolled out in 375 rural Union Councils of 23 poorest districts across the 4 provinces of Pakistan. The four-year programme has set a target of providing around 200,000 assets to the deserving households (60 percent women and 30 percent youth beneficiaries). In total, it will benefit a population of 1.4 million across the country. Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) which is an organization attached to the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division is the lead implementing agency for the Ehsaas Amdan Programme and is working through other implementing partner organizations that have a strong presence in the selected districts. Districts in Punjab where this programme is commencing include Dera Ghazi Khan, Jhang and Layyah. In KP there are 10 districts; Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan, Palas Kolai, Torghar, Batagram, Shangla, North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Dera Ismail Khan, Tank. In Balochistan there are three districts: Zhob, Gwadar and Lasbela. In Sindh, the programme districts include Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Kashmore, Shikarpur, Tharparkar and Umerkot.

Since the inception of the programme till March 2021, overall, 41,762 livelihood productive assets have been transferred to the ultra-poor and vulnerable households identified as per set criteria whereas a total of 20,175 productive assets have been transferred during the reporting period i.e. July-March FY2021. Over 95 percent assets have been transferred to women beneficiaries. The categories of these assets include livestock (81.21 percent), enterprises (9.56 percent), transportation (8.38 percent), production (0.25 percent), services (0.41 percent) and other (0.19 percent). The graphic representation (Fig-15.4) on asset transfers captures the diversity in economic sectors and beneficiary groups targeted in each province.



Ehsaas Langars

The Prime Minister launched the ‘Ehsaas Langar’ on October 7, 2019. The Ehsaas Langars are meant to serve meals to the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the society, especially daily wage laborers. Under an agreement with the Saylani Welfare International Trust (SWIT), Ehsaas will open over 100 Langars nationwide over a 2-year period under a public private partnership. Areas where Langars are being established include bus stands, industrial areas, railway stations and places where labourers tend to congregate. Till May FY2021, 34 Langars have been opened in all four provinces and Islamabad. Each Langar is serving two meals a day to at least 600-800 persons as per the vision of the Prime Minister. The Government is extending strategic support widely towards Ehsaas Langars in the areas of logistics, safety and quality standards and information dissemination which is at zero cost to the government.

Ehsaas Koi Bhooka Na Soye

‘Ehsaas Koi Bhooka Na Soye’ (EKBNS) is a new programme of the federal government to eliminate hunger in the country. The initiative is an extension of Ehsaas Langar Policy and it aims to distribute cooked meals at designated delivery points in multiple cities to people in need especially those at risk of or experiencing hunger. Meals are delivered free of charge through food truck arrangements. EKBNS was officially launched by the Prime Minister on March 10, FY2021 to serve free meals to deserving populations in twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Centered on lessons from this initial phase, the innovative EKBNS programme has now been upscaled to three other cities including Lahore, Faisalabad and Peshawar. Earlier this year, Prime Minister had declared his resolve for the year 2021 that EKBNS would be introduced to make sure that no one goes to bed hungry. The distribution of free meals will help the labour class to save their hard-earned earnings for their families. Later this year, the programme will be upscaled phase-wise to other parts of the country. Under the stewardship of the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, a ‘Donor Coordination Group’ has also been set up to steward the private sector engagement for this innovative food programme. All

pledges and commitments by the private sector will be handled by the coordination group.

Enshrined in post-COVID-19 Ehsaas strategy, EKBNS is premised on a public-private partnership arrangement whereby the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal manages food truck operations and Saylani Welfare International Trust manages food production.

Panagah

'Panagahs' (shelter homes) is one of the Prime Minister's priority programmes. To facilitate labourers and daily wagers who need shelter, Panagah facilities have been established by the government countrywide. Panagahs not only offer shelter to the needy but also provide a two-time meal for them. On August 9, 2020 the Prime Minister entrusted Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (under the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division's umbrella) with the responsibility of improving quality standards within Panagahs. Work has been undertaken speedily since then to upgrade standards of five Panagahs in Islamabad as a starting point. Till May, 2021 all five Panagahs in the federal capital have been upgraded to a "One Star+ bed and breakfast facility with meals, essentials, hygiene and security standards. Also, 4 new Panagahs have been opened in Gwadar, Lasbela, Chaman and Quetta districts of Balochistan, 5 in Karachi Sindh and 01 in Mardan district of KP. In the next phase, building upon the remodeling experience of Islamabad led by Ehsaas, federal-provincial collaboration will be ensured across provinces to bring improvements in the standards of Panagahs. So far, an amount of Rs 103.970 million has been utilized till March FY2021.

