



RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND ADVANCEMENT

RASTA Competitive Grants Programme for Policy-oriented Research

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad

www.pide.org.pk/rasta

CGP 4.0 Call for Research Proposals

The '*Research for Social Transformation and Advancement*' (RASTA) is the largest economics and public policy research grants programme in Pakistan. RASTA's mission is to develop an extensive research network of academia and think tanks across Pakistan producing high-quality, evidence-based policy research to inform Pakistan's public policy process. The objectives of RASTA programme are to:

- i. Reduce research-policy gap by stimulating economic and social science research and debate across Pakistan.
- ii. Provide a knowledge-sharing/generating platform where different actors can present and share evidence-based research to inform decision-making in the government.
- iii. Revisit the public policy agenda in line with the evidence produced in this programme.
- iv. Build capacity and improve policymaking and implementation by involving and engaging local universities, think tanks, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders.

With these objectives, the programme seeks to develop local thought communities and generate knowledge. Substantial outputs will be completed in critical areas of public policy that will produce insightful research and

facilitate goals that the Government wants to achieve according to its vision. So far, RASTA has awarded 32 research projects in three rounds of the Competitive Grants Programme (CGP) worth PKR 91.5 million. More information about RASTA is available at: www.pide.org.pk/rasta.

In light of the experience of the first three rounds of CGP, the RASTA Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has decided to invite research proposals on specific research topics instead of broader themes. For the **CGP 4.0**, research proposals are invited on 21 research topics. To give more clarity, brief concept notes are provided with each research topic. This approach will not only help the CGP applicants to formulate questions and design their research, but also prepare a good research proposal that will increase their probability to win research grant from RASTA. Details are provided in the section below.

NOTE: This approach (CGP 4.0 research topics & concept briefs) aims to invite research proposals on issues of greater public policy interest. Although applicants are encouraged to formulate/submit research proposals on the given topics, proposals on similar topics/questions will also be entertained.

RASTA CGP 4.0 CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

RASTA Competitive Grants Programme (CGP) 4.0 invites research proposals on the following 21 research topics:

I. ECONOMIC GROWTH, INVESTMENT & SAVINGS

1. TRUE SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT RATES IN PAKISTAN

Despite a reasonably high rate of economic growth in the pre-1990 period, both reported savings and investment rates in Pakistan have been low compared to other countries at the same stage of economic development. At the same time, however, a substantial amount of saving is done using informal channels, which is not captured/reported by official statistics. Similarly, investment is also made through informal channels. There is, therefore, a need to calculate Pakistan's true (undeclared) savings and investment rates that also take into account the informal channels. Exploring the reasons why savings and investment are not channelized using formal means can enrich the study further.

2. FISCAL MULTIPLIERS OF PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENTS AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL

Evidence suggests that public investment has a significant impact on economic activity even at the regional level. In the post-Eighteenth Amendment and seventh NFC Award scenario, provinces have the autonomy to design their own development programs and utilise resources according to their needs. A comprehensive analysis is required to evaluate the socioeconomic impact of provincial development programs. The following analyses can be carried out at the provincial level: (A) estimate the fiscal multiplier of development programs to measure the impact of an increase in the size of the development program on provincial GDP growth; and/or (B) the crowding-in and crowding-out effects of public investment.

3. ESTIMATING PAKISTAN'S INVESTMENT GAP

PIDE's Reform Agenda (RAPID) stresses that 'to achieve sustainable growth, Pakistan needs to increase its

investment rate, which is very low compared to other countries in the region'. To test this argument, there is a need to analyse the investment dynamics in Pakistan. Specifically, the following aspects need to be covered: (A) Estimate the existing investment gap based on a perception/market survey; and/or (B) Identify the structural impediments to private investment using equity and debt financing. In this regard, recording and analysing the experiences of the business community, including large, medium, and small investors can enrich the discussion.

II. PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT, TAXATION & INFLATION

4. SPATIOTEMPORAL ANALYSIS OF INFLATION

Inflation remains a challenge for the government for the last many years. While controlling prices and ensuring that they remain uniform across different regions/localities through administrative measures, sometimes it turns out to be counterproductive. Therefore, an analysis of the effectiveness of measures, monetary or administrative, in containing inflation is warranted. However, even before that, more important is to analyse the measure of inflation, i.e., CPI, itself and its different dimensions such as (A) an analysis of the components of CPI, whether CPI is representative of true inflation, and whether it represents a household's consumption basket; and/or (B) compare different price indices, i.e., CPI and WPI, and DC rates, and examine the correlation between them. The proposed study must explore and identify the best measure (indicator) to capture inflation.

