

Social Monitoring Report

#1 Semestral Report (Reporting Period: August to December 2021)
February 2022

Pakistan: Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project

Prepared by School Education Literacy Department, Government of Sindh for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Asian Development Bank.

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Semi-Annual Social Monitoring Report

Project Number: 51126-002

Reporting period: Aug 2021 to Dec 2021

February 2022

Pakistan: Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project

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Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project

Karachi, Pakistan

For School Education and Literacy Department,

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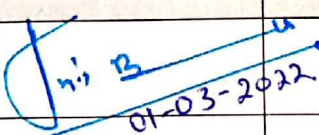

At SSEIP-PIU	Staff Name	Signature	Submission Date
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Project Manager	Mr. Muhammad Naveed	 24/2/22	15-02-2022

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
DD	Due Diligence
DDR	Due Diligence Report
DSC Firm	Design and Supervision Consulting Firm
EMO	Education Management Organization
ESS	Environment and Social Safeguard
GBPS	Government Boys Primary School
GGPS	Government Girls Primary School
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GS	Gender Specialist
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
NTP	Notice To Proceed
PAM	SSEIP-Project Administration Manual
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
SASMR	Semi - Annual Social Monitoring Review
SDDR	Social Due Diligence Report
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals 2030
SEMIS	Sindh Education Management Information System
SEMP	Site Specific Environmental Management Plan
SEPAAct	Sindh Environmental Protection Act
SESP	Sindh Education Sector Policy
SPS2009	ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (June 2009)
SSEIP	Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project
TA	ADB's Technical Assistance Team

1. INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the Semi - Annual Social Monitoring Report (SASMR) for Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project (SSEIP).
2. This report is the 1st SASMR for the SSEIP project covering activities for the period of August 2021 to December 2021.
3. The information provided in this report is time bound and the accuracy of facts may change with the passage of time.
4. For accessing the impacts and mitigation measures of social impacts as a direct result of SSEIP activities, it provides for employing services of Environmental and Social Specialist (ESS) and Gender Specialist (GS) at PIU level as well as Design & Supervision (DSC) Firm and Teachers' Training Assessment Firm (TTAF). The Environment and Social Safeguard Specialist (ESS) looks directly into aspects related to Due-diligence, Land Acquisition, Involuntary Resettlement Livelihood Restoration, Resettlement Monitoring, Grievance Redress, Indigenous People Safeguard for Output-01 only while gender related issues including but not limited to Affected female, safeguard of female cultural, hygiene issues, female Community consultations for output-01 will be covered by Gender Specialist. Gender Specialist will also look beyond Output-01 for the previously mentioned themes.
5. PIU-Environmental & Social Safeguard (ESS) Specialist, being the author of this report, joined PIU-SSEIP in August 2021 and has attempted to recollect and document information available with PIU in a just and unbiased manner. The information / documents prepared by ADB's TA and provided to SSEIP-PIU are accepted in good faith and as guidance. PIU does not assume the responsible of any errors / omissions in the work done by ADB's TA and therefore makes no attempt to justify activities, outputs or timelines on the behalf of Technical Assistant Consultants generously provided to PIU by ADB.
6. It is to note that the selection of school was an advance action taken at the time of preparation of PC-1 document by Government of Sindh. The screening of school list was to be done by ADB's TA through field Due-Diligence visit to school sites. Due to absence of safeguard team at PIU, the finalization of school list was taken up by TA consultants. Despite numerous calls / email reminders sent by PIU; TA insisted on having complete land title documentation mutated to School Education and Literacy Department for proposed schools which would eventually be dropped later by the same TA Consultant. This resulted in unnecessary standstill for project activities prior to and post COVID-19 lockdowns imposed by the Government Pakistan / Sindh.
7. PIU-SSEIP acknowledges the efforts and guidance provided by ADB project team to members of PIU Team for the execution of SSEIP.

2. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

8. Social Safeguard measures in this report are limited to the preparation phase and construction phase of Output-01 only i.e. New secondary school blocks constructed, and operated under EMO program.

3. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

9. Education indicators for Pakistan indicate low adult literacy rate, low expected years of schooling, considerable challenges in access to education and quality of education.

