

PROJECT INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: 108383

Date Prepared/Updated: 4-Aug -2016

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Pakistan	Project ID:	P158643
Project Name:	Pakistan: National Social Protection Program (P158643)		
Task Team Leader:	Iftikhar Malik, Amjad Zafar Khan, Lucian Bucur Pop		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	02-Nov-2016	Estimated Board Date:	01-Mar-2017
Managing Unit:	GSP06	Lending Instrument:	Program For Results
Financing (in USD Million)			
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0
International Development Association (IDA) for TA component			15.00
Financing Gap			0.00
Total Project Cost for TA component			15.00
Environmental Category	C-Not Required		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		
Is this a Transferred project? (Will not be disclosed)	Yes		

B. Proposed Development Objective(s)

1. The proposed PDO is to support the Government of Pakistan to strengthen the national social safety net system for the promotion of human capital development and access to complementary services for the poor

C. Project Description

2. The proposed Program builds on previous Bank engagement in the sector during the last 7 years. The Bank's initial support to BISP came through a sectoral Development Policy Credit (US\$150 million, approved in 2009), complemented by a Social Safety Net Technical Assistance (TA) Project (US\$60 million also approved in 2009). In 2012, the TA project was restructured with additional financing of US\$150 million to support the expansion of the program and strengthening of the administration and performance of BISP as the national safety net platform, also introducing a result based financing (through Disbursement Linked Indicators) modality. The current project is expected to close on December 31, 2016.

3. Supported by the existing Bank project, the BISP basic cash transfer (US\$ 45 per family per quarter) intervention has already demonstrated impacts on reducing short-term malnutrition, improving beneficiaries' consumption, and women empowerment. The BISP impact evaluation carried out in 2013 (against the 2011 baseline) finds positive effects on reducing wasting – a measure of short-term malnutrition – amongst girls (aged 0-59 months). It also showed an increase in consumption among beneficiaries after two years of implementation, resulting in a 6 percentage points decrease in the poverty gap for households close to the program eligibility threshold. In addition, the BISP is found to have positive effects on a variety of variables associated with women's empowerment. The data indicates that women are more likely to have obtained a national ID card, more likely to have permission to visit friends alone, and that they are more likely to report being able to vote. Finally, the impact evaluation finds no impacts on overall household labor supply, which is in line with findings from other impact evaluations of cash transfer programs.

4. The proposed Program would be a US\$100 million credit from the International Development Association using a Program for Results (PforR) lending instrument, and would be implemented over a period of four years (2017-2021). The disbursement of funds under the PforR modality will be linked to DLIs (US\$85 million) tied to two result areas: Operational Capacity and Systems Development, and Income Support for Human Development and Access to Complementary Services. At the request of the government, a Technical Assistance component (US\$15 million) using Investment Project Financing (IPF) will also be built in the Program to support program management, monitoring, and evaluation. An Environmental and Social System Assessment (ESSA) is being prepared for the PforR operation. This ISDS has been prepared off-line only for the TA component using IPF.

Component One: Result Financing

Result Area 1: Operational Capacity and Systems Development

5. Sub-component 1.1: Update of National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER). This subcomponent will incentivize the government to undertake nationwide update of the NSER, an essential process for maintaining a relevant and useful data repository for objectively identifying the poor. The NSER update would enable BISP to further improve the pro-poor coverage of its core programs and reduce exclusion errors by allowing families who meet the eligibility criteria but do not currently benefit of income support due to lack of updated welfare information in the existing NSER. This subcomponent will also support the development of a beneficiary recertification strategy, including modalities to manage the exit of beneficiaries who no longer qualify the eligibility for basic income support benefits. Finally, the subcomponent will develop the foundation for periodic or dynamic update of the registry data in the future.

6. Sub-component 1.2: Strengthening Service Delivery. This subcomponent would incentivize BISP to advance towards a more dynamic and beneficiary centric service delivery model, by strengthening BISP's network of over 400 offices up to the level of Tehsils (sub-districts) in Pakistan. These are the frontline for program operations, however, they are currently facing capacity constraints with limited procedural and service delivery standards. BISP's future operational and service delivery trajectory will entail expanded responsibility of Tehsil office staff for: updating NSER through a well-defined case management system, coordination with local education authorities for timely monitoring and collection of data on beneficiaries' compliance with co-responsibilities under Waseela-e-Taleem (WeT- a Co-Responsibility Cash Transfer) program; increased interaction with and support to BISP

Beneficiary Committees; and coordination for linking the beneficiaries to selected complementary services and programs. The Program will incentivize a revision of the current staffing and operating model for Tehsil offices along with an appropriate implementation strategy for any new model. Given that local governments are being elected and made functional again in Pakistan, this sub-component will also pilot coordination modalities between BISP Tehsil offices and local governments, to identify how local governments can mobilize communities and potentially facilitate the service delivery.