5. REVIEW OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

Pakistan has a perennial problem of high and, at times, unsustainable budget deficit resulting in excessive borrowing, cuts in development expenditure with serious implications for human resource development, and economic governance. To resolve these issues, the

emphasis is generally on improvement in tax collection, which has remained unsuccessful. There is a dearth of analysis that focuses on the expenditure side of the picture. The focus of the proposed research should be on: (A) A careful review of domestic and external debt (the cost of borrowing and maturity profile etc.) to prioritize repayment of expensive debt and easing of the debt burden; (B) A review of the size of the government including the state-owned entities; (C) Burden of pensions and how to manage it; and/or (D) Nature and extent of PSDP/ADP to reduce spending on relatively less important projects.

6. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF WITHHOLDING TAXATION

Withholding Taxes (WHT), within the 'Income & Corporate Tax' category in Pakistan have assumed an unprecedented proportion by contributing nearly 65% of the so-called direct tax receipts. With an increase in the number of WHTs, the number of withholding agents has also increased manifold, increasing the reliance of FBR on withholding agents, which has introduced many difficulties for taxpayers as well as tax collectors. The following aspects need to be analysed: (A) Historical development of WHT; (B) Taxability of WHTs (adjustable vs final) and Regressiveness; (C) Nature and size of the withholding agents (WHAs) and FBR control over them; and/or (D) The time delay in tax receipts by WHA, onward transfer to FBR, and stuck-up funds.

III. POLITICAL INSTABILITY, POLICE REFORM & JUSTICE SYSTEM

7. ECONOMIC COST OF POLITICAL UNREST & SECURITY LOCKDOWN

Political instability (such as political protests, strikes, and dharnas) and security lockdown (such as lockdown due to international events, sports, and religious events) involve enormous socioeconomic and opportunity costs. These events paralyse the local economic activities and cause huge losses in terms of waste of resources and missed opportunities. A study is required to measure the actual cost borne by the society, the business community, and the government because of such political unrest and/or security-related lockdowns. The

study should not only focus on the (direct) monetary cost of the event but also explores other (indirect) social/psychological aspects and their effect on investment and the market.

8. INFLUENCE OF JUSTICE SYSTEM ON BUSINESS & INVESTMENT

Crime and the justice system have a strong correlation. Insecurity due to crime/threat and litigation have serious repercussions for domestic commerce (wholesale & retail trade, transport & communication, finance & insurance, construction, and real estate), investments, economic growth, and development. On the one hand, a lack of adequate security and a high crime rate may discourage domestic, private, and foreign investments in the country. It would also lead to a higher cost of doing business and discourage growth and innovation. On the other hand, the inefficiencies and delays in the delivery of justice further complicate the lives of the people involved in domestic commerce eventually undermining the business development environment, slowing down sectoral growth, limiting investment opportunities, and harming the social capital. Proposed research may capture the effects of insecurity and the justice system on business and investment at national, sub-national, and/or sectoral levels.

9. POLICE REFORMS: NOW & THE FUTURE

Police reform essentially includes two broad dimensions. First, internal systemic reform that may affect the efficiency, performance, and transparency of the system. And second, expectations of the public regarding service delivery and accountability. Previous efforts of police reforms have mainly focused on strengthening the hierarchy. New posts were created, new streams were established, and new projects were launched, but the focus has barely remained on the purchase of vehicles, equipment, and weapons. Inadequate attention has been given to the quality and quantity of human resource as well as the skills and tasks that police is meant to do. In such a scenario, Pakistan's efforts to combat crime and terrorist activities are being overmatched by the innovation and agility of criminal networks and terrorist organizations (ASPI). This calls for a comprehensive study on police reform that should delve deeper into the

issues and challenges related to training, maintaining law & order, thana culture, investigation, traffic control, counter-terrorism, forensics, the use of technology, etc.

