Policy and Research Unit

Background of PRU

- **Established in April, 2021 with the support of ADB**

- **Core Team of Experts** hired on contract basis:

  - Team Lead: Policy Research & Governance Expert

  - Research Methodology & Monitoring & Evaluation Expert

  - Social Sector Economist & Financial Forecasting Expert

    - (**1 Position Vacant**)

  - Data Analytics Experts

    - (**2 Positions Vacant**)

Main Functions of PRU

The PRU is mandated to carry out following functions:

- Conduct research, reviewing literature/ global best practices with respect to design & implementation of social protection programs

- Develop evidence based policy papers on various aspects of ongoing & new interventions of BISP

- Help in evaluation of BISP programs & analyze impacts of existing interventions & develop financially sustainable models to strengthen the existing programs

- Serve as a knowledge management & data analytics hub for BISP

Main Achievements of PRU

Under the Work Plan for FY 2021-22, major achievements of PRU include:

- Development of a 3-years Research Strategy for BISP & holding consultative workshop with broad range of stakeholders

- Development of a Strategy for implementing Knowledge Management System in BISP

- Establishment of Research Sub-Committee of BISP Board & its secretariat

- Assessment/ Process Evaluation of Benazir Undergraduate Scholarship Project (BUSP) based on field visits to 35 Universities across Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan & KPK

  - Support in implementation of recommendations of assessment, including in-depth data analytics of BUSP awardees & applicants

- Development of Paper on Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities & holding dissemination workshop with relevant stakeholders

Main Achievements of PRU

- Survey on welfare options for people living in Jhuggis/slums in Islamabad/ Rawalpindi

- Development of customized Business Intelligence Dashboards for improvement in operations & fraud detection

    - UCT/ CCT Payment Alerts

    - Payment Complaints Management System

    - BI Tool for sharing of NSER data

    - Risk assurance framework

    - Budget variance analysis tools

    - Fake URL blocking analysis

Main Achievements of PRU

- Review of Third Party Reports of other Wings and presentation of recommendations to Senior Management

- Collaborative research with UNDP for development of a series of three policy briefs

  - Enabling role of financial literacy in poverty graduation through cash transfer programs

  - Dynamic Registries in social protection programs

  - Grievance redressal mechanisms in cash transfer programs

Work Plan for FY 2022-23

- Approval of Research Strategy for BISP

- Development of Agile Model of Research

- In-house Research Work

  - Beneficiary Needs Assessment Survey for CT Wing

  - Impact Evaluation of Benazir Taleemi Wazaif for CCT Wing

  - Preparation of policy briefs using NSER data

    - Population Dynamics of Pakistan

    - Poverty Profile of Pakistan

Work Plan for FY 2022-23

- Development of TORs for outsourcing studies to third party
  - Baseline & impact evaluation study of BUSP (CI Wing)
  - Baseline survey of Kifalat beneficiaries enrolled under new NSER survey (NSER Wing)
  - Impact evaluation study for Financial Literacy Pilot Project (CT Wing)