

CURRICULUM VITAE – Iftikhar Cheema

NAME: Iftikhar Ahmed Cheema
DATE OF BIRTH: 5 April 1952
NATIONALITY: Pakistani
CIVIL STATUS: Married
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KEY QUALIFICATIONS

Iftikhar Ahmed Cheema has vast experience of working in public and private sectors. He is a highly qualified economist and statistician and brings experience of working within high profile programmes for the Government of Pakistan. He has held posts of director, statistician and statistical investigator with the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan over 25 years. During this period, he has worked on the PIHS (from 1995-2004), family budget survey, education and health sector performance reports, and poverty reports. From 2004-2006, he worked as a senior poverty measurement specialist for UNDP at the Centre for Research on Poverty Reduction and Income Distribution measuring poverty, undertaking analysis and providing policy inputs regarding poverty reduction strategies. He has worked as Senior Consultant/Director Survey and Research with OPM from April 2008 to June 30, 2020 and has worked on a number of short-term and long-term projects. Iftikhar Ahmed Cheema has extensive and applied experience in poverty analysis, impact evaluations, with the full cycle of survey design and implementation with social sector surveys as well as the analysis (including performance modelling), and presentation of results. Since July 2020, he is working as Associate Consultant with Oxford Policy Management, Country office Pakistan

EDUCATION

1999–2000 MA in Development Economics, University of Manchester
1998–1999 Post Graduate Diploma in Quantitative Development Economics, University of Warwick
1972-1974 MA in Economics, Punjab University, Lahore Pakistan

COUNTRIES OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Pakistan

LANGUAGES

	Speaking	Reading	Writing
English	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Urdu	Native	Native	Native

EMPLOYMENT RECORD:

- Dates:** July ,2020-todate
Positions Held: Working as associate consultant with Oxford Policy Management
- Dates:** 2008–June 30,2020
Employer: Oxford Policy Management
Positions Held: Senior Consultant/Director Survey and Research, Social Policy Programme
Responsibilities:
- ☐ Survey design and implementation with social sector surveys
 - ☐ Analysis of survey data
 - ☐ Presentation of results
 - ☐ Report writing
 - ☐ Providing policy inputs
- Dates:** 2006–2008
Employer: Federal Bureau of Statistics, Islamabad Pakistan
Positions Held: Director
Responsibilities: Main duties include:
- ☐ To manage and supervise the Pakistan Integrated Household Survey conducted (PIHS) over this period.
 - ☐ To improve the content of the PIHS questionnaire.
 - ☐ To guide the data analysis regarding computation of consumption and income estimates.
 - ☐ To improve the calculation of social indicators.
- Dates:** 2004–2006
Employer: UNDP, Centre for Research on Poverty Reduction and Income Distribution (CRPRID) Islamabad Pakistan
Positions Held: Senior Poverty Measurement Specialist
Responsibilities: Based in the Centre for Research on Poverty Reduction and Income Distribution (CRPRID) established by Planning Commission Government of Pakistan with the financial and technical support of UNDP. Responsible for leading CRPRID's research on the measurement of poverty and analysis and providing policy inputs regarding poverty reduction strategies to the Planning Commission. Primarily this included the estimation of poverty rates, create and maintain a system to produce such estimates of poverty with transparent procedures and comprehensive description of its methodology.
Major work during this period was:
- ☐ Revisiting the poverty line
 - ☐ A profile of poverty in Pakistan
 - ☐ Pakistan Millennium Development Report 2005
 - ☐ Pakistan Millennium Development Report 2006
- Dates:** 1995–2004
Employer: Oxford Policy Management, UK
Positions Held: Economist
Responsibilities:
- ☐ Questionnaire designing and preparation of manual of instructions
 - ☐ Supervision of surveys
 - ☐ Data analysis of PIHS
 - ☐ Preparation of education and health performance reports
 - ☐ Measurement of poverty
 - ☐ Econometric modelling
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1. Work Undertaken that Best Illustrates Capability to Handle the Tasks Assigned