10. JUDICIAL REFORMS IN PAKISTAN

The judiciary is a key institution that protects human rights, property rights, political rights, and enforces contracts. Yet, Pakistan's judiciary is facing the twin problems of huge case backlogs and a low level of public trust in the institution. The Judiciary in Pakistan has 3,000 judges for a population of more than 220 million. Most cases take more than five years to be decided and roughly 2 million cases are currently pending. This pendency of cases creates a huge backlog, which disproportionately affects marginalized populations, including the poor, women, religious minorities, and people with disabilities who are more likely to come into contact with the justice system than the rest of the population (NJPMC, 2020).

In this context, the proposed research should focus on (A) the constraints and congestion within the judiciary with a particular focus on the cases in the lower courts and judicial reforms at that level (civil and session). Research is also required to explore other areas needing attention such as (B) a critical evaluation of the process/criteria of judicial appointments, (C) caseload management practices in Pakistan at all levels and evidence/international experience to improve it, (D) evaluate the power/authority of the judges especially the chief justice of Supreme Court and High Courts, and/or (E) rationale and analysis of costs associated with the adjournment/ pendency/ stay orders of the cases – can there be a timeline/fixed maximum duration for every case (at the time of filing/registration) in which it should be concluded?

11. ECONOMIC COST OF LITIGATION IN PAKISTAN

In Pakistan, it is often argued that the judicial system is inefficient, inequitable, expensive, protracted, and time-consuming. Although the use of modern tools in case management and other matters has been initiated, it is still sporadic and selective. The inefficiencies and delays impose costs, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, on the economy. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a majority of these cases are frivolous. Inefficiencies in the judicial

system and protracted litigation entail costs, which divert resources from more useful uses, resulting in inefficiencies and the loss of output. Therefore, there is a need to analyse the judicial system in Pakistan: (A) The sources of inefficiencies in the judicial system of Pakistan; (B) How archaic and colonial-era laws have impacted the judicial system of Pakistan; and/or (C) The economic cost of litigation in Pakistan.

12. REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION FACILITIES IN PAKISTAN

An effective criminal justice system and adequate correction facilities are critical to rehabilitating the convicted inmates that neutralize risks and vulnerabilities in any society. However, there is a lack of uniformity in rehabilitation policies in Pakistan since it is a provincial subject. This is hampering efforts at the policy and operational levels. There is limited research available on the correction facilities (prisons) which are meant to provide physical, mental, and psychological treatments to the convicted inmates so that they can become better human beings and responsible citizens. Through a case study approach, there is a need to explore (A) the state of prisons and prisoners in different cities; (B) examine the training and competence of the prison staff; (C) investigate efforts in making prisoners' lives less miserable and help them to rehabilitate, and/or (D) suggest policy recommendations to reform the existing prison system in the country.

IV. EDUCATION, HUMAN CAPITAL & OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

13. OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children with an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 not attending school, representing 44 per cent of the total population in this age group. Further, disparities based on gender, socio-economic status, and geography are significant. Several empirical studies and policy reports have been written on the subject; however, it still lacks a deeper understanding. There is a need to capture important local nuances on the issue that take the debate beyond statistics and donor-driven policy research. Proposed research should explore (A)

Actual reasons behind the trends found in the country and suggest actionable ways of tackling it. The evaluation may include (B) the use of technology, model/structure of schooling, parental behaviour, syllabus and teaching methods, smart schooling such as revisiting days/hours at school, etc as a possible source of making children attend school and learn.

14. EVALUATION OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

The argument to invest in human resource development as a source of economic growth is well documented. Pakistani youth is lagging in the requisite skills and there is a major skill deficit which is a hindrance to employment both locally and globally. The right kind of skills can enable Pakistanis to increase their share in the global market. A high-quality workforce helps to achieve productivity growth and attract foreign investment which results in more and better jobs. Keeping in view its potential for growth and productivity levels, a number of technical and vocational training institutes were established, and multiple programmes were launched over the last two decades. Today, there is a vast network of these institutes across Pakistan managed by federal/provincial governments, some funded by development partners, providing opportunities to gain skills in numerous fields. However, how effective these programmes were/are, there is not much evidence. Proposed research may focus on (A) the evaluation of these TVET institutes, (B) a cost-benefit analysis of a particular programme, and/or (C) investigating the structural problems and proliferation of skill development infrastructure in Pakistan at national and sub-national levels.

