Mahwish Z Chowdhary

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**Synopsis**

I hold a masters degree in Economics with a collective three years experience and above. I worked with UNDP’s Poverty Reduction Unit as a research associate in a project ‘Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project’. Since 2012, I am associated with Ministry of Finance and have worked in three different wings i.e. PRSP Secretariat, Economic Reforms Unit and Medium Term Budgetary Framework

**Education**

**Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Master of Sciences, 2010**

**Major: Economics**

**CGPA**: 3.2/4.0

**Major Courses**: Micro Economics, Macro Economics Theory and analysis; Development Economics, Health Economics, Financial Institutions and Markets, International Economics, General Equilibrium and Welfare Economics, Monetary Economics, Financial Economics, Mathematics Economics, and Statistics for Economics

**Experience**

**Ministry of Finance**

**Research Associate (Jan 2012- Present)**

1. **Dept: Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) (Jan 2014- )**

Implementing Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) Phase-II

MTBF to improve budgeting in line ministries by developing medium-term budgeting horizon, relating budgetary allocations with ministerial objectives and developing capacity at the following line ministries:

* Ministry of Foods Security & Research
* Ministry of Ports & Shipping
* Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* Ministry of Housing & Works
* National Assembly & Senate
* Privatization Division
* National Accountability Bureau
* Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission
* President’s Secretariat
* Prime Ministers’ Inception Commission, and
* Board of Investment.

Activities performed:

* Implementation of core concept of MTBF’s new strategy which included allocation and prioritization of service delivery and its costing by the line ministry management
* By addressing the draw-backs of the previous MTBF approach, suggested changes thereto.
* On the basis of the suggested change in approach, advised about the modifications to be brought in both MTBF forms and the Financial Management Application.
* Obtaining an understanding of the outcomes and outputs of the ministries and suggesting their priorities to the top management (Joint Secretary and up) and middle management (Section Officer to Deputy Secretary) of the line ministries
* Identification of linkages between ministry’s policies, its outcome and output targets, its spending units and initiatives. Advised the top management of line ministries in creating comprehensive and transparent linkages
* Conducted ministerial capacity assessments to identify training requirements of the ministerial staff in wake of the information requirements of the new budgeting approach
* Liaison with all the stakeholders including Ministry of Finance (Financial Advisers) , Planning Commission, line ministries and spending unit staff to instruct their roles in new budgeting system
* Planning for the Trainings and Workshops all over Pakistan for all the federal Ministries
* Making of Training material, presentation and points
* Prioritize allocations, according to the availability of resources
* Worked on cash plan and work plan for development budgets for monitoring and evaluation and cash releases from P & D
* Made policy and category linkages with relevant spending units of the line ministries
* Worked on the Oracle-based Financial Management Application (FMA) and made new item statements for clients
* Involved in the change management in Line Ministries for the Costing and Budgeting
* Managing a team for timely furnishing of project deliverables.

1. **Dept: Economic Reforms Unit (ERU) (April 2013-Dec 2013)**

Facilitated the economic reforms and public management under the following areas;

*Responsibilities:*

* Virtual One Stop Shop (OSS) for business registration:
  + Coordinated with the three organizations i.e. FBR, SECP, and EOBI
  + Assisted in developing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
  + Developed Minutes and presentations of the meetings
* Developed narratives of Economic Reforms in Pakistan for the main sectors starting from 1990’s to 2012 in following sectors i.e.
  + Fiscal reforms
  + Financial reforms
  + External sector reforms
  + Institutional and
  + Governance reforms.
* Regulatory Reforms:
  + Structural comparison of the regulatory agencies
  + Developed questionnaires to analyze the reporting and litigation process of regulators; based on these responses, further recommendations were provided for improvement.
* Developed briefs/broachers for the IMF/WB i.e. Reforms of Global Framework, Global Economic and Financial perspectives and policies, Post 2015- Global Framework
* Research on various issues i.e. policy notes and other such tasks given by the supervisor.

1. **Dept: PRSP Secretariat (Feb 2012-March 2013)**

* Developed Annual and Quarterly Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project Reports
* Development PRSP Annual and Quarter Reports
  + Overview of Macroeconomic situation in Pakistan
  + Tracking and Monitoring of PRSP Pro Poor budgetary expenditures
* Developed briefs/speeches/cue-cards for Annual IMF &WB meeting 2012.
* Supervised interns at SPRSM Project
* Developed briefs/presentations/notes on different subjects
* Reviewed and developed comments on different SPRSM Reports and documents conducted by different consultancy organizations.

1. **External Finance Policy Wing (Short assignment)**

I was posted in External Finance Policy wings for 2 months. I looked after the government’s portfolio of ADB, China, DFID, and Japan. I arranged, coordinated and analyzed the projects under these portfolios.

Previous Employment

**Job title: Research Associate Dates: June, 2011 – Jan, 2012**

***Strengthening PRS Monitoring Project (SPRSMP)***

*Responsibilities:*

* Developed SPRSM Project Annual 2011 and Quarter Reports
* Collected, complied and analyzed Non-Budgetary expenditures and data on social safety nets for PRSP Reports
* Coordinated, organized and facilitated workshops and meetings for SPRSM Project
* Assisted the National Project Manager in developing Annual work Plans and Targets
* Organized and provided trainings to project provincial units on gender awareness
* Supervised the Projects’ Internship Programme

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| **Jan 2011 - June 2011** | ***Ministry of Finance (SPRSMP)*** *– Islamabad, Pakistan.* | ***Intern (UNDP)*** |
| **Oct 2010 – Jan 2011** | ***Ministry of Finance*** *– Islamabad, Pakistan.* | ***Intern (External Finance & Policy Wing)*** |

**Professional Trainings & Workshops**

Organized, arranged and facilitated the following workshops and trainings:

* Engendering Budget making Process (22nd-23rd December, 2010) Marriott, Islamabad
* Engendering Budget making Process (25th-30th April, 2011) Islamabad and Lahore.
* Dissemination Workshop of Annual Progress Report of PRSP-II on Aug 27th, 2011.
* Inception Mission Meetings on MDGs Costing and Macro-Modeling, Sep 12-15, 2011.
* Project for improvement in financial reporting and auditing (PIFRA) training on software System application products (SAPS).
* Dissemination Workshop of Time use survey on Oct 3rd, 2011.
* Dissemination Workshop of Results based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and communication strategy for PRSPs on Nov 2nd, 2011
* Training on SPSS and Poverty Headcount Ratio
* Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting- Nov16-16, 2012 in Nathiagali
* Fiscal Management through Medium Term Budgetary Framework (25th April, 2014) Marriott Islamabad.

**Skills**

* MS Office i.e. MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint
* SAP (System Application Products)
* Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
* E-Views

**Pertinent reference will be provided on a request**