Name of project	Aawaz II: Independent Feedback, Operational Reviews, and Monitoring (IFORM)
Year	2022-24
Location	Pakistan
Client	FCDO
Main project features	<p>Aawaz II is 5-year development programme on modern slavery in Pakistan which is being funded by the FCDO and implemented between 2018 and 2024. Under the purview of modern slavery, the programme aims to promote the rights of children, women, youth, religious minorities, and other marginalized groups in the country.</p> <p>FCDO has contracted Oxford Policy Management (OPM) for the Independent Feedback, Operational Review and Monitoring (I-FORM) of Aawaz II. The purpose of this assignment is to execute independent operational reviews and assessments of programmatic interventions, to collect beneficiary feedback, and to provide coordination and documentation support to the programme through critical channels including the Quarterly Technical Reviews (QTR) mechanism and a dedicated dashboard for tracking progress against the milestones articulated in programmatic workplans.</p>
Main activities performed	I am working as Survey Manager in this project. The inception report has been finalized in July 2022 and I am involved in the preparation of survey design, sampling methodology and survey management.
Name of project	Pakistan National Cash Transfer Programme (PNCTP)-Third Party Beneficiary Feedback Operational Review and Monitoring
Year	2018-20
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	<p>Through the PNCTP, DFID has been providing support to BISP since 2012 over an 8-year period. DFID's contribution is aimed at expanding two of BISP's flagship interventions, the existing unconditional cash transfers (UCT) to the poor and at enhancing the education conditional cash transfer (CCT) for primary school children.</p> <p>DFID has contracted OPM to conduct a Third-party Beneficiary Feedback, Operational Review and Monitoring of the PNCTP to improve its processes, including enrolment, payments and grievances, in order to enhance operational effectiveness and accessibility, strengthen systems and improve beneficiary accountability. The monitoring through beneficiary feedback and spot checks is expected to improve programme performance, assess whether programme implementation is in accordance with BISP's guidelines and inform DFID on verification of selected Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs).</p>

Main activities performed	<p>This assignment is spread over two years, from April 2018 to March 2020. It comprises an operational review of the CCT, a beneficiary feedback survey, and spot checks of the UCT and CCT alongside verification of selected DLIs.</p> <p>Management of Spot checks and Household survey conducted in three rounds. It also included sample selection of Spot checks, support in questionnaire designing and enumerator's training.</p>
Name of project	Benazir Income Support Programme II
Year	2019
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	<p>The purpose of this study is to provide an analysis of the impact of the BISP 8 years after the programme was initiated. The evaluation is based on a mixed-methods approach. The core of the evaluation is based on a household survey targeted at beneficiary households and sub-set of beneficiary households that are comparable and can be used as an adequate counterfactual. The techniques of RDD and PSM were used in this study. These will provide statistically robust estimates of the impact of BISP on its beneficiaries.</p>
Activities performed	Participated in the study design, training of data field enumerators, data cleaning, data analysis and report writing.
Position held	Senior Consultant
Name of project	Punjab Education Sector Programme II
Year	2019
Location	Punjab
Client	Government of Punjab
	The objective of the survey included:
Main project features	<p>The extent to which there is evidence that planned reforms have been implemented at school level</p> <p>The extent to which implementation has led to changes in classroom.</p> <p>How teachers and head teachers perceive the results of reforms and what are their concerns and priorities to achieve improvement in every area.</p> <p>Testing the extent in which there are differences in reform implementation in relatively high performing or relatively poor performing districts</p> <p>The PESP2 School Survey 2019 tools consists as, i) Head Teacher Tool, ii) Teacher Tool, iii) Classroom Observation, iv) School Information Sheet, and v) Teacher Selection Tool.</p>