Individual Financial Assistance (IFA)

Through Individual Financial Assistance (IFA), a sizeable number of poor, widows, destitute and orphans are supported for medical treatment, education and general assistance. Ehsaas has envisioned providing wheel chairs to every disabled person in the country through Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM). A family having two or more special (disabled) children has been declared "Special Family" and receives benefits of Rs 25,000/- annually, whereas the family with one special child is being provided financial assistance of Rs 10,000/- per annum. From July to March FY2021, an amount of Rs 1.8 billion has been disbursed.

Dar ul Ehsaas (Orphanages)

Under Ehsaas, PBM has established Dar-ul-Ehsaas (orphanages) for orphan children, where they are being provided free food, nutrition, medical treatment, boarding and lodging, as well as, free education through well reputed educational institutions. An amount of Rs 367.35 million has been spent up to month of March FY2021.

Ehsaas Kada (for shelter less senior citizen)

Presently 02 centers have been established. This initiative would be up-scaled by PBM in a phased manner. The enrolled senior citizens (above the 60 years of age) are being provided free of cost boarding/lodging, messing and medical care of excellent standard. From July to March FY2021, an amount of Rs 3.596 million has been utilized.

Women Empowerment Centres (WEC)

Vocational Training Centres known as Women Empowerment Centres (WECs) have been established throughout the country by PBM. 154 WECs are providing free training to widows, orphans and poor girls in different skills i.e. cutting, sewing, knitting, computers and embroidery along with other trades. The trainees are being provided free training material. An amount of Rs 252.884 million has been utilized up to March during FY2021.

Schools for Rehabilitation of Child Labour (SRCLs)

Under the umbrella of Ehsaas, PBM has established 159 National Centres for Rehabilitation of Child Labour countrywide since 1995 for primary (non-formal) education. Children (male & female) between the ages of 5-6 years are weaned away from hazardous labour and enrolled in these centers with free provision of uniform, books and stationery. From July to March FY2021, an amount of Rs 437.985 million has been utilized.

Data4Pakistan

Ehsaas District Development Portal-Data4Pakistan is the first initiative of its kind in the country which provides open and public access to a spatial interactive portal that has poverty estimates for every district in Pakistan, along with over 120 development and policy indicators. The portal currently has six rounds of district poverty and development data, covering the period 2004-2018. This is a very valuable resource for federal, provincial and district level policymakers, for decision making. Interactive maps allow the user to visualize and compare districts on poverty with two additional indicators. The innovative portal uses data produced by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, as part of its Social and Living Standards Measurement Surveys as well as the Multiple indicators Custers Surveys produced by the provincial Bureaus of Statistics. The indicators currently available in the portal, include a range of demographic, health, education and employment statistics as well as statistics reporting access to key services like water, sanitation, electricity and gas. It also provides a number of gender parity indices at the district level.

Ehsaas Tahafuz

Extensive work has been done on the design of Ehsaas Tahafuz, Pakistan's first health shock-oriented precision safety net. The programme aims at protecting the vulnerable populations from catastrophic health expenditures and is being pilot tested in one public hospital (Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi). Ehsaas Tahafuz will work with public hospitals to identify patients facing catastrophic health expenditures, who will then be assessed by the system and if eligible, will be provided funding by allocating donations to the patient. Tahafuz is being rolled out using a phased approach. Once fully operationalized, Tahafuz will establish a one window paperless and web-based precision safety net. It will also have funders' empowerment features in terms of microtransaction alerts and personalized login credentials for detailed web-viewing right down to the micro-transaction level.