10. Educational challenges in Sindh are more acute than in other provinces of Pakistan generally which in addition also include poor quality education, and weak education governance and management.
11. The project will support the strengthening of inclusive growth, which is a key objective of ADB's strategy.
12. According to ADB's category; this project has the following safeguard ratings:

Table 1: Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project Safeguard Ratings

Safeguard	Categories
Environment	B
Involuntary Resettlement	B
Indigenous Peoples	C
Source: https://www.adb.org/projects/51126-002/main#	

13. According to ADB's website, Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project is a Gender Equity Project which is the highest ratings so far for a project in favour of Gender safeguard projects
14. The Project will contribute towards SDG-4 (Ensure Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all); and SDG-5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).
15. Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project (SSEIP) will support reforms initiated by Government of Sindh in the education sector as a result of major challenges faced at post-primary level in Sindh.
16. SSEIP is aligned with Sindh Education Sector Policy (SESP) 2014 -2018 (and subsequent SESP 2019- 2023) as it will support investments and capacity building in secondary education throughout the province of Sindh.
17. The project has 3 outputs which are given as follows:
 - Output-01: New secondary school blocks constructed, and operated under EMO program
 - Output-02: Teaching capacity in five key subjects improved
 - Output-03: Secondary education examination system strengthened
18. Project Organization Chart has been reproduced as **Figure 1**.

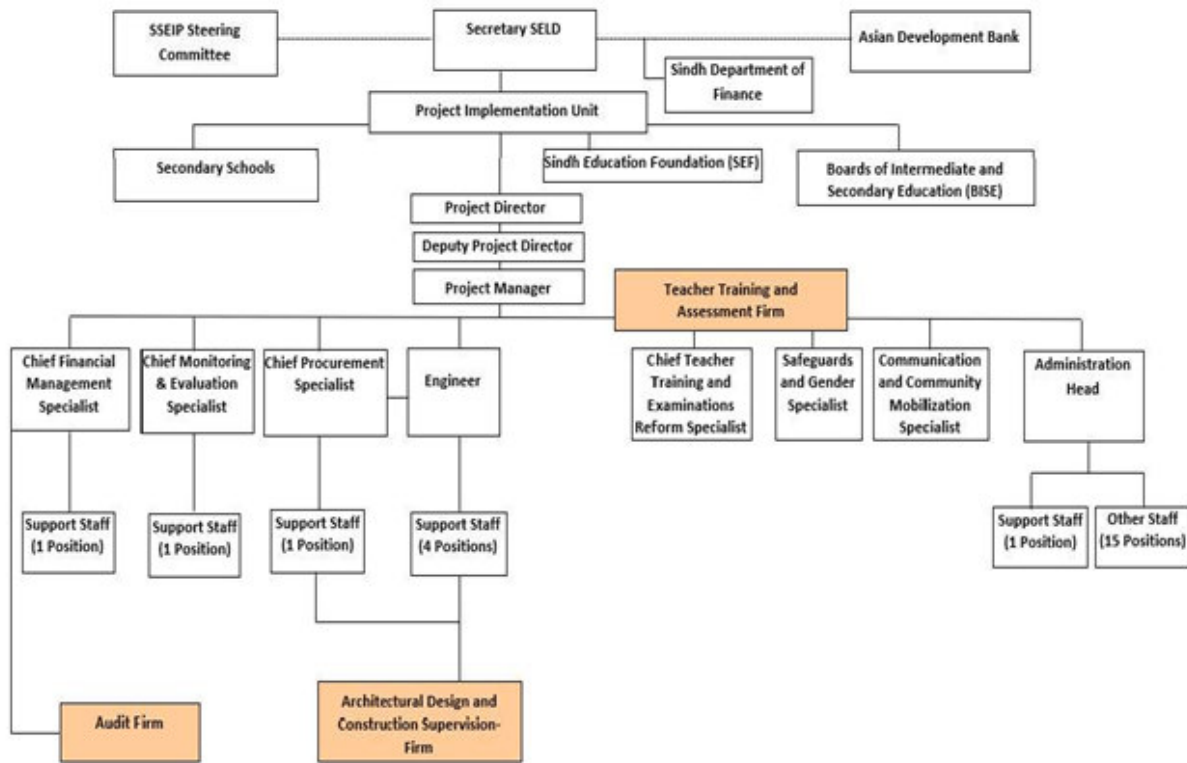


Figure 1: Organization Chart of PIU-SSEIP

4. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

19. Project activities executed in the current reporting period have been documented in this section along with their impacts.