Activities performed	Management of the survey, questionnaire designing, field supervision, preparation of the manual of instructions for the enumerators.
Position held	Director of survey
Name of project	Third Party Validation of The Prime Ministers National Health Programme in Punjab
Year	2018
Location	Punjab
Client	Government of Punjab
Main project features	<p>The Government of the Punjab is embarked upon a number of initiatives to improve the access of its population to good quality medical services. These initiatives include supply side initiatives particularly the improvement of health care infrastructure whereas on the demand side, the key initiative being taken is the introduction of the Prime Minister's National Health Programme, initially in four Districts but with a view to extension to the whole Province.</p> <p>A Third Party Validation (TPV) was commissioned to the OPM with the following specific objectives:</p> <p>To review the programme design, the operational mechanism and implementation status of PMNHP in program districts of Punjab</p> <p>To compare & review the programme design, definition of benefit package and operational mechanism with micro health insurance schemes of similar context provinces and give recommendations</p> <p>To review the enrolment status, payments from PHIMC against enrolment, empanelment of hospitals, expenditure and claim management, utilisation pattern of services under PMNHP, monitoring through Central Management Information & System (CMIS), mobilization & communication.</p> <p>To assess the quality standards of empanelled hospitals against the critical and core standards already agreed with Insurance Company for the empanelment of hospitals in PMNHP & verify the health care costs of these empanelled hospitals in program districts of Punjab</p> <p>To assess the availability of healthcare services as defined in the benefit package within the empanelled Hospitals & management of these healthcare services in case of non-availability in programme districts of Punjab</p> <p>To assess the perception and awareness of beneficiaries regarding PMNHP</p> <p>To elicit the views of healthcare providers of empanelled hospitals about the program</p> <p>To assess the perception of program managers, insurance company and non-governmental organizations on implementation of the program</p> <p>To provide detail recommendations, lessons learnt and suggest measures for improvement in the overall program</p>

Activities performed	<p>Mixed Methods Approach was adopted for this study. I worked for the quantitative method.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample selection for the household survey • Questionnaire designing of the household survey • Management of field household survey • Training of the enumerators • Analysis of household survey data • Report writing of the quantitative analysis
Name of project	Pakistan Stop Diarrhoea Initiative, Endline Study
Year	2018
Location	Pakistan
Client	Independent Evaluation
Main project features	<p>The project aims to achieve the 50% reduction in the prevalence and incidence of diarrhoea among children under 5 and 80% reduction in diarrhoea related under-5 mortality. Interventions include i) Plan's Country Programme, which supports the implementation of the 7-point plan for comprehensive diarrhoea control: fluid replacement (i.e. ORS), zinc treatment, measles and rotavirus vaccinations, early and exclusive breastfeeding, vitamin A supplementation, handwashing with soap, improved water sources, and community-wide sanitation, ii) Reckitt Benckiser (RB) led Project Hope, which involves door-to-door sales of a basket of health and hygiene products, including a multi-purpose soap produced by RB, as well as Behavioural Change Communication (BCC), to promote improved sanitation and hygiene practices</p>
Activities performed	Overall management of the Endline survey as well as training of the enumerators and data cleaning
Name of project	Pakistan Stop Diarrhoea Initiative, Baseline Study
Year	2017
Location	Pakistan
Client	Plan International and Reckitt Benckiser
Main project features	<p>The project aims to achieve the 50% reduction in the prevalence and incidence of diarrhoea among children under 5 and 80% reduction in diarrhoea related under-5 mortality.</p>
Activities performed	Involved in questionnaire designing, training of enumerators and data analysis
Name of project	Enhanced nutrition for mothers and children programme Pakistan