15. IS IT THE QUALITY OR NATURE OF EDUCATION THAT IS CAUSING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT?

There is a widespread belief, based on experience that employers are not getting desired employees, and those looking for employment are not finding jobs. Perhaps, there is a demand-supply gap, or one may say there is a skill/quality gap that needs to be explored. Proposed research may address questions: (A) Is it a question of poor-quality education/ training or the subjects being taught? (B) Is there a need to update knowledge in the

subjects being taught or do some totally different subjects need to be taught? (C) What kind of employers are not finding a relevant workforce, and why? (D) Which degrees/training have no/limited value in labour market, and why? And/or (E) Which skills are needed to get a university degree holder into a job and/or set up his/her own business?

V. URBAN DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRY

16. EXPANSION OF CITIES AND AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

Urbanization is primarily associated with population growth and opportunities. Pakistan is witnessing an unprecedented growth of urban areas. The challenge that remains is the urban sprawl and horizontal growth of cities. The mushroom growth of housing societies has extended the boundaries of cities to such an extent that they are encroaching upon prime agricultural lands. As a result, agriculture is shifting to marginal lands where the productivity is much lower than prime lands.

The proposed research in this area may address the following key concerns: (A) Historical assessment of the evolution of cities through GIS and similar techniques; (B) Review of Pakistan's urban planning and the role of central/ provincial/ city authorities in city management enshrined in law/ rules/ procedures; (C) Assessment of housing societies and encroachment of agricultural lands; (D) Assessment of growth of informal settlements around cities; (E) Assessment of agriculture output foregone as a result of shifting of agriculture from prime to marginal lands and the resulting consequences for food security and agricultural sustainability; and/or (F) Critical analysis of housing demand, shortage and policies favouring vertical housing in different parts of the country.

17. REIMAGINING/DESIGNING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN PAKISTAN

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been used by emerging and developed economies to create clusters of innovation and high productivity centres. However, in Pakistan, it seems SEZs have not been able to replicate the success models of SEZs in China or Dubai. Perhaps,

there is a need to look deeper into how SEZs are conceptualized and operationalised in Pakistan. In this context, we need a multidisciplinary approach that benefits from a conversation among industrialists, urban planners, architects, engineers, lawyers, civil servants, sociologists, anthropologists, and economists. The aim is to come up with an indigenous model of viable SEZs that actually help Pakistan develop its knowledge base and exploit comparative advantage.

The proposed study may focus on: (A) Pakistan can learn from international experience. Therefore, SEZs of successful countries such as China and Dubai need to be analyzed and juxtaposed with the Pakistani model/experience; (B) Why do SEZs take too long to develop in Pakistan? What are the challenges and hurdles? For example, In Pakistan, a majority of entrepreneurs buy land in SEZs with the hope that they can sell it at a premium after a few years; (C) How does the idea of industrial cities fit in with the idea of SEZs; and/or (D) What alternatives exist to what is currently understood in policy circles in Pakistan?

18. RETHINKING PAKISTAN'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Manufacturing's contribution to Pakistan's GDP has been stable yet stagnant. However, manufacturing is the backbone of economic growth for countries such as Pakistan. Perhaps, there is a need to revisit, rethink, and revamp Pakistan's manufacturing sector to put the growth back on track. Moreover, there is a need to rethink the role of manufacturing in Pakistan's growth strategy. The proposed research may try to answer questions: (A) Do we need an industrial policy? (B) Can Pakistan's labour force fulfil the needs of Pakistan's manufacturing sector? It entails the analysis of the skills needed by the manufacturing sector. Further, the industrial policy needs to be analysed in light of existing trends and current debate.

VI. CASE STUDY / EVALUATIONS

19. UNLOCKING THE DEAD CAPITAL: CASE STUDIES OF PUBLIC SECTOR ENTITIES

The vast number of public resources in terms of land, buildings, and other facilities are owned by different

government entities. Largely, these public assets are either used for unproductive purposes such as employees housing colonies or remain unutilized. A study is needed to identify the economic potential of the public assets held by different government entities including autonomous and semi-autonomous. For instance, the railway stations and airports in major cities can be transformed into commercial centres. Large public sector university land can be utilised for commercial activities helping the university to generate revenue and reduce the burden on the government exchequer. Similarly, empty government buildings can be rented out to the private sector and/or utilised in public-private partnerships. The proposed study should focus on the effective management of public assets by valuing them according to their market value. Similarly, a cost-benefit analysis is required to put these assets to alternate uses.