One Window Ehsaas

One Window Ehsaas is a single-window information and service approach for better access to multiple Ehsaas programmes. The basic structure comprises of a ‘front-end’ and a ‘back-end. Physical Ehsaas center with hardware and prominent signage, android App and web interface would be at the ‘front-end’, whereas open APIs architecture along with a guiding policy will work at the ‘back-end’. With an aim to extend maximum facilitation and information on Ehsaas to the disadvantaged populations, Ehsaas is opening the first Ehsaas Physical Centre in Islamabad. Work has neared completion on the first prototype of the Ehsaas physical centre in Islamabad and digital interfaces. One window operation would assist beneficiaries of social protection besides reducing duplication. The initiative will optimize efficiency and coordination of multiple programmes at service points, data streams and digital platforms. All the information about Ehsaas programmes and government’s digital resources will be made accessible as a public good in these sites that would create a window for integrated human development in the country. Likewise, Ehsaas physical centres will feature Ehsaas Registration Desks, Ehsaas Payment Rooms with ATMs, Ehsaas Nashonuma hall with complete facilities (registration, anthropometry, payments) and desks of Waseela-e-Taleem Digital, One-Woman One-Account, Ehsaas Interest Free Loans, Ehsaas Amdan, Ehsaas Tahafuz, Ehsaas survey along with One-Woman One- Account training room, Ehsaas’ partners hall (with periodic exhibits by partners regarding their services) and Ehsaas Information room.

Ehsaas Labour Expert Group

The Ehsaas Labour Expert Group (LEG) is one of the several expert committees constituted under the framework of Ehsaas. The mandate of LEG was to propose evidence-based practical recommendations to extend labour welfare measures for the informal sector. LEG finalized its report in March 2019 and its recommendations are now in the pipeline for implementation.

Ehsaas Living Standards for Orphanages in Private Sector

For the first time in the history of the country, a stakeholders’ committee had been put in place under Ehsaas to stipulate “Living Standards for Orphanages and Child Care Centres” in the country. This is the first time not just in Pakistan but also across the Muslim World that such a historic initiative has been taken by the government for the welfare of orphans and deserving children, aimed at minimizing variation in the orphan care and to support private sector orphanages in raising their service standards nationwide. The committee met 17 times last year and after taking stock of the on-ground situation, has formulated these standards which are being notified and shared with provinces to ensure compliance, strictly.

Ehsaas Governance and Integrity Policy and Observatory

With an aim to eliminate corruption and ensure rule-based control on the use of public resources and to promote efficiency, transparency and accountability of results, Ehsaas has institutionalized a Governance and integrity Policy and established an Observatory as one of its over 140 programmes and policy initiatives. Ehsaas Governance and

Integrity Policy and Observatory was officially approved by the Cabinet and launched in November 2019. The policy is binding on the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) and its executing agencies- the BISP, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund and Trust for Voluntary Organizations. As part of its monitoring arrangement, the Ehsaas Governance Observatory is meant to gauge the status of compliance with the Policy. The policy is meant to address institutionalized corruption and collusion in social welfare organizations. It outlines how boards should function which policies are crucial and the importance of whistle blowing and conflict of interest. It also sets the institutional framework to promote integrity through risk management and assurance, maintenance of risk registers, appointment of accountability officers; error, fraud and corruption frameworks, IT security departments, strengthening of financial management and fiduciary systems, procurement systems, access to information, electronic filing and development of workplans and creation of credible data sets. In addition, the policy is aimed at eliminating discretionary powers. The Governance Observatory serves as an implementation and monitoring tool for the policy. Since, the roll out of the policy and observatory, PASSD and its entities have begun to demonstrate improvement in implementation of the governance reforms.

Governance Reforms

a. New Payment Model

- A refined BVS based Payment Mechanism has been designed in coordination with all stakeholders;
- The Refined BVS Payment Solution was further revised for Financial Inclusion of BISP beneficiaries and 'One Woman One Bank Account';
- Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme payments applied for all BISP based payments;
- Specific biometric verification service developed by NADRA will be used to curb any fraud;
- Beneficiaries can get payments from any BVS Point of Sales, BVS ATMs and BVS Enabled branches of the banks and their partner banks;
- Real time reporting of all transactions by banks to BISP MIS; and
- Automated Complaint Management System is introduced.

b. Monitoring Mechanism:

A robust mechanism has been introduced to monitor Ehsaas Kafalat related disbursement activities through:

- MIS based monitoring;
- Monitoring through BISP field offices;
- WhatsApp Groups;
- Coordination at local level; and

- Monitoring through Evaluation Wing

c. Profiling Exercise on BISP Beneficiaries

- Under Ehsaas reforms, BISP with the assistance of NADRA carried out extensive analysis on various parameters to ascertain current living standards of beneficiaries identified through National Socio-Economic Survey carried out in 2010-2011;
- Resultantly, more than 800,000 were excluded from the programme in December 2019; and
- The same analysis is also being carried out on all beneficiaries identified through on-going Ehsaas survey.