Year	2017
Location	Pakistan
Client	World Bank and DOHs
Main project features	This assignment aims to develop and design an independent and robust impact evaluation of the ENMC programme and design and conduct a baseline survey and to present the WB and DOHs with robust baseline estimates of nutritional status at the province level, allowing them to plan and prioritise province level health and nutrition interventions.
Activities performed	Participated in the study design, training of data collection teams, data analysis and report writing
Name of project	Second Follow up Survey 2016 Benazir Income Support Programme
Year	2016
Client	Government of Pakistan
Activities performed	Participated in the study design, training of data field enumerators, data cleaning, data analysis and report writing.
Position held	Consultant
Name of project	Education Fund for Sindh
Year	2015
Location	Pakistan
Client	Donors of EFS
Main project features	In order to cater education emergency in Sindh, the EFS programme has been designed to educate 199,000 children through a three year pilot phase (2012-2015). The desired impact of the EFS is to support more children in school, staying in school longer and learning more in Sindh. In this regard baseline survey was conducted in 2015.
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	Involved in the study design, questionnaire development, training of data collection teams, tabulation plan, data analysis
Name of project	First Follow up Survey 2013 Benazir Income Support Programme
Year	2013
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	The Government of Pakistan launched the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in July 2008. The baseline survey was undertaken in 2011. The first follow up survey was conducted in 2013 in order to estimate the impact of the programme. RDD with DID was used to assess the impact.
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	Contributed in the study design, questionnaire development, training of data collection teams, tabulation plan, data analysis and report writing

Name of project	Follow up Survey of Citizens' Damage Compensation Programme
Year	2012
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	An impact evaluation follow-up survey was conducted in 2013 one year after the baseline survey. This survey revisited the same households that were enumerated in the baseline survey and the comparison of the experiences of the treatment and control groups serves as the basis for determining how the CDCP Phase II transfers have positively (and negatively) impacted the welfare of flood affected beneficiary households. Propensity score matching with difference in differences methodology was used to estimate the impact of the cash transfers.
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	Contributed in the study design, questionnaire development, training of data collection teams, tabulation plan, data analysis and report writing
Name of project	Protecting Pakistan's poor against health shocks in disasters
Year	2012
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	<p>The 2010 floods were a devastating natural disaster that affected millions of households across Pakistan. This study explored the impacts of these floods on health status, access to health care and health expenditure. Primary and secondary dataset have been used for this study.</p> <p>The primary data set is from the World Bank Healthcare Demand and Health Expenditure Survey, conducted in 2012 in the Punjab province of Pakistan. The survey collected information about household income and expenditure, as well as individual health status, treatment, and social indicators for each member of the household.</p> <p>The secondary data set is constructed from three waves of the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM HIES), (2005-06, 2007-08, and 2010-11). A difference-in-difference methodology was used to assess the effects attributable to the 2010 floods, with the main explanatory variable being flood-affected status. Other explanatory variables, available in both data sets, were gender, employment status, and education level of the household head; household size; whether the household had any member below the age of 5 or above the age of 65; and the income quintile of the household.</p>
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	I was involved in the preparation of tabulation plan, analysis of secondary and primary datasets and report writing.
Name of project	BISP Rapid First Follow Up Survey
Year	2012
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan

Main project features	<p>OPM implemented a baseline survey to evaluate impact of BISP cash transfers. This baseline survey was fielded in May-July 2011 and created an evaluation sample of 8,675 households who will be studied for impact over the next 3 years. In order to avoid the issue of seasonality biasing the first set of impact evaluation results, a rapid survey will be conducted by re-interviewing a sub-sample of evaluation households. This selection of the sub-sample will benefit from the analysis of the baseline survey data as well as efforts to link the database to the BISP MIS.</p> <p>The project aims to conduct BISP rapid follow up survey to assess the impact of BISP unconditional cash transfer on the socio-economic situation of the treatment and control households.</p>
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	Contributed in the study design, questionnaire development, training of data collection teams.
Name of project	Ex Post Evaluation of the Citizens' Damage Compensation Programme
Year	2011
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	<p>In the summer of 2010, Pakistan experienced the worst flooding in its history which affected badly to some 20 million civilians in four provinces. The disaster seriously damaged public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, health, and education facilities. Families lost their crops, livestock and agricultural land, essential for their livelihoods. Their homes were damaged or destroyed completely, leaving millions homeless and displaced.</p> <p>The Government launched a large scale cash relief programme called the WATAN Scheme to provide a more rapid alternative source of assistance to affected families in the flood areas.</p> <p>The project aims to implement a baseline survey to assess the current socio-economic situation of the treatment and control households.</p>
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	Contributed in the study design, questionnaire development, training of data collection teams, tabulation plan, data analysis and report writing
Name of project	Baseline Survey Benazir Income Support Programme
Year	2011
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	<p>The Government of Pakistan launched the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) in July 2008 which aimed to cushion the negative effects of the food price crisis and inflation on the poor through the provision of cash transfers of Rs. 1,000 per month to eligible families (Unconditional Cash Transfers or UCT). The long term objective is to establish a nationwide safety net program for the poor, marked by effective and transparent targeting and delivery mechanisms. The project aims to conduct a baseline survey to assess the current socio-economic situation of the treatment and control households.</p>

Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	Contributed in the study design, questionnaire development, training of data collection teams, tabulation plan, data analysis and report writing
Name of project	Evaluation of Pakistan's Flood Response Cash Transfer Programme
Year	2011
Location	Pakistan
Client	Government of Pakistan
Main project features	The Government of Pakistan have introduced an emergency cash grant to families which have been badly affected by the 2010 flood. The project aims to do a rapid assessment of the first phase of the Watan through conducting a qualitative and quantitative study.
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	Contributed in the preparation of questionnaire for quant study. Imparted training to the enumerators on quant questionnaire.
Name of project	Monitoring and Evaluation Consultancy for Strengthening Teacher Education Programme (STEP)
Year	2010
Location	Pakistan
Client	AKF, Canada
Main project features	STEP aims to strengthen the professional development of teachers, teacher educators and education managers in Sindh, Balochistan and the Gilgit – Baltistan.
Position held	Data analyst
Activities performed	Analysed the data based on indicators mentioned in the log frame.
Name of project	Endline Knowledge, Practice and Coverage Survey for PRIDE Project, Pakistan
Year	2010
Location	Pakistan
Client	World Bank
Main project features	The objective of this project was to see any identifiable trend in the key health indicators where the project has intervened.
Position held	Data analyst
Activities performed	Computation of tables and report writing
Name of project	Technical advisory on M&E for AKRSP
Year	2009
Location	Pakistan

Client	CIDA
Main project features	The consultancy provided targeted expertise to help Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP): i) strengthen the design, data analysis and reporting on SESNAC surveys ii) ensure strong capabilities for documentation, assessment and reporting on the results of the Canadian-supported Institutional Development for Poverty Reduction programme which concludes in January 2010.
Position held	Senior Consultant
Activities performed	Reviewed SESNAC methodology, sampling, current & previous questionnaires, analysis and past reports of SESNAC. Provided 15 days training to the staff consisting on six persons from AKRSP on SPSS and basic statistical analysis to improve the design, breadth and quality of analysis of SESNAC 2008. Provided guidelines to AKRSP on the 2008 SESNAC report. Provided comments on how existing data can be used to attribute changes in the programme area to AKRSP's initiatives.
Name of project	Third Party Lady Health Worker Evaluation
Year	2008
Location	Pakistan
Client	World Bank
Main project features	The project was funded by the World Bank and its main focus was the evaluation of LHW Programme.
Position held	Senior Consultant
Activities performed	<p>The objectives of the evaluation are: (i) to provide the MOH and other stakeholders with accurate, credible, and usable information on the performance of the LHW Program; (ii) examine changes in the program performance since the 3rd evaluation in 2001; (iii) explore the determinants of this performance (internal and external, such as the enabling environment); (iv) document the socio-economic benefits to the LHWs and Lady Health Supervisors (LHS), their families and communities of working with the program and (v) provide analysis and recommendations on how to further strengthen program performance.</p> <p>Iftikhar is undertaking the following key roles:</p> <p>National Team leader survey analysis</p> <p>Team leader econometric analysis and modelling</p> <p>Team member-questionnaire design</p>
Name of project	Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey
Year	2008
Location	Pakistan
Client	UNICEF
Main project features	The MICS Project was funded by UNICEF and DFID. It has been implemented in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province in order to monitor progress towards goals and targets over time emanating from international agreements—the Millennium Declaration and the Plan for Action of a World Fit for Children.