Due-diligence Visits

20. This reports attempts to document project social safeguard activities during the reporting period of August - December 2021.
21. PIU coordinated ADB's TA for Social, Environmental and Gender Due-diligence activities for PC-1 proposed school sites as per the following schedule in the reporting period of Aug 2021 to Dec 2021:

Table 2: Safeguard Due-diligence School Visit

S.No.	Districts	Visited
1.	Sujawal, Badin, Tharparker	13-26 Sept 2021
2.	Umerkot	22-25 Nov 2021
3.	Sanghar	8-10 Dec 2021
4.	Mirpurkhas	19-25 Dec 2021

22. Visit debriefing for only Umerkot district was done on 6th Dec 2021 by ADB-TA Mr. Azeem and Mr. Maqsood Bhatti.

23. ADB-TA could not complete and submit its Final Due-Diligence Report(s) by 31st Dec 2021. ADB-TA will submit document to PIU for review by 31st Jan 2022.
24. Final Consolidated Safeguards Reports covering social and environmental findings will be shared by ADB TA by 31 Jan 2022 and 15 Feb 2022 respectively.
25. ‘Social screening checklist’ provided in SSEIP-Resettlement Plan was used during field visit; however, any such filled checklist were not handed over to PIU.

PIU Cross-Validation Visits

26. PIU initiated a visit in Nov 2021 to develop ownership of the project and to cross-validate selected schools eligible for financing submitted earlier in Dec 2019 through Due-Diligence Report for Thatta district available at the time.
27. PIU-Environmental & Social Safeguard Specialist along with Chief Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist visited 12 schools in Thatta District in Nov 2021. Eight (08) out of Twelve (12) were proposed in the PC-1 document.
28. Four (04) out of eight (08) schools present in PC-1 school list eligible for ADB financing under Social Due-Diligence Report were outrightly rejected owing to non-availability of area and enrollment. The findings were communicated to ADB’ TA who revised his report and presented this information during Umerkot debriefing session at PIU-SSEIP on 6th Dec 2021.

Involuntary Resettlement and Resettlement Plans

29. With regards to Involuntary Resettlement (IR) issue / third party use of land within existing school boundary; ADB TA has shifted its task to PIU in its screening checklist by stating “The Land is occupied by schools and proposed vacant land plot is free from encumbrances and third party use, so IR impacts are unlikely. However, the PIU, through DSC team should review and confirm it based on detailed design”^{1,2,3}.
30. Resettlement Plan (RP) of e.g. GBPS Haji Mahi Khaskheli, Tando Muhammad Khan District (SEMIS Code: 425020213), identified by TA; has not been prepared / provided by ADB-TA despite a long period of engagement. There may be other such cases as well.

Voluntary Land Donation Agreement (VLDA)

31. ADB TA during his visit has repeatedly requested PIU-PM to acquire Voluntary Land Donation Agreement for all project schools.
32. PIU-Project Manager has reportedly collected VLDAs for almost 70% of project schools.
33. During debriefing session after Due-Diligence visit of schools in Umerkot district, the Project Director asked about the relevance of collecting VLDAs for schools that have been established since pre-partition time of Pakistan and for schools established & running since past many years that do not require any additional parcel of land for construction of secondary school blocks.
34. ADB TA Mr. Azeem stated that VLDA is applicable for schools requiring new parcel of land and do not necessarily apply to schools having enough space to accommodate construction of secondary school blocks. In such a case, mutation of schools in the name of Education Department, Government of Sindh will be required. PD informed Mr. Azeem that the

¹ GBPS-Talib Khan Mughar, Thatta District SEMIS Code: 404060009.

² GGPS-GhandroNo.2, Thatta District SEMIS Code: 404060210.

³ GBPS-Muhammad Ali Tando Muhammad Khan SEMIS Code: 425030021.

proposed schools are already under the control of government and that Government of Sindh will look into that matter.