20. EVALUATION OF PPRA RULES EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

It is often alleged that public procurement rules and regulations in Pakistan are inefficient. The inefficiencies result from often unjustified requirements for procurement as outlined in PPRA rules and regulations. The regulation of public procurement is needed but the regulations must not be such that they stifle the smooth and efficient working of public sector organizations. Similarly, PPRA rules and regulations sometimes result in procuring things at higher than market rates. Therefore, there is a need to analyse PPRA and suggest reform. The proposed study should (A) analyse the PPRA rules and regulations and compare them with other countries; and/or (B) calculate sludge and analyse cost escalation and time delays due to PPRA rules.

21. CRITICAL EVALUATION OF SUBSIDIES IN PAKISTAN

Subsidies are cash grants, loans, and/or waiver on payments (tax reduction) given to particular industries or target groups/individuals to promote growth, impact business, and/or protect consumers (the poor) against inflation. From farmers to industrialists, the Government of Pakistan provides billions of Rupees in subsidies for a wide range of economic activities. However, there has been limited research on the impact of these subsidies.

Proposed research may focus on: (A) collecting data on all subsidies and conducting cost-benefit analysis; (B) examining the role and impact of subsidies in setting the support price for agriculture commodities; and/or (C) impact evaluation of programmes/ policy interventions/ initiatives which involve significant subsidy content and fiscal resources such as Ehsaas, Kamyab Pakistan, and TERF.

RASTA CGP 4.0 invites research proposals on the above listed research topics. Proposed studies must identify key policy issues and public policy decisions in Pakistan; assess outcomes of those decisions empirically; evaluate constraints to policy reform; and examine alternative policy recommendations to enhance their impact. The proposal submission is due by **15th June 2022**, midnight Pakistan Standard Time (PST).

CGP GRANT DESCRIPTION

This is RASTA Competitive Grants Programme's (CGP) fourth call for research proposals. Submissions will be thoroughly reviewed, and progress of award studies will be closely monitored by the 'Research Advisory Committee' (RAC) of RASTA. Following are the broad principals of the programme:

1. The maximum duration to complete a project will be 12 months. Shorter duration studies are encouraged.
2. The maximum grant available for a project is PKR 5.0 million; PKR 3.5 million for desk research.
3. Proposals will be evaluated by the choice of the problem and expected knowledge outcomes for countrywide or local development.
4. Applications will be thoroughly reviewed and discussed by the members of the RAC and the Review Panel before reaching the Award decision.
5. Reviewers' comments on the research proposals will be shared with all applicants regardless of the outcome.
6. Mentor(s) will be assigned to provide technical assistance on each award study and M&E Desk at RASTA will facilitate the research process.
7. All data collected and work produced under RASTA will have to be submitted for authenticity checks.
8. Multiple conferences/workshops/webinars will

be organized allowing all reviewers, award winners and sector specialists to see progress and develop network learning.

9. Evaluation of government initiatives, policies and processes, and assessment of institutions and their performance in broader socio-economic and development context are encouraged.
10. Female applicants, university students and researchers from less developed areas of Pakistan are encouraged to participate in the RASTA programme.

APPLICANTS' QUALIFICATION: Research proposals are solicited from qualified individuals (and/or group of individuals) interested in the economic development and public policy issues of Pakistan, including faculty members and staff at international and local universities and research institutes within and outside Pakistan. Freelancers, policy specialists and/or practitioners may also submit proposals to win the CGP Awards. Research proposals are encouraged from Pakistani graduate students enrolled in PhD and thesis-based MS/MPhil degree programmes at Pakistani and foreign universities, and/or from faculty members to support the research of these students.

INCLUSION POLICY: In light of the RASTA objectives, three **Tiers** have been defined so as to give equal opportunities to the applicants from less developed areas. **Tier 1** includes applicants/institutes in the North and Central Punjab, Karachi and all foreign institutes; **Tier 2** includes applicants/institutes in the South of Punjab,

Sindh (except Karachi) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; while **Tier 3** includes applicants/institutes in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Proposals from each of the three tiers will be evaluated in separate competitive categories. Outstanding proposals from each category are anticipated to be funded. Proposals

may be submitted by individual applicants or by teams of up to four investigators. Collaborative proposals by teams based at multiple institutions and/or involving practitioners from the relevant policy sector organization are encouraged.