Position held	Data analyst
Activities performed	The Government of NWFP requested UNICEF to support implementation of a second round of the NWFP MICS. The data is expected to serve several purposes, the main ones being to (1) monitor progress against key indicators related to child and maternal health and basic household characteristics; to (2) monitor achievement of the MDGs (and create a baseline); and (3) to set the basis for provincial resource allocations at district levels.
Name of project	Pakistan (KPK): Costing of Education Sector Plan 2007-08 to 2014-15
Year	2008
Location	Pakistan
Client	KPK Government
Main project features	To develop a realistic set of cost and financing projections for development and delivery of education in KPK.
Position held	Consultant
Activities performed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Reviewed the data and cost-estimates in the 'Draft Education Sector Plan' ii) Reviewed the policy actions and reforms proposed in the sector plan for possible financial implications iii) Prepared a summary of resulting financial requirements.
Name of project	FATA Perception Survey Phase-I,II
Year	2008
Location	Pakistan
Client	USAID
Main project features	The main objectives of FATA Perception Survey were: i) to know about the confidence of the people in public institutions ii) to find out the effectiveness and involvement of Government institutions.
Position held	Data analyst
Activities performed	Reviewed the methodology of the survey as well as the tabulation plan. Cleaned and analysed the data set. Wrote the report using data set for phase-II and proposed changes in the structure of report of phase-I.
Name of project	Integrated Household Survey (PIHS)
Year	1995-2004
Location	Pakistan
Client	Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan
Main project features	This project focussed on the monitoring of Social Action Programme.

Position held	Data analyst
Activities performed	<p>Worked as data analyst in the Pakistan Integrated Household Survey section, Pakistan Integrated. The survey was an annual household survey of approximately 14,000 households and included modules on household budgets, employment and income, education, health, family planning and water supply and sanitation. My main responsibilities were the computation of tables using SPSS/STATA package, national statistical database management; computer programming for statistical and econometric analysis; economic policy analysis for poverty, health, education and water supply and sanitation. I was also responsible for survey questionnaire design, preparation of manual of instructions; impart training to the field enumerators and supervision of field survey.</p>
Author/ Co-author	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisiting the Poverty Line 2000-01 • A Profile of Poverty in Pakistan 2005 • Tracing the Spatial Dimensions of Poverty 2010 • Pakistan Integrated Household Survey: How Poverty Increased • Benazir Income Support Programme Impact Evaluation: Baseline Survey Report https://bisp.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/BaselineReport.pdf • Benazir Income Support Programme: First follow-up impact evaluation report https://bisp.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/BISPFIRSTImpactEvaluationReport.pdf • Benazir Income Support Programme: Second Impact Evaluation Report https://bisp.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/2ndImpactEvaluation.pdf • Benazir Income Support Programme: Final Impact Evaluation Report https://bisp.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/BISP_FinalImpactEvaluationReport_FINAL-5(1).pdf • Benazir Income Support Programme: Evaluation report March 2020 https://bisp.gov.pk/SiteImage/Misc/files/BISP_EvaluationReport_Ver%20without_FINAL.pdf • Citizen's Damage Compensation Programme: Evaluation of Phase II Baseline Report 2012 • Citizen's Damage Compensation Programme Impact evaluation report 2013 • Pakistan Millennium Development Report 2005 https://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/mdg/pakistan-mdgs-report-2005.html • Pakistan Millennium Development Report 2006 https://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/mdg/pakistan-mdg-report-2006.html • NWFP Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2008: Social Protection and Socioeconomic Indicators • NWFP Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Report 2008 • FATA Perceptions survey Review