d. Payments Related Grievance Redressal System

- An automated Payment Complaint Management System (PCMS) has been developed;
- Integrated Complaint Resolution Mechanisms (CRMs) have been established with partnering banks

Institutions under Ehsaas

BISP under Ehsaas

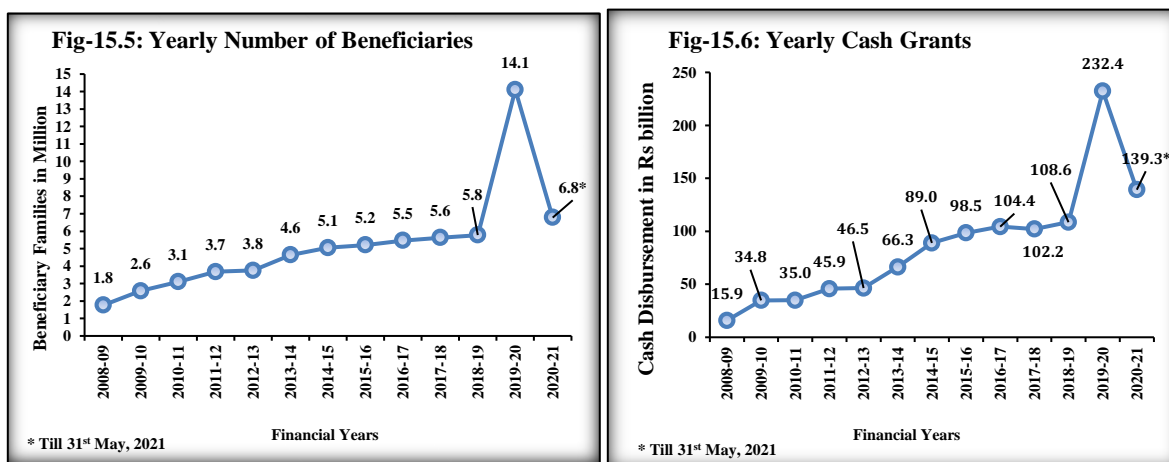
Since its inception, BISP- one of the 34 executing agencies of Ehsaas has managed to disburse an amount of Rs 1,112.20 billion through unconditional and conditional cash transfer grants. The year wise released and disbursement on CCT and UCT grants are reflected in table 15.3 and figures Fig-15.5 and Fig-15.6 below:

Financial 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	4.64
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	108.60	5.78
2019-20	243.71*	3.70	228.67*	232.37	14.40
2020-21**	194.91	0.51	138.78	139.29	6.78
Total	1,226.33	32.90	1,085.81	1,118.70	-

* Including Emergency Cash Transfer (COVID-19)

** Till 30th April, 2021

Source: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)



PPAF under Ehsaas

During July March FY2021, PPAF disbursed an amount of Rs 2,640.09 million to its Partner Organizations (POs) for various programmes funded by donors and PPAF's own resources. The component-wise financial progress update is given in the table 15.4 below:

Sr#.	Programme Components	Amount Disbursed
1	Institutional Development/Social Mobilization (ID/SM)	391.06
2	Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP)	1,673.92
3	Water and Infrastructure (W&I)	540.06
4	Education, Health and Nutrition (EHN)	35.05
Total		2640.09

Source: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Islamabad.

During the reporting period, a total of 5,068 Community Institutions were formed and 7,576 community and PO staff members were trained (including 39 percent women) under Institutional Development and Social Mobilization component. Similarly, under the Livelihood Enhancement and Protection (LEP) component, 3,298 individuals received skills and entrepreneurial trainings (34 percent women) and 21,619 productive assets were transferred to ultra and vulnerable poor (94 percent women). A total of 174 Water and Infrastructure sub-projects were completed benefitting 109,873 persons (including 49 percent women). Under Health and Education component, 16 educational facilities were supported during the reporting period; 2,465 new students (73 percent girls) were enrolled and 99,539 consultation visits by patients (60 percent women and girls) treated. A total of 490,368 interest free loans (47 percent loans to women) were disbursed through Interest Free Loans (IFL). Overall, these projects and interventions benefitting around 734,081 poor and marginalized persons including 49 percent women beneficiaries during the reporting period. These highlights of physical progress are given as follows:

Table-15.5: Major Achievements by Operating Units of PPAF		(Numbers)
Programme Components	Physical Progress	
Institutional Development and Social Mobilization		
▪ Community Institutions Formed	5,068	
▪ Community and PO staff trainees (39% women)	7,576	
Livelihoods Enhancement and Protection		
▪ Individuals received skills/entrepreneurial training (34% women)	3,298	
▪ Productive assets transferred to ultra and vulnerable poor (94% women)	21,619	
Water and Infrastructure Sub-projects		
▪ Sub-projects completed	174	
▪ Sub-projects beneficiaries (49% women)	109,873	
Education		
▪ Educational facilities supported	16	
▪ New students enrolled in programme schools (73% girls)	2,465	
Health		
▪ Consultation visits by patients treated under programme health facilities (60% women & girls)	99,539	
Interest-Free Loans Scheme		
▪ Number of Interest-Free Loans (47% women)	490,368	

Source: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Islamabad.

Other Key Initiatives during FY2021

In addition to the above, following key initiatives were taken by the organization during the reporting period:

- ▶ PPAF completed its COVID-19 Economic Revival Assistance Programme across 21 districts falling in the Extreme Poverty Zones which benefitted 66,590 households through provision of livestock fodder, food packages, agricultural inputs, emergency interest free loans as well as through small enterprise and kitchen gardening. The programme was extended so that the target population can restore their livelihoods, survive this crisis and strengthen their resilience. The total funding included Rs 432.5 million, contributed by the PPAF COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund (Rs 413 million) as well as by the Citi Foundation (Rs 19.5 million).
- ▶ PPAF completed the Revitalizing Youth Enterprise (RYE) project with the financial support of the Citi Foundation, through one of its partner organization BRSP in districts Ziarat and Killa Saifullah in Balochistan. The 300 youths including 150 young men and 150 young women were trained on technical skills. After imparting technical skills, 200 of them were provided internship/apprenticeship opportunities in the local market.
- ▶ Under Programme for Poverty Reduction (PPR), an MoU was signed between PPAF and University of Malakand to support university students in their endeavors to accelerate socio-economic development in their respective areas funded by the Italian Government through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS).
- ▶ PPAF in collaboration with the UNDP Pakistan, Forest and Wildlife Department and the Government of Balochistan, initiated a mass tree plantation campaign called 'Chand Meri Zameen, Phool Mera Watan'. The tree plantation campaign implemented

by PPAF's Partner Organization Taraqee Foundation, targets multiple cities of Balochistan including Quetta, Pishin and Nushki.

- ▶ An MoU was signed between PPAF and Engro Foundation who pledged to contribute Rs 70 million to the Ehsaas Amdan Programme to support the deserving families, whose incomes have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal under Ehsaas

The PBM was established for providing assistance to destitute and needy widows, orphan, invalid, infirm and such other persons through its establishment at the district level. During FY2021, an amount of Rs 6.105 billion has been allocated to PBM for implementation of schemes; i.e. Dar-ul Ehsaas (orphanage), Women Empowerment Centres. School for rehabilitation of child labor, Ehsaas Kada (for shelter less senior citizen), Child Support Programme, Individual Financial Assistance etc.

Microfinance Initiatives

The Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN) is the national association for retail players in the microfinance industry with a membership of 46 microfinance providers, including Microfinance Banks (regulated by SBP) and Non-Bank Microfinance companies (regulated by SECP).

The microfinance industry broadly provides services in three categories of micro-credit, micro-savings and micro-insurance. As shown in Table 15.6, the micro-credit witnessed 3 percent decline in growth with active borrowers during FY2020, while the gross loan portfolio registered 6 percent growth reaching Rs 324.15 billion. Micro-savings, on the other hand, posted a growth of 35 percent under active savers increased to over 64 million and the value of their savings rose to Rs 374.4 billion, an increase of 40 percent over the corresponding year. The number of policyholders in micro-finance industry declined to 7.3 million (14 percent) by the end of the year 2020 along with the value of sum insured which declined by 8 percent, reached to Rs 244.65 billion.