CGP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

ELEMENTS OF THE GRANT APPLICATION: English is the language to be used in the RASTA Competitive Grants Programme. All CGP applications must include the following:

1. RASTA Form A-1 (Cover Sheet)
2. RASTA Form A-2 (Research Proposal - Technical)
3. RASTA Form A-3 (Proposed Budget)
4. Additional Documents:
 - For professional applicants: A brief curriculum vitae (1-3 pages) for Principal Investigator/Co-PI.
 - For university student applicants: (i) Official transcript of graduate coursework completed and list of planned additional course enrolment, and (ii) A letter of recommendation from the applicant's supervisor.

SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINE: Download the RASTA Application Forms (A-1, A-2 and A-3) from RASTA website. Complete forms (in MS Word format) must be submitted electronically to rasta@pide.org.pk before the deadline. Complete applications will be acknowledged by return email within 14 days after the submission deadline.

- Do NOT mention your name and/or organization anywhere except in Form A-1 (Cover Sheet). The application will not be processed in case of non-compliance. There is no need to submit a hardcopy of the application.
- The deadline for applications submission is **15th June 2022** by midnight, Pakistan Standard Time (PST). Incomplete applications and applications received after deadline will not be considered.

BUDGET GUIDELINES: The maximum grant available for a project is 5.0 million. Remuneration of maximum Rs. 150,000 per month for each member of the research team; maximum of 70% of the total announced grant, i.e., Rs. 3.5 million can be availed under RASTA CGP. A research team can be comprised of a maximum of four members, including the PI. The Co-PIs may not be paid more than the PI. Income tax on remuneration will be deducted at source. For field visits/ data collection, TADA/accommodation costs can be included as per the Federal Govt rules. A maximum of 03% contingency and 10% institutional overhead of the calculated budget are permissible; to be included within the upper limit of the grant.

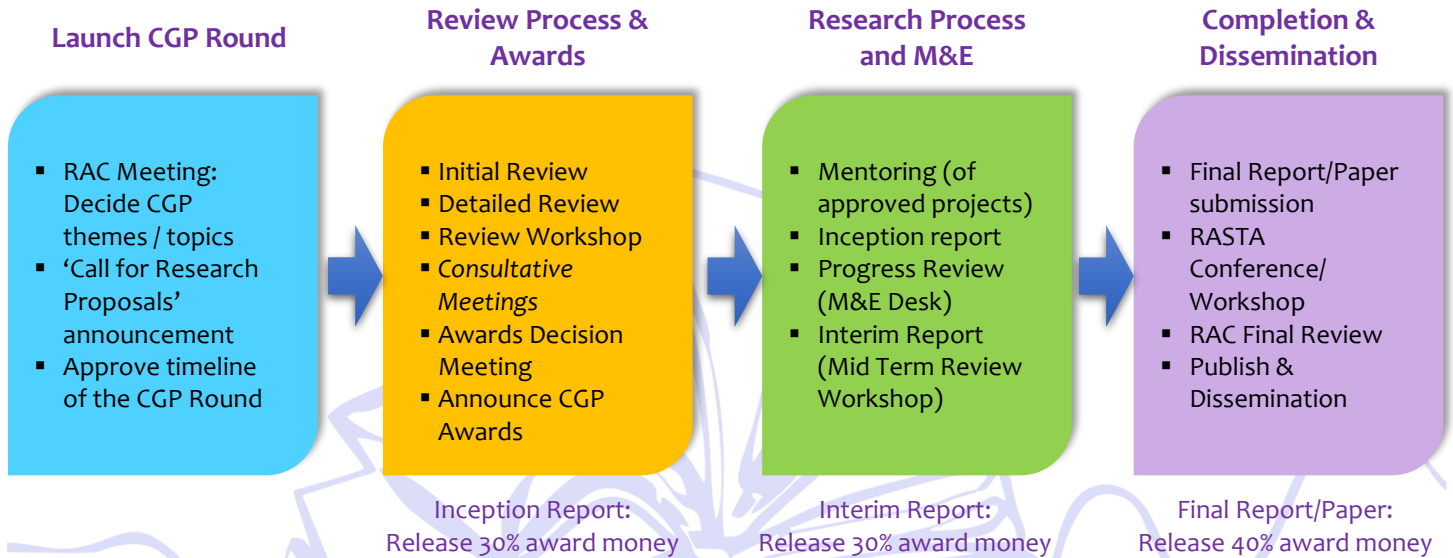
DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS: The disbursement of award money will occur in three tranches linked to the deliverables:

