



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

DDR Call for Research Proposals (Nov '22)

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 49 research projects in four rounds of the Competitive Grants Programme (CGP) worth PKR 129 million, and commissioned 18 research projects under Demand Driven Research (DDR) programme worth PKR 182 million. More information about RASTA is available at: www.pide.org.pk/rasta.

The RASTA is pleased to invite research proposals on specific research topic under DDR, i.e., **Cities Regeneration**. To give clarity to what exactly is expected from the research projects, detailed TORs are provided for the guidance of interested applicants. It is anticipated that this approach will help the potential applicants to formulate questions and design their research in line with the TORs, and also prepare good research proposals that will increase their probability to win DDR research grant from RASTA. Details are provided in the section below.

NOTE: Although applicants are encouraged to formulate/ submit research proposals on the given topic, the research design may vary according to the choice of locale and anticipated business plan.

DDR CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS (Nov '22)

RASTA Demand Driven Research (DDR) programme invites research proposals on the following topic:

CITIES REGENERATION



City regeneration is a forgotten subject in Pakistan as all efforts are encouraging urban sprawl (See: Haque (2015, 2020) and Haque & Nayab (2019)). Proposed studies may seek to develop ideas on city regeneration in Pakistan.

The scope may include: **(A)** Identification of an area in your city that has a large opportunity cost and is ready to rejuvenate. It should be a prime locale that is in despair, crowded, and rezoning and redesigning could increase investment significantly. Such areas are often occupied by old disused/underutilised buildings/offices but have large land that can benefit the city. For instance, government residences or land owned by Pakistan Railways, Auqaf, and/or Evacuee Trust Property Board, all carry extensive land holdings.

(B) In these areas, the study must plan to rezone and redesign for maximum benefit to cities, economy, and employment. City regeneration usually involves mixed-use high-rise developments with community and public spaces that maximize economic and social benefit. Innovative equity enhancing solutions are suggested. All such rejuvenation will be based on maximal private investment. Government seed investment must be recoverable. Land value capture must be considered.

(C) The study must justify reasons for selecting certain locale. Explicitly identify the opportunity cost. Explore and present detailed plan for rejuvenation keeping in view (i) to make modern spaces of walkability, density, mixed use with community, public and flexible spaces to allow people to adjust their demands, and (ii) rezoning and design – not on public investment. Private investment must be at the heart of all plans.

(D) The study must present calculations: (i) costs to the state of infrastructure and development, (ii) gains to the state and economy in terms of revenue generation, both

short- and long-term, (iii) possible investment by the private sector – must catalyse enough private investment to generate a surplus for the government, not a deficit, (iv) possible foreign investment, (v) employment gains, both short- and long-term, (vi) resulting numbers of new housing units, commercial units, & other kinds of spaces – creating gentrification and poor housing balance, and (vii) other gains to the community and public space.

(E) Study examples from international practices of such city rejuvenation in European, Asia and/or American cities (read Dag Detter & Stefan Fölster's *The Public Wealth of Cities: How to Unlock Hidden Assets to Boost Growth and Prosperity*). Create case study by taking one case of such regeneration as an example and illustration of what the proposed research is suggesting. This should be of a high standard covering aspects of the regeneration in detail.

(F) The regeneration (business) plan must have enough information with maps and detailed knowledge of the area to outline (i) the evolution of that particular locale, (ii) existing zoning, building rules, and proposed changes in existing regulations, (ii) the existing shortages and indicators of demand and how the proposed plan would address these, (iii) flexible mechanisms to allow changing demand to meet evolving needs, (iv) how will the regeneration plan change the lifestyles, commerce, and entrepreneurship, and (v) while gentrification might happen, can there be safeguards for inclusion.



DDR GRANT DESCRIPTION

This is RASTA demand Driven Research (DDR) call for research proposals, November 2022. Research proposals are invited on the above listed research topic.

Considering nation-wide scope of the Call, multiple projects (from different cities and/or locale) may receive funding. Proposed studies must conduct/present a comprehensive background research and incorporate the scope given above. Preferably, the study would require a research team comprising of economists, town planners, and architects.

Submit proposals using prescribed (RASTA D-1, D-2, & D-3 Forms, available on RASTA website) by Wednesday **30th November 2022**, midnight (PST).

All submissions will be thoroughly reviewed, and progress of research projects 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 the said project will be 06 months (per study).
2. The maximum grant available for the said project is PKR 3.5 million (per study).
3. Proposals will be evaluated by the choice of the problem (locale) and expected knowledge outcomes for countrywide or local development.
4. It is mandatory to justify how the proposed research is relevant & valuable to public policy in Pakistan and justify the contribution and establish link with the existing government policy/ strategy.
5. Applications will be thoroughly reviewed and discussed by the members of the RAC and the Review Panel before reaching the Award decision.
6. Only shortlisted teams will be invited to present their proposals before the RAC in the DDR Review Workshop.

7. Mentor(s) will be assigned to provide technical assistance on each award study and M&E Desk at RASTA will facilitate the research process.
8. The Mentors and the PMT will monitor progress and evaluate all the deliverables, i.e., inception report, mid-term (interim) report, & final report.
9. All data collected and work produced under RASTA will have to be submitted for authenticity checks.
10. Multiple conferences/workshops/webinars will be organized allowing all reviewers, RASTA Fellows and sector specialists to see progress and develop network learning.
11. There are no purchases (of both hardware and software) allowed under DDR.
12. Female applicants, university students and researchers from less developed areas of Pakistan are encouraged to participate in the RASTA programme.
13. To keep it fair, RAC members' family members (including parents, spouse and children) are NOT eligible to participate in DDR projects.

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 DDR 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.

DDR APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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

1. RASTA Form D-1 (Cover Sheet)
2. RASTA Form D-2 (Research Proposal - Technical)
3. RASTA Form D-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 research supervisor.

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

- Do NOT mention your name and/or organisation anywhere except in Form D-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 **30th November 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 3.5 million. Remuneration of maximum Rs. 150,000 per month for each member of the research team. A research team can be comprised of a maximum of four members, including the PI. The Co-PIs should not get 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/ Report* & presentation at the RASTA event.

- **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. Fellows 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 RASTA Fellows.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS & RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

RASTA Fellows are expected to present their papers in the RASTA Conference and at other national and/or international conferences/research events. There would be two types of publications: (a) RASTA Conference Papers/Reports, and (b) RASTA: Local Research, Local Solutions Volumes.

All Fellows will be asked to produce one or two RASTA Policy Briefs for wider research dissemination.

The RASTA programme will organise multiple research events. RASTA Fellows are expected to make two presentations of their work: (a) a presentation corresponding to their interim research report at the Mid-Term Review Workshop, and (b) a final presentation corresponding to their research paper at the RASTA Conference. Members of the RAC and other invitees from public and private sectors 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, 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.

FOLLOW & CONTACT RASTA

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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