

ASIA-PACIFIC STATEMENT SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023 Social Protection in a Changing World

26-28 September • ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines

Digital Social Protection - Whole of Government Approaches

Case Study: Pakistan

Mr. Naveed Akbar

Director General (NSER/CCT)
Benazir Income Support Programme, Government of Pakistan



Outline

Background

- Program Introduction
- Fragmented SP Initiatives to Systems Based Approach

Digital Transformation

- Improved Targeting Mechanism through Digital Transformation
- Technology-enabled Social Protection Payment System

Adaptive Social Protection using Digital Transformation

- Govt. of Pakistan's Covid 19 Response
- Flood Response 2022

Way Forward

- Interoperability with other Social Protection Systems
- Social Protection BI Infrastructure for Anticipatory Actions



Background

- Country's Population 249,566,743 (Census 2023)
- Pakistan ranked among the 43 countries most exposed to poverty risks
- 54% population is vulnerable to poverty due to health shocks
- Prevalence of Stunting among Children under 5 years of Age

 Stunted Growth

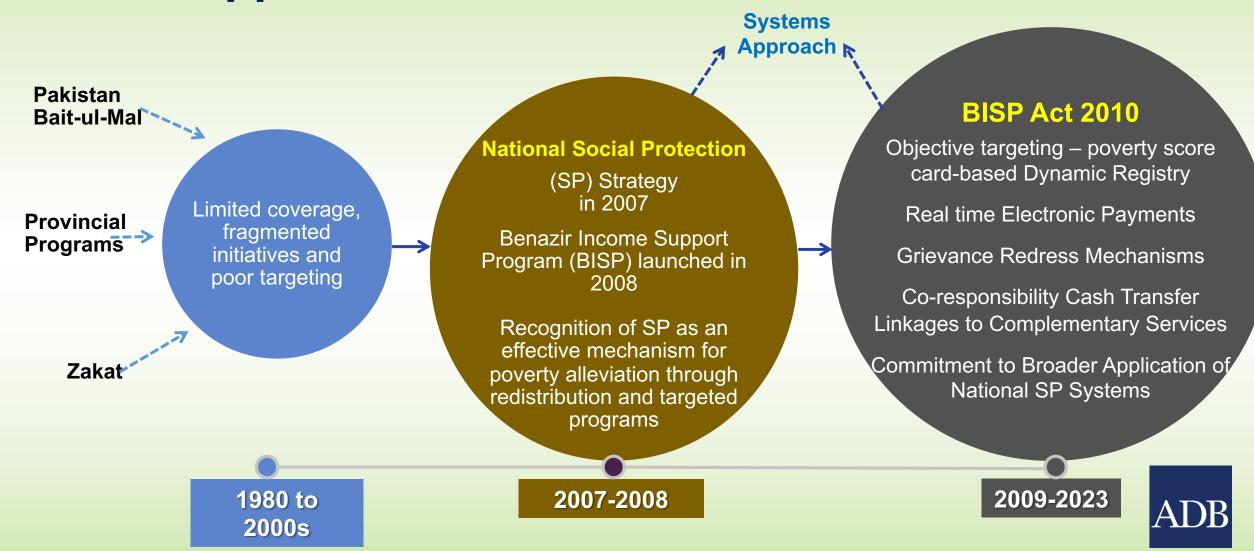
 36%

 of school-age girls are not attending school, which is 11 percentage points higher than for boys

 Gender Inequality
- 21.9% of the population (46.5 million) living below Cost-of-Basic-Needs poverty line (HIES 2018-19)
- 39.8% of the population (87.5 million) living below poverty line as per Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line* (World Bank, 2018)

^{*} Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 132.5 in Pakistan rupee (2018) or US\$3.65 (2017 PPP) per day per capita

Journey from Fragmented Initiatives to Systems Based Approach



Programme Introduction

- BISP was established in 2008 as country's largest social safety net to provide financial assistance to economically distress persons and families
- The **objectives and purposes** of the Programme are:
 - Enhance financial capacity of poor people and their dependent family members;
 - Formulate and implement comprehensive policies and targeted programs
 for uplift of underprivileged and vulnerable people; and
 - Reduce poverty and promote equitable distribution of wealth especially for low-income groups
- Kafaalat (UCT), Taleemi Wazaif (Education CCT), Nashonuma (Health & Nutrition CCT), Scholarships for Undergraduates are core initiatives of BISP
- Annual Budget of PKR 471 billion (USD ~2 billion) for FY 2023-24



