

**Strengthening  
PRS  
Monitoring  
Project**

**Newsletter**

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January – June 2012

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## MESSAGE

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We are pleased to share the year 2012's first biannual newsletter and wish you all a blissful year ahead.

The year took off with elaborate preparations for the much awaited dissemination workshop of Gender Budget Statement and Gender budget Analysis for the FY 2009/10 2010/11 at the Federal level. The workshop turned out to be a fruitful event as both the documents managed to engage the audience in a healthy debate.

An in-house training session was also held at SPRSMP to enlighten the team members on the importance of 'Performance-Based Budgeting'.

Updates from the Provinces demonstrate that the quarter proved to be a busy period for them in conducting their steering committee meetings and various capacity building workshops.

Before I end my message here, I would like to bid farewell to two of our very close SPRSM colleagues; Mr. Nouman Ghani and Ms. Farwa Basit. I enjoyed their being part of the team as much as I valued their inputs. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

I hope this edition will provide an overview of the activities during the first half of the year. We look forward to your feedback.

*Amjad Mahmood*

*National Project Director/Joint Secretary (EFP Wing)*

*Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project*

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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

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The overall experience with monitoring has necessitated recognition of different dimensions of poverty, particularly in the priority sectors e.g. education, health and agriculture to strengthen the existing monitoring mechanism, upgrade institutional network, improve sectoral management information systems and reinforce the existing evaluation system at provincial and district levels. Overall, the project aims to ensure improved capacity of concerned officials to formulate and implement pro-poor policies, efficient and effective spending aimed at poverty reduction and an integrated system which will enable a precise comparison of past achievements with future objectives.

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## PROJECT OUTPUTS

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- Strengthening of Management capacities for PRS monitoring in PRS Secretariats;
- Improvement in quality, collection, analysis and management of PRSP data at national and provincial levels for effective tracking of PRSP targets;
- Review public spending and allocations in pro-poor sectors and analyze through a gender lens to better understand the contributions and needs of men/women;
- National engagement in strengthening participatory monitoring of PRSP indicators.

For implementing the PRS Monitoring agenda at the provincial level, the project envisaged establishment of PRSP Secretariats/Cells in all provinces which are operational in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Baluchistan while the Establishment in Sindh province is under process.

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## IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

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The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Finance at the federal level and Planning & Development Departments at provincial level. A multi-tiered oversight mechanism is devised at federal and provincial levels to ensure accountability and visibility of the PRS process at the highest levels through formation of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). At the centre, a Project Steering Committee chaired by the Additional Finance Secretary has been notified for ensuring overall guidance and support to the project. Provincial PRS Monitoring Steering Committees have also been notified by Provincial Governments and will be chaired by Planning & Development Departments.

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## FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

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### **Workshops**

#### **(February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012) -Dissemination Workshop on “Gender Responsiveness in Federal Budgets” And “Gender Budget Statement”**

SPRSMP conducted a dissemination workshop on “Gender Responsiveness in Federal budgets” and “Gender budget Statement” for the FY 2009/10 & 2010/11. The dissemination workshop was attended by representatives from all the Provincial SPRSM projects, International donors/partners, civil society organizations (CSOs) and all concerned line ministries and departments.

Dr. Iram (Consultant) initiated the workshop with his presentation on Gender budget analysis. The primary focus of the study was describing and analyzing the general situation of women and men in relation to basic socio-economic indicators and a critical review and trend analysis of policies underpinning the Federal budgets.

A presentation on “Gender Budget Statement” (GBS) was given by Nouman Ghani (Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist). He described GBS as a tool used by the government to inform the stakeholders on how the government is using its budget to advance gender equality. He presented the gender side of the budget by focusing on

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), and three social sectors i.e. education, health and population planning.