7. Subcomponent 1.3: Safety Net Administration. This subcomponent will incentivize improvement of BISP systems including, but not limited to, improved communication, information management, and payment systems. More specifically, the BISP Management Information System (MIS) will be further modernized and updated with procedures for data cross checks, and regular internal and external reporting standards for improved transparency and accountability. In addition, the Program will incentivize modernization of payment services by supporting a beneficiary centric payment model that allows beneficiaries to open personalized bank accounts using the formal banking system.

Result Area Two: Income Support for Human Development and Access to Complementary Services

8. Sub-component 1.4: Scale up of Waseela-e-Taleem. This sub-component would incentivize further scale-up of the WeT program to boost enrolment and attendance of primary education by BISP beneficiaries' children (5-12 year old) in the districts where the supply side capacity is favorable. This includes the adjustment of WeT implementation arrangements, vis-à-vis the roles of key actors – BISP, provinces and third party implementers – duly aligned with their respective comparative advantage in leading the beneficiary social mobilization, enrolment, and compliance monitoring.

9. Sub-component 1.5: Support for Linkages with Complementary Social and Productive Services. This subcomponent will incentivize identification and linkages with other programs for improving BISP beneficiaries' access to complementary social and productive services. The intention here is for BISP to leverage its strengths – a well-defined and profiling of beneficiary groups, and strong institutional systems and processes– to link beneficiaries to pre-selected social and productive programs. Social programs include, among others, health, nutrition, and education services, whereas, productive programs would promote economic empowerment of beneficiaries through labor market interventions such as access to finance, formal and non-formal skills training, and asset transfers. At the first stage, this will involve a profiling of beneficiaries by BISP at the household and neighborhood level to assess needs vis-à-vis the complementary services. Second, a mapping will be conducted of relevant existing national and regional complementary programs that can provide beneficiaries access to a range of options for social and productive inclusion. Finally, the Program will support the development of the necessary linkages and modalities between BISP and partner service providers for referral or preferential access to these services for BISP beneficiaries.

Component 2: Technical Assistance for Safety Net Administration, Program Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$15 million equivalent)

10. This component will augment the capacity of the Program implementing agency (i.e. BISP) to design, deliver, monitor and evaluate the activities needed to achieve the DLIs. More specifically, this component will ensure availability of resources for strategic technical assistance to achieve the

Program results; and support capacity building in critical areas where necessary. The component will also support Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the Program. With the rapid expansion of the basic income support and WeT program, BISP's M&E systems have to be strengthened to keep pace with and be responsive to Program growth. This includes interactive M&E tools to capture all elements of the basic income support and WeT program cycle such as process evaluations and spot checks to track program implementation and make relevant information publicly available for increased accountability and transparency. The component will also finance assessments to support BISP in identifying and addressing structural and behavioral barriers to take up the CCT and complementary services. Finally, this component will support enhanced beneficiary centric internal and external communication.

D. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

11. The proposed Program will be implemented at the national level and Program activities will be carried out across the country. It will assist in transparent identification of the poor by following an objective criteria without any discrimination. The Program will not involve any civil works, therefore, no land acquisition and involuntary resettlement is envisaged under the Program. The TA component consists of studies and other technical support for project implementation and will not trigger any safeguard policies.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

12. The Program will be managed and implemented by BISP which is a statutory body formed under the BISP Act, 2010. BISP has been the implementing agency of the World Bank's SSN TA Project (P103160) and its Additional Financing since 2009 and is governed by an independent Management Board with half of the members representing the non-governmental sectors that works in accordance with the BISP Act.

13. BISP will be responsible for the environment and social issues of the overall Program including the TA component. They will actively communicate with the Bank and coordinate with stakeholders as well as other development partners. BISP will ensure that the implementation of the TA component will be in compliance with the relevant World Bank' safeguards policies. Recommendations for further technical support that may emerge from the Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA) may also be supported through this TA component.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Rahat Jabeen (GEN06)

Salma Omar (GSU06)

II. SAFEGUARDS POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	No	The project funds are only used for social uplift of poor and destitute community at national level. The project activities are

		designed for provision of safety net cash transfers to the poor. The project activities will not finance any civil work or construction activities. Therefore the other safeguard polices are also not triggered.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	No natural habitats will be impacted
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	Forest will not be impacted.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	The project will not finance the purchase of pesticides nor promote the use of pesticides.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	There is no impact on Physical Cultural Resources.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There is no impact on indigenous Peoples.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	The project will not involve any civil works, therefore, no land acquisition and involuntary resettlement is envisaged under the project. In the course of the project preparation, the project activities designed should comply with this principle.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project will not trigger safety of dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project is not situated in international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	No disputed areas are involved.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ISDS:

15-September-2016

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the Appraisal-stage ISDS.

None as no Operational Policies have been triggered.

IV. Approval

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Iftikhar Malik, Amjad Zafar Khan, Lucian Bucur Pop	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Maged M. Hamed	Date: August 22, 2016
Practice Manager:	Name: Pablo Gottret	Date: August 23, 2016

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