Digital Transformation



Evolution of Targeting

Parliamentarian Phase Score-Card 2008-09 **Rollout** 1.98 m families 2010-2019 **Dynamic Registry** 23 variables 2019-22 27m HHs 43 variables 2023 – onwards Individual **Nominations** 4.4m eligible 35M HHs 4.1M HHs (Over 200 million families -Coverage of missed population) out HHs, Demographic Paper based 9m eligible updates, Cyclic **Census Survey** families resurveys / recertification, Shock responsive updates **Static Digital**

Census Survey

Dynamic Registry

Diverse Registry Users

- BISP's UCT and CCT Education
 & Nutrition Programs
- Emergency Cash Transfers (COVID-19, Floods, Earthquake etc.)
- Targeted Subsidies (Fuel, Wheat Seed Support, Wheat Flour)
- Provincial Governments (various SP programs)
- Federal Institutions
 Development Partners



Technology-enabled Payment System



Beneficiary-centric Social Protection Accounts (Being Piloted)





Benazir **Debit Card**

Feb 2012

Rolled out in

124 Districts

across the

country.

Piloted in March 2015 National Rollout from June 2016.

Biometric

Verification

System



Pak Post Money Order 2008 Initial payment

mode

Benazir

Smart Card April 2010 A Pilot launched in 4 **Districts**

Mobile Banking

Dec 2010 A Pilot in 5 **Districts**

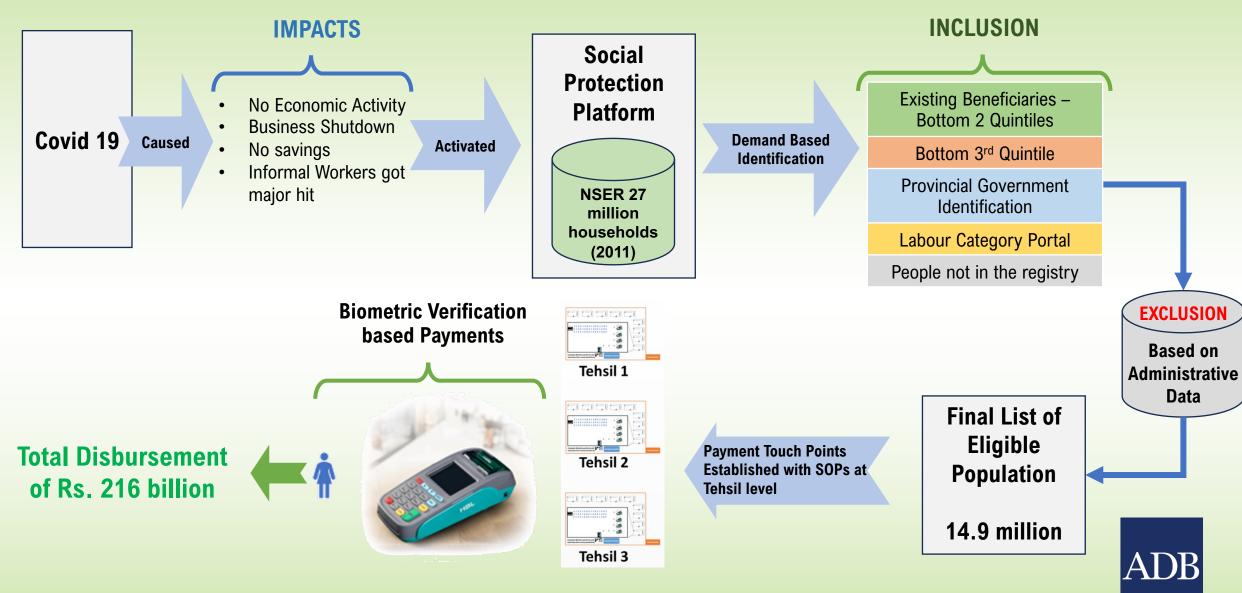
Refined Payment Model through new Banking contracts from 10th Oct. 2019



Adaptive Social Protection using Digital Transformation



COVID 19 Response



Challenges and Course Corrections

Static data for over 9 years – no inclusion & exclusion

Registry was not shock responsive as it did not cater to changes in socio-economic status of households

Cost implications of door-to-door activity for each registry update cycle

Payment mechanism had challenges, largely due to financial illiteracy and implementation of biometric based payment system

Lack of Administrative Data access, incompatibility for integration, lack of digitization, data completeness issues