**(24<sup>th</sup> April 2012)- OPM returns to discuss progress on MDG costing study**

Following the Inception mission of Oxford Policy Management (OPM) in September 2011, a meeting was scheduled to discuss the progress of the assigned MDG costing study. The mission was divided into eight sessions that were spread over a period of two days. The OPM consultants gave presentations on two parts of the report; **Macroeconomic Model Descriptive Report and MDGs Costing Report**. They had separate meetings with UNDP Officials, Development Partners, SPRSMP Team, Finance Ministry Officials and Provincial Stakeholders.

The sessions showed how earlier models developed by the Planning Commission and PIDE were different from the model developed by the OPM team. Numerous objections were raised on the use of old elasticities, and lack of gender disaggregated data, which was contributed to the shortage of data availability by the OPM team.

**(3<sup>th</sup> May 2012)- Dissemination workshop of Annual Progress Report of PRSP-II FY 2008/09- FY 2010/11**

The Dissemination workshop of Annual progress report of PRSP-II FY 2008/09- FY 2010/11 was held with the objective of sharing the findings of the PRSP-II progress report which covered a period of 3 years.

The workshop took off with the first presentation given by Ms. Shafaq Zaheer, (SSA) Social Sector Analyst (ISFD) on Macroeconomic indicators. She mentioned that despite the turbulent economic environment, the GDP growth rate still managed to be at 2.4 percent in FY 2010/11. She also explained that Pakistan's macroeconomic indicators showed a declining trend mainly because of the disastrous floods, low productivity, energy crisis and it being a front line state in the war on terror.

The second presentation was delivered by Ms. Farwa Basit Hafiza, Research Associate, on trends in pro-poor budgetary expenditures FY 2008/09- FY 2010/11. She said that over the three year period (2008-2011), spending in education and health had considerably increased, with the PRSP expenditures at 6.9% of the GDP by the end of FY 2010/11.

The workshop ended with the last part being presented by Mr. Nouman Ghani, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, on protecting the poor & vulnerable and monitoring the PRSP output and outcome indicators.

The detailed minutes of the workshop can be accessed at ; [http://www.prsm.gov.pk/minutes\\_4.pdf](http://www.prsm.gov.pk/minutes_4.pdf).

**(26<sup>th</sup> March 2012)-Understanding Pakistan’s Economy for effective decision making**

A training session on “Understanding Pakistan’s Economy for effective decision making” was attended by SPRSMP team at National Institute of Management, Lahore. The duration of the training was from 26<sup>th</sup> March till 30<sup>th</sup> March and it was attended by six participants from different government departments. The training contents included a broad spectrum of economic issues like inflation, unemployment, budget, monetary policy and World Trade Organization (WTO).

**(29<sup>th</sup> March 2012)-Performance based budgeting**

An in-house training session on “Performance- based budgeting” was held for the entire SPRSMP team. Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, Consultant, Medium term Budgetary Framework (MTBF), facilitated the session. The facilitator enlightened the participants on the concepts of budget compilation process, policies transcribed in budget planning and making, the elements of performance based budgeting and ways to measure performance. He also pointed out that before the medium term budgetary framework (MTBF) was introduced, the budgets were solely based on inputs, which focused neither on the priorities of the government nor its performance.

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PROVINCIAL ACTIVITIES

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Balochistan

**(25<sup>th</sup> January, 2012)-Provincial Steering Committee (PSC)**

The second meeting of Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) took place under the Chairmanship of Ali Zaheer Hazara, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Department, Government of Baluchistan. The objective of this meeting was to review last year’s achievements and to approve the annual work plan and budget for the year 2012-13.

**(13<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2012)**- Meetings were conducted with members of Technical Committee of Health and Education sectors separately at their respective offices. The agenda was to discuss related indicators along with identification of their sufficiency and gaps. The purpose of conducting separate meetings was to have detailed discussions on each one of the indicators.

**(21<sup>st</sup> May, 2012)- Dissemination of MDG report**

A mega event of MDG report Launching and dissemination Seminar was held engaging the representatives of Government, Policy makers, Parliamentarians, UN Agencies, UNDP and SPRSM Project staff. Minister for Youth affairs was chief guest along with UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Timo Pakala, P&DD Mr. Umar Khan Babar, and UNDP Country Director Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka who all graced the event.

