

Adaptive Social Protection in Pakistan

Protecting vulnerable households and strengthening their resilience to climate related and other shocks

The Challenge

The Government of Pakistan has made great efforts in recent decades to extend social protection to its citizens and to address the high levels of poverty in the country. However, at the same time, the impacts of climate change are causing existing hazard events to become more intense and occur with greater frequency. In combination with a fast-growing population, increasing inequality and rising food and energy prices, an ever-greater number of people are placed at risk of poverty. In today's world of increasingly frequent natural hazards and climate change-related risks, social protection systems must encompass robust crisis preparedness and response capabilities. There is an urgent need to strengthen access to adaptive and dynamic social protection, particularly for women and girls, and to build the resilience of poor and vulnerable households to climate-related shocks and other disasters – before, during and after a crisis.

Our approach

The Government of Pakistan has laid strong legal and political foundations for social protection. The Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) Project builds on these efforts by improving the necessary institutional, financial and technical structures for implementation. The aim is to enable more people to access the social protection they need, when they need it. Building on the results achieved by the Support to Social Protection – Social Health Protection Project (2016 – 2023), the ASP Project will increase the efficiency and quality of existing social protection programmes, and to link them with in a sustainable way with climate change adaptation and disaster risk management systems.

Facilitating linkages and enhancing coordination

Activities initially focus on enhancing dialogue and facilitating exchange, both vertically between social protection stakeholders at provincial and federal levels, and horizontally between different stakeholders at the federal level.

For example, the ASP Project is supporting the establishment of an Adaptive Social Protection Secretariat under the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (MoPASS). This

Project name	Adaptive Social Protection in Pakistan
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Partners	Economic Affairs Division;
Duration	August 2023 – September 2026

Secretariat will foster effective dialogue between ministries and agencies concerned with social protection, including the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and international development partners. Working with UNICEF, the ASP Project also supported the establishment of the first Cash Transfer Coordination Group under the auspices of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the different social protection institutions at federal and provincial levels will help to address programme fragmentation and duplication and, as part of these efforts, the ASP Project is also working with them to develop the capacities of their personnel.



Page 1 (Left)

The BISP beneficiary is waiting in queue as the supervisor calls her token number.

Page 1 (Right)

The official is verifying the details of BISP beneficiary.



Johanna Knoess
johanna.knoess@giz.de

Page 2 (Left):
The woman beneficiary is showing her identification documents to the BISP official at Tehsil Office.

Page 2 (Right):
The BISP official is verifying the beneficiary details provided to her.

Improving women's access to social protection and their financial inclusion

Empowering women and girls is central to the ASP approach. As BISP's dynamic registration system is rolled out from the Tehsil to the Union Council level with support from the ASP Project and other partners, women – as the primary recipients of BISP cash transfers – will benefit the most.

The ASP Project is supporting women to build and manage financial resources, helping them to open bank accounts and providing training on financial literacy. The Project is also building the capacities of female facilitators who are supporting the roll-out of the dynamic registries, training them to take on the key role of social protection case worker while developing their knowledge base to create a more sustainable basis for continued employment. These activities will strengthen women's roles in the community.

Integrating social protection, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

Adaptive social protection entails linking social protection systems with the systems required for managing the risks and reducing the impacts of natural hazards and promoting climate change adaptation (see diagram).

The ASP Project is supporting the integration of social protection mechanisms in disaster risk management plans and facilitates integrated planning and risk assessments across the three sectors. In addition, the ASP Project is working on linking social protection systems with anticipatory action to facilitate proactive protection and reduce the impacts of future events on the most vulnerable.

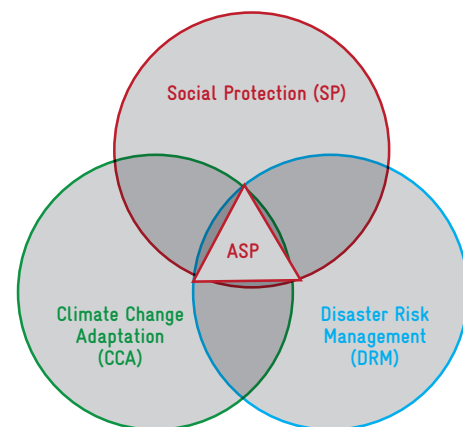
Supporting data exchange for planning and implementing social protection

The project will facilitate agreement on data sharing protocols among diverse partners at national and provincial levels. The ultimate aim is to develop a framework where disaster and climate risk data can be combined with social protection data to develop more accurate risk assessment models (such as multi-hazard vulnerability risk assessments) and to guide adaptive social protection interventions.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a social registry is being developed that will be interoperable with BISP's National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER), which will enable two-way automated data exchange so that those in greatest need can be targeted quickly and effectively.

With this broad spectrum of support, the ASP Project aims to support Pakistan in establishing adaptive and sustainable social protection systems at all levels of government and contribute to the long-term development of the population's resilience towards future shocks and crises.

Adaptive social protection - the intersection with Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation



Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Level 2, Serena Business Complex, Khayaban-e-Suhrawardy,
Sector G-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan

T +92 51 111 489 725
I www.giz.de

As at May, 2024

Printed by Islamabad

Design SAP Communications

Photo credits © GIZ Pakistan
© Shutterstock.com

Text Maria Majid
Adaptive Social Protection / Support to Social Protection -
Social Health Protection
Administrative Specialist

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division 2B00 Pakistan, Afghanistan