Regular update of database to mitigate inclusion and exclusion errors

Shock responsive registry

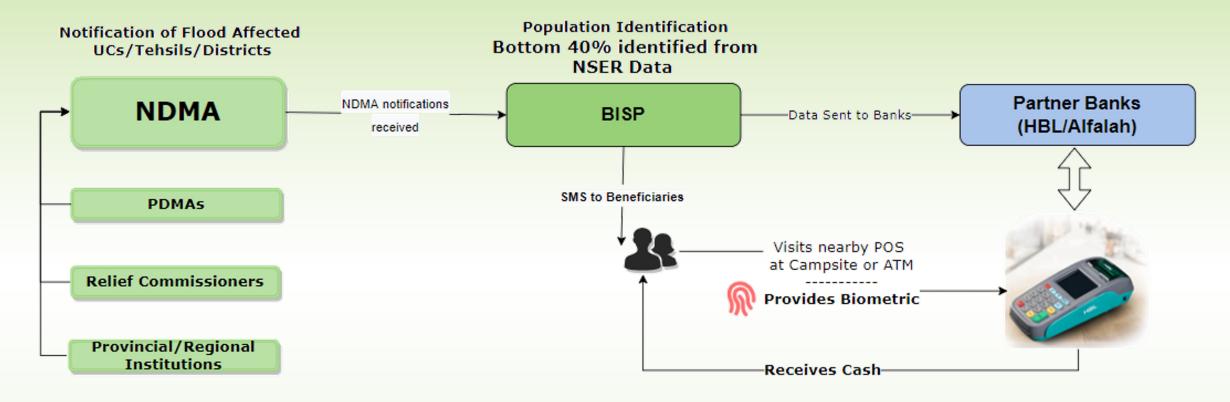
Operational costs of registration & targeting have significantly reduced

Beneficiary-centric payment model, with inclusion of all financial institutions

Collaboration for API based two-way data exchanges and transfer



Flood Response using Digital Transformation



National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA) with the support of respective Provincial Governments notified flood affected areas



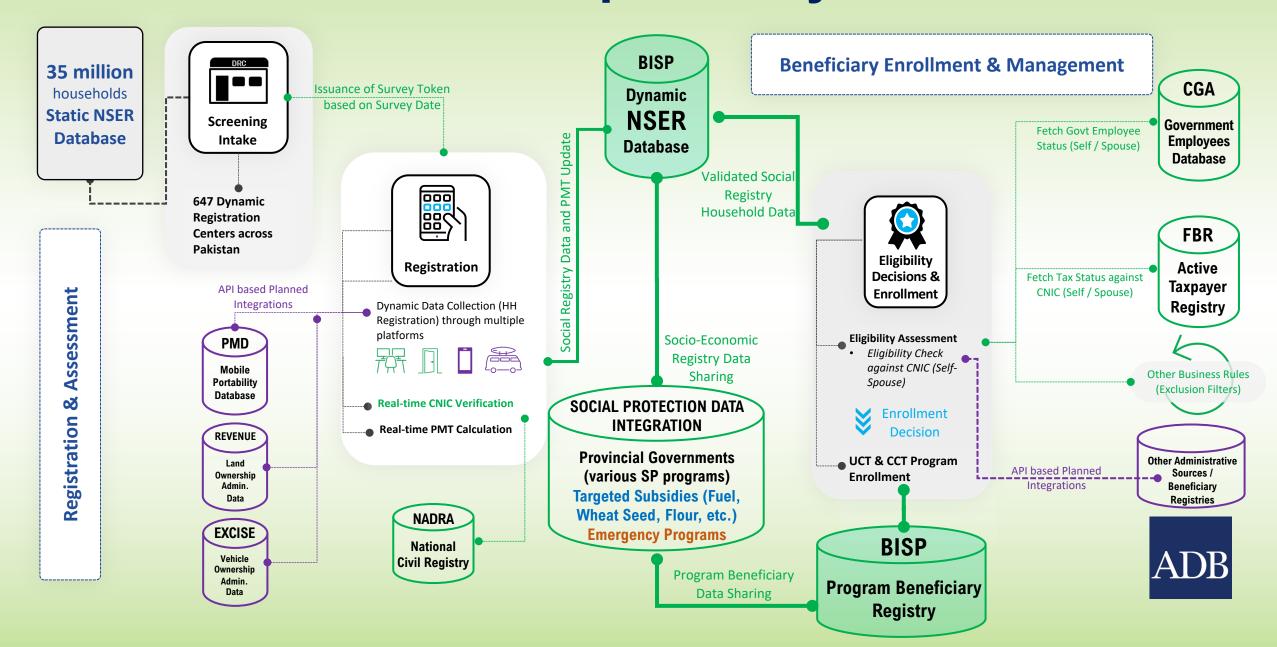


Using BISP's National Socio-Economic Registry bottom 40% population was identified and through BISP's biometric payment system, Rs. 70 billion (~ USD 450 million) disbursed to 2.76 million affected families.

Way Forward



Interoperability



Social Protection BI Infrastructure for Anticipatory Actions



Accessible to Provinces, DMAs and other private SP initiatives



Thank you.

BISP HQ, Pak Secretariat F-Block, Islamabad, Pakistan

www.bisp.gov.pk