The findings of MDGs were an eye opener for policy makers and provincial authorities as the report showed the province lagging far behind in achieving any MDG targets. The way forward was also discussed by the end of the seminar in which the MDG Acceleration strategy was discussed to achieve these goals by year 2015. A total of 195 participants attended this workshop.

**(25<sup>th</sup> June-2012)- Gender budget Analysis**

Gender Budget Analysis Report 2009-2012 was disseminated in presence of a wide audience from Government, policy makers to INGOs and NGOs. Mr. Muhammad Sabir, Chief Economist from SPDC (Social Policy Development Centre) presented the findings of the report which were found to be alarming as wide gender gaps were discovered. It was hence emphasized that the budget be made more gender sensitive.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

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### **(18<sup>th</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012)-Training on Data Entry, Analysis and Management**

A four day training was held at National Institute Of Management (NIM) Quetta for government officers and civil society organization. The purpose of this training was to develop an understanding on Gender and Gender Budget Analysis and to enhance skills on these concepts.

## OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

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The website for Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project Baluchistan has been developed and is in process of uploading published reports such as Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report for Baluchistan, Welfare Indices of districts of Baluchistan. Readers can access the website at; <http://www.sprsmbalochistan.gov.pk/>

## KHYBER PAKHTUNKHA

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### **(9<sup>th</sup> February, 2012)-Provincial Steering Committee (PSC)**

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Attaullah Khan, Additional Chief Secretary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Departmental nominations were requested in the backdrop of the decision taken in the PSC meeting regarding managing the outcome, furthering the process and benefiting from the project deliverables like Provincial MDG Report, Indices of Multiple Deprivations and of Human Development Index and Gender Budget Analysis, etc.

### **Capacity Building**

**29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012-** A two day training on “Gender and Pro-Poor Analysis of Budget (Development and Non Development Budget) was organized for government officers and Civil Society



Organizations (CSOs) at National Institute of Management (NIM). The objectives of the training were to develop understanding of Gender and Gender Budget Analysis; to enhance knowledge and skills on the subject, and to induce realization of self development for better service delivery.



**30<sup>th</sup> March, 2012;** SPRSMP-KP built the capacity of Punjab Bureau of Statistics (P-BOS) in calculating Industrial Production Index (IPI) which enabled the P-BOS to produce regular IPI reports for the Province and is helping in informed decision making in this important area.

**(23<sup>rd</sup> April- 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012);**

Four trainings were conducted on “Database Management” for the district officials at; Abbottabad, Batagram, Dir Upper and Swat. The data management trainings were aimed at introducing an easy-to-use statistical tool in district government offices; enhancing the capabilities and skills of participants; providing quick reporting system for better planning & decision making; helping district government in analyzing standardized reports received from different offices and tracking progress of key development indicators in terms of Inputs and Outputs.





## PUNJAB

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### **(5<sup>th</sup> January, 2012)- Provincial Steering Committee (PSC)**

Fifth meeting of Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) was held in which the Annual Work Plan 2012 was finalized and was approved. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Javed Aslam, Chairman P&D Board.

Secretaries of the social sector departments were included in the Committee. At the meeting, it was also decided that Gender Responsive Budgeting trainings would be held at divisional headquarters for which a comprehensive plan was chalked out.

## Capacity building



**12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> March, 2012;** A 4-day training of officers of Finance and Social Welfare Department was conducted on performance-based budgeting at F.C College Lahore. Center for Economic Research In Pakistan (CERP), a leading partner of Center for Learning on evaluation and results (CLEAR), conducted this training which focused on introducing various new tools and best practices in designing performance-based budgeting. The trainings were facilitated by Professor Wasif Khan, School of Management, FC College, Lahore.

Six Provincial government officers were sent for this training.