Table 15.6: 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)
2020*	7,005,885	324,155	64,112,657	374,362	7,324,379	244,650
2019*	7,249,943	305,753	47,642,271	267,591	8,479,576	266,748
Increase/Decrease (Net)	-244,058	18,402	16,470,386	106,770	-1,155,197	-22,097
Increase/Decrease (%)	-3%	6%	35%	40%	-14%	-8%

*: Calendar Year

Source: Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN)

The objective of the microfinance initiative is to provide liquidity to the microfinance providers in response to tighter liquidity conditions. 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 Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). Table-15.7 presents the number of

micro-credit beneficiaries with outstanding loan portfolios and disbursements by loan providers upto December, 2020.

Table 15.7: Micro credit beneficiaries, outstanding loans portfolio and loan disbursement as of Dec. 2020

MFP	Active Borrowers	Outstanding Loans Portfolio (Rs)	Number of Loans Disbursed	Disbursements (Rs)
Total for Pakistan MF sector	7,005,885	324,155,425,831	10,732,090	371,030,958,187
MFBS				
Apna Microfinance Bank	84,397	10,504,573,724	461,631	52,454,200,171
Advans Pakistan	8,517	1,074,437,207	4,436	845,345,342
FINCA Microfinance Bank	225,288	21,550,509,640	128,790	15,557,445,695
First Microfinance Bank Limited	571,125	42,583,434,872	351,102	31,216,585,579
Khushhali Bank	879,637	60,647,662,090	923,304	66,474,876,985
Mobilink Microfinance Bank	808,239	25,243,147,182	3,504,294	20,216,293,362
NRSP Bank	339,130	28,992,356,981	213,611	20,939,345,144
Pak Oman Microfinance Bank	56,061	2,519,259,822	36,015	2,862,826,100
Sindh Microfinance Bank	36,410	560,257,733	21,390	628,695,000
Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited	305,619	12,738,344,368	1,503,149	13,801,846,003
U Microfinance Bank	346,258	31,319,361,775	176,079	18,251,854,017
Total for MFBS	3,660,681	237,733,345,394	7,323,801	243,249,313,397
MFIs				
AKHUWAT	814,722	19,376,447,080	655,023	26,279,253,120
ASA - Pakistan	420,776	10,339,617,871	1,335,549	34,915,083,000
Community Support Concern	44,529	1,379,068,985	28,790	1,722,403,435
DAMEN	114,593	3,323,013,355	74,731	4,296,610,000
Farmer Friend Organization	41,229	1,037,636,781	23,367	1,197,015,000
MOJAZ Foundation	32,065	702,195,401	13,412	657,932,500
Micro Options	-	-	170	7,779,000
Orangi Charitable Trust	18,679	348,147,616	7,177	277,337,500
SAFCO Support Fund	102,235	2,595,253,531	60,714	2,983,689,576
Soon Valley Development Programme	13,040	362,894,968	10,265	473,697,700
Total for MFIs	2,102,815	54,053,430,566	2,511,369	87,790,876,831
RSPs				
National Rural Support Programme	681,943	17,741,796,738	545,559	23,898,968,800
Ghazi Barota Tariqatildara	26,229	369,903,956	14,791	408,294,000
Punjab Rural Support Programme	42,298	793,223,860	23,393	726,044,000
Sindh Rural Support Organization	73,532	1,523,523,037	51,866	1,297,425,376
Sarhad Rural Support Programme	4,538	56,676,006	3,128	60,421,000
Thardeep Rural Support Programme	109,582	3,195,338,071	65,960	3,146,042,000
Total for RSPs	938,122	23,680,461,668	704,697	29,537,195,176
Others				
AGAHE	34,779	744,498,504	27,990	1,061,315,000
JWS Pakistan	77,930	2,306,462,245	64,113	3,280,405,000
Orix Leasing	13,871	186,582,063	2,141	108,454,000
Organization for Participatory Development	4,247	73,063,872	2,528	100,575,000
Rural Community Development Programme	161,096	4,924,725,653	85,218	5,402,852,700
Shah Sachal Sami Foundation	4,420	161,257,063	1,559	90,763,000
Total for Others	296,343	8,396,589,400	183,549	10,044,364,700

Source: Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN)

Zakat

The subject of Zakat was devolved to the provinces and federal areas following the 18th Constitutional amendment. The federal government is responsible for the collection of Zakat and its distribution to the provinces/federal areas in accordance with the Zakat distribution formula approved by the Council of Common Interests. A total amount of Rs 7929.16 million was collected during FY2020 and distributed during FY2021 as per details given in the Table 15.8:

