




Health and Population Think Tank
Health Services Academy
Consultative Meeting Oct. 20th 2020
Dr. Sania Nishtar

Federal Minister and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister

Unemployment, Poverty, Inequality due to COVID-19 in Pakistan

IMF projections [3]:

- Below poverty 40% population
 - GDP slow down by 3%
 - Unemployment  4.1% (2019) → 4.5% (2020) → 5.1% (2021)
-
- At-risk group's lives, livelihoods, nutrition, and access to basic services is least secured [4]



[3] International Monetary Fund(IMF) Country Data Mapper Pakistan, Indicator Unemployment. Retrieved on 30-9-20 from: <https://www.imf.org/en/Countries/PAK#countrydata>

[4] UNDP (May 2020). COVID-19 – Pakistan Socio-Economic Impact Assessment & Response Plan

Government Relief Initiatives: “Ehsaas Emergency Cash”

- Launched by the Prime Minister on April 1, 2020
- GoP allocated ~USD 1.23 Billion one-time emergency cash to 16.9 million families (109 million people)
- Total beneficiaries served: **14,824,031***
- Total amount disbursed (Pak Rs. million): **179,192.60***

*Real time data: https://www.pass.gov.pk/ecs/uct_all.html Oct-10-2020

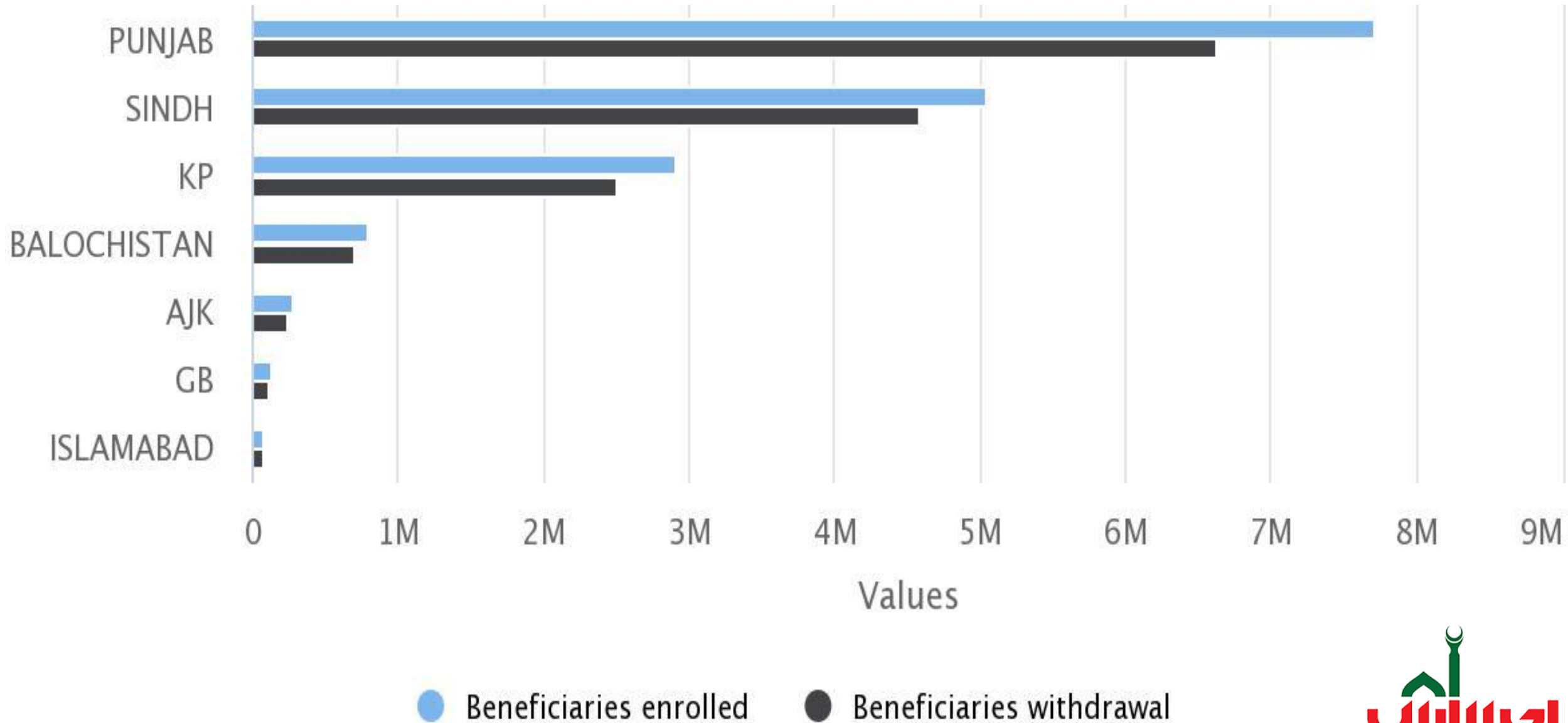


Table 1: Details about the categories

	Category I	Category II	Category III	Category IIIA	Category IV	Category V
Description	All Kafaalat beneficiaries	Group identified by 8171 SMS campaign	SMS campaign + district lists	Same as Category III	PM's Ehsaas Labour Portal	Spillover list from Category II and III
Inclusion criteria Proxy Means Test (PMT) score (0-16.17/100)	PMT 0-16.17	PMT 16.18—upto 38	2.7 million conformed to Category II criteria. Rest had average 6 mth phone bill <Rs.100	Category III inclusion criteria	Category III inclusion criteria	Category III inclusion criteria
Provincial Population shares according to 2017 census	No	Yes	Yes	NA	No	No
Cleared wealth exclusion criteria	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of beneficiaries*	5,034,469	4,000,000	3,500,000	700,000 (Punjab only)	1,263,924	2,451,976
Gender	Women only	Men, women and transgender	Men, women and transgender	Men, women and transgender	Men, women and transgender	Men, women and transgender
Funding source	Govt COVID package	Govt COVID package	Govt COVID package	Govt of Punjab	Prime Minister's COVID-19 FUND	Govt COVID package

*Total number of beneficiaries: 1,6950,369

Provincial breakdown of emergency cash programme beneficiaries



*Real time data: https://www.nass.gov.pk/ess/ust_all.html Oct 10, 2020

Key Attributes of Cash Transfers

- Transparent data-driven automated and rule-based decision making
- Payments are made after biometric verification
- Political neutrality
- Financial inclusion and EEC



Policy Recommendations

- **Better policies to address poverty can reduce inequality in the country.**

Focus is on resilience, skills development, and access to resources, economic growth and inclusive policies.

- Close the gap in policy and practice /action and reach to the poorest of poor segments of the society. This needs better access to data of the marginalized groups in the society.

- **Working on the sustainability of the Ehsas Program through commitment and political will.**

This means better coordination among institutions for efforts to end poverty and pool of resources, better implementation frameworks, rapid responses, preparedness, continuity.

Way Forward

- Expanding safety nets, delivering on the broader premise of Ehsaas
- Insights for new ways of government functioning
- Global experience sharing