- 30% upon selection of the proposal for an award and submission of *Inception Report*
 - 30% upon satisfactory acceptance by the review panel of an *Interim Report* & presentation at the Mid-Term Review Workshop; and finally
 - 40% upon satisfactory acceptance by the review panel of the project's final *Research Paper* & presentation at the RASTA Conference.
- **NOTE:** There is No provision for any hardware/software purchases including data, books, laptop, software, equipment etc. Publishing, printing and dissemination of the study is the responsibility of RASTA. Awardee shall provide duly verified receipts of all expenses. If there is any unspent balance, it will be adjusted in the 3rd instalment. Detailed accounting procedures will be shared with the CGP Awardees.

CGP PROCESS

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS: All complete grant applications will be reviewed by a scholarly review panel comprised of members of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Proposals will be evaluated based on (i) The importance of the topic and relevance to the given research themes; (ii) Cohesion and creativity of the proposed research; (iii) Research design and technical

feasibility of the proposed research approach and analysis; (iv) Value of expected research outcomes for public policy; and (v) Qualifications of the Principal Investigator(s) for undertaking the proposed study. Only top-ranked proposals will be invited for oral presentation (in person or online) before the RASTA review panel. Complete CGP Process is illustrated below:



EXPECTED OUTPUTS & RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

RASTA Fellows are expected to produce a research article or monograph of international peer-reviewed publication quality. Interim reports and final papers submitted to the review panel for approval of grant fund disbursements are expected to be intermediate products leading to final published output as RASTA Working Paper and/or a Book Chapter. The RAC may also ask the grant recipient to produce one or two RASTA Policy Briefs for wider research dissemination. RASTA will reserve all the rights of the research funded under its programme until. However, after the publication of a Working Paper and Policy Brief, the RASTA Fellow will be given the rights to publish the paper anywhere/in any form. RASTA Fellows may present their work-in-progress

at national/international conferences and/or workshops with the prior (written) approval from the RASTA Secretariat at PIDE Islamabad.

The RASTA programme will organise multiple research conferences/workshops. RASTA Fellows are expected to make two presentations of their work: (i) a presentation corresponding to their interim research report at the Mid-Term Review Workshop and a final presentation corresponding to their research paper at the RASTA Conference. Members of the RAC and other invitees from the public & private sector will participate in these events.

RASTA PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

The RASTA programme is managed by the Project Management Team (PMT) at PIDE, Islamabad. The RASTA PMT manages all programme activities under the leadership of Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, Chairman RAC / Vice Chancellor, PIDE Islamabad and Dr Faheem Jehangir Khan, Project Director, RASTA / Senior Research Economist, PIDE Islamabad. The PMT, stationed at an

independent Project Management Unit, is responsible for the administration of grant selection procedure made by the scholarly RAC, disbursement of funds based on the fulfilment of the grant requirements by recipients, and other operational aspects of the programme. For more details about the RASTA PMT, visit RASTA website.

RASTA RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The RASTA is guided by a scholarly Research Advisory Committee (RAC), chaired by Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor, PIDE Islamabad. The members of the RAC are well-reputed national and international researchers, academics, practitioners, international economic development scholars, and senior federal and provincial government officials. The role of RAC is critical from the

call for applications stage to final submission of the research paper. Each member of RAC critically reviews research proposals, participates in the decision to award funds, monitors the progress, and mentors some awarded research studies during the course. For more details about the RAC, visit RASTA website.

RASTA EVENTS & KNOWLEDGE HUB

Visit RASTA Events & Knowledge Hub to find more about RASTA events, research videos, conference/working papers and policy briefs. The research produced and published through its earlier PSSP Competitive Grants

Programme is also available there. As per the RASTA Open Access policy, all research material is available on the web free of cost. For more details about the RASTA events and knowledge hub, visit RASTA website.

RASTA SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTACT

For queries and/or correspondence related to the RASTA programme, write to rasta@pide.org.pk

For latest updates and activities, follow [@RASTA_PIDE](https://twitter.com/RASTA_PIDE) on Twitter.



RASTA Project Management Unit

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