Table 15.8: Disbursement of Zakat		(Rs million)
Federal Areas/ Provinces	% Share	Allocated/ Released Budget 2020-21
Federal Areas	7% of total Zakat Collection is distributed amongst federal Areas	
ICT	35.14% of 7%	195.041
Gilgit-Baltistan	18.57 % of 7%	103.071
FATA	46.29 % of 7%	256.929
	Total Federal	555.041
Provincial	Share of provinces after deduction of above federal payments	
Punjab	57.36 % of 93 %	4229.795
Sindh	23.71 % of 93 %	1748.404
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	13.82% of 93 %	1019.103
Balochistan	5.11 % of 93 %	376.817
	Total Provincial	7374.119
	G. Total	7929.160

Source: Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division

Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI)

The EOBI is playing a vital role in poverty alleviation by paying pension and grants to retired workers and their families. Currently EOBI has registered 437,472 Old-age pensioners, 225,465 Survivors' pensioners and 11,056 Invalidity pensioners.

Main Features of the EOBI Schemes are:

- **Old-age pension** on attaining the age of 60 years in case of male workers and 55 years in case of female and mine workers.
- **Invalidity pension** on sustaining invalidity affecting more than one third of normal of the insured person's earning.
- **Survivors' pension** to the following in case of death of insured person/pensioner:
 - Surviving spouse@ 100 percent pension till life, or
 - Surviving male children till 15 years of age, or
 - Surviving female children till 18 years of age or their marriage, whichever is earlier, or
 - Surviving parents for 5 years, if any insured person/pensioner is not survived by spouse or children.
- **Old-Age Grant** for those not meeting the benchmark for old-age pension. The grant is paid in lump sum to insured persons who have less than fifteen years' insurable employment but attain the age of 60/55 years

The EOBI disbursements, although not very handsome, are a sustainable source of income for the insured persons and their survivors who are generally below the poverty

line. In this way, the EOBI benefits have proved effective in preventing the insured persons and their survivors from falling into poverty and enabled those living in poverty to escape from the poverty trap to some extent. The details of monthly disbursed benefits are shown in Table 15.9.

Table 15.9: Achievements of EOBI during July- March FY2021

Benefits	Number of beneficiaries									Total Disbursement (Rs million)
	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Old-age Pension	234,128	235,271	236,100	236,796	237,388	237,808	238,709	239,223	240,247	20,539
Invalidity Pension	5,131	5,158	5,170	5,174	5,193	5,187	5,208	5,219	5,246	442.0
Survivors' Pension	145,425	146,412	147,265	148,225	149,132	150,266	151,387	152,327	153,480	12,826
Old-Age Grant	308	385	352	533	591	511	474	490	601	256.0
Total										34,063

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

Workers Welfare Fund (WWF)

The WWF was established under the Workers Welfare Fund Ordinance, 1971, for providing low-cost housing and other amenities to industrial labour. During July-March, FY2021 expenditures amounting to Rs 2.47 billion have been incurred on 33,679 scholarship cases, while Rs 573.44 million has been disbursed as marriage grants @ Rs 100,000 per worker benefitting 5736 workers' families. The WWF has also disbursed Rs 496.55 million as death grant @ Rs 500,000 per worker– covering 994 cases of mishaps all over the country.

Way forward

The past two and a half years have been remarkable phase in terms of performance and expansion of social protection in the country. A comprehensive strategy was developed for the largest social protection programme which has been revised further with regard to post-COVID scenario. Many innovative programmes have been conceptualized, rolled out and taken to scale and few existing programmes which were continued have undergone extensive and deep-rooted reform. Through an unprecedented effort, wide-ranging reform has been implemented in the governance system. There are five priorities of the government to implement the social protection policies under Ehsaas programme. Firstly, upscaling of the existing programmes so that they have their widest outreach possible. Secondly, appropriate investment in instructional communications so that individuals can actually benefit from the programmes that have been rolled out. Thirdly, the institutionalization of one window operations of Ehsaas so that all programmes and policies can be brought under one umbrella and citizens can be facilitated to take benefit. Fourthly, completion of the 2021 Ehsaas database on the basis of which the list of beneficiaries for Ehsaas programme will be expanded and targets would be improved. Lastly, a move from untargeted to targeted subsidies, these five priorities will continue with an aggressive governance reform which has been a hallmark of Ehsaas.