**17<sup>th</sup> March, 2012;** Forty government officers were trained at Management & Professional Development Department (MPDD), Lahore in Gender Responsive budgeting (GRB). Secretary, Social Welfare Sardar Akram Javed inaugurated the training. He underscored the importance of gender-responsive budgeting and said that optimum utilization of government resources could only be made if the government officials, engaged in budget-making process, were well-versed in the concept of gender-responsive budgeting.



**26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2012;** Forty government officer from Sargodha division were trained in Gender Responsive budgeting (GRB) at Sargodha with the collaboration of Divisional Administration of Sargodha Division.

Commissioner Mr. Shoukat Ali, a degree-holder in gender studies, took keen interest in the training and nominated suitable officers of his Division. These officers came from Health, Education, Population Welfare, Coordination, Social Welfare, Finance & Planning and other departments.

## 'Punjab involving women in uplift'

By Our Correspondent

LAHORE

PLANNING and Development Board Chief Economist Arif Anwar Baloch said the Punjab government was committed to making the process of economic development more effective by taking on board the women in the national development and for this purpose a hefty amount of Rs 14 billion has been earmarked in the provincial budget 2012-13.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of two-day workshop

regarding gender responsive budgeting at a local hotel on Thursday, he said the Punjab government was pursuing the programme of United Nations for Development. He said that during the budget making process, the authorities of the P&D and UNDP were playing the role of monitors.

He lauded the government for establishing the provincial department for women development. Regarding poverty alleviation, the chief economist said that reports were being compiled annually regarding

poverty alleviation in the province in which suggestions had been given keeping in view of the plight of the people living in the rural areas.

The training session was inaugurated by Faisalabad division Director Adnan Arshad Aulakh. Renowned trainers Shahzad Bukhari and Gul Nasreen were resource persons.

Adnan Arshad said the Punjab government had allocated huge funds for the betterment of disadvantaged section of society especially the women and the poor.

**(10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2011);** A 2-day training on GRB was held at Islamia University Bahawalpur. 25 senior officers of Bahawalpur division were imparted training. Commissioner Bahawalpur Mr. Muhammad Khan Khichi and Vice Chancellor Islamia University Bahawalpur were the guests of honour in the inaugural session. Chief Economist/PPD Mr. Arif Anwar Baloch distributed the certificates. During the training, the participants were explained various gender concepts. Exercises in budget-making with a gender lens were the main feature of the training. The training was widely covered by print media.

## FAREWELL

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### **Nouman Ghani**

**Tenure;** 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008-14<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**Designation;** Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

**Achievements;**

As a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Mr. Nouman Ghani provided technical support to major projects like the “Time Use Survey”, four Poverty and Social impact Analysis (PSIAs), and the Millennium Development goals Costing study given to OPM UK, to name a few. He developed the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Matrix of PRSP-II with clearly defined inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact indicators.

Besides these significant achievements, he also regularly tracked and analyzed budgetary expenditures of 17 pro poor sectors, non budgetary expenditures covering social protection, social safety nets, and cash grant programs of the government for Annual reports.

He has also written policy papers, briefs and commented on various papers.



### **Farwa Basit Hafiza**

**Tenure;** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011- 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Designation;** Research Associate

**Achievements;**

On joining the SPRSM project, Farwa Basit was sent on a deputation to Debt Policy Coordination, where she successfully managed to formulate the Fiscal Policy and Debt Policy Statement for fiscal year 2012. Besides that, she assisted in tracking,



maintaining and tabulating of data from State bank, Economic Advisory Division and Ministry of Finance.

Here at the SPRSM, she multitasked between preparing Quarterly/Annual reports for PRSP Secretariat, to performing econometric analysis of PRSP Budgetary expenditures. She also supervised an intern's report and gave her hands on training of E-views.

Her milestone was the completion of a report on the "Impact of 7<sup>th</sup> NFC award on Pro-poor expenditure trends".