35. Voluntary Land Donors identified by ADB's TA will be traced during the next quarter and land parcel will be visited to determine existing land use.
36. PIU will ensure that any land acquisition and involuntary resettlement are fully compensated and other requirements stipulated in Resettlement Framework and Resettlement Plans are fully implemented before the commencement of works.
37. PIU will determine loss of crop land and income for such donors and will seek guidance as per available project documents already prepared by ADB's TA such as Resettlement Framework etc.
38. Resettlement Plan implementation, if any, will be guided by the legal, institutional and Resettlement Framework in accordance with the ADB IR policy guidelines and local legislation for compensation for affected assets and rehabilitation of aggrieved person(s).
39. Project Implementation Unit (PIU) intends to put in place strong social safeguard measures and demonstrate compliance with ADB's Safeguard Policy Standard 2009.

Capacity Building / Training of PIU-SSEIP

40. Capacity Building or Training for any of the PIU-SSEIP professional on any topic was not done physically or virtually.

5. RESETTLEMENT MONITORING

41. During the current reporting period, there were no activities related to resettlement. PIU will be vigilant during the project lifecycle for any resettlement issues. Monitoring of resettlement issues will involve:
 - (i) administrative monitoring to ensure timely implementation and problem solving;
 - ii) socioeconomic monitoring during and after any resettlement impact utilizing baseline information established through the socioeconomic survey of DPs undertaken during preparation; and
 - (iii) overall monitoring to assess DPs' status.
42. The PIU through its DSC firm will be monitoring social issues on a daily basis. PIU will provide Social monitoring report to ADB on a semi-annual basis.

6. GRIEVANCE REDRESS

43. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) document has been drafted by PIU-ESS in Oct 2021 and is based on SSEIP-Project Administration Manual (PAM).
44. Softcopy of GRM was circulated within the PIU team for review and comments. GRM Draft has been shared with PD Mr. Anees Dasti during his initial meetings with PIU Team.
45. Grievance Redress Mechanism and Committee for Project Output-01 is not notified as of 31st Dec 2021 because list of finalized schools for output-01 is not final.
46. An awareness training was conducted on 19th Nov 2021 with PIU consultants. Positive feedbacks were provided with idea for improvement. PD Mr. Hafeez Raza asked to limit GRM to Output-01 only and exclude procurement & Financial matters as similar committees are already in place.
47. As per the procedures for Government of Sindh, a 'Note Sheet' will be put up to PD-SSEIP

for a formal approval and use of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) document at PIU in the first quarter of 2022.

48. As per the procedures for Government of Sindh, a 'Note Sheet' will be put up to PD-SSEIP for a formal notification of Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) in the first quarter of 2022.
49. As per the procedures for Government of Sindh, a 'Note Sheet' will also be put up to PD-SSEIP for a formal approval and notification of Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) at ten (10) Project District level in the first quarter of 2022.
50. In line with the Policy requirements, the Project will establish a robust GRM at both PIU level and Project district level. Grievances will be addressed / resolved through Secretary, SELD-GOS notified GRC.
51. District Education Officers and communities in large of the project districts will be informed of existence and use of GRM procedures through public consultations, informational pamphlets and through Secretary, SELD-GOS notified GRC at district level.
52. No project related complaints were received at PIU-SSEIP during this reporting period.
53. The GRC at district levels will meet on a monthly basis to resolve grievances and report progress to PIU. Grievance log books will be maintained at district level.

7. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

54. This Project is classified as Category C as per the ADB's Safeguard category rating. Details of this category may be referenced from ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement 2009 and it implies that the project will not affect any indigenous people in the process of its implementation.

8. GENDER SAFEGUARD BY PIU AND ADBTA

55. This SSEIP Project has been categorised as a "Gender Equity Project" and includes gender responsive design features during construction of 160 schools in 10 districts of Sindh province, Pakistan.
56. PIU has not appointed Gender & Social Safeguard Specialist. Candidates were called for interview but were cancelled on request of the then Project Director, Mr. Hafeez Raza.
57. Cultural sensitives in the province of Sindh discourages tender aged female interaction with opposite sex from outside family in a social setup. Although ADB's strongly discourages discrimination based on sex; however, considering cultural norms and that the project is a Gender Equity Project, it is opinioned that project school girls would feel comfortable in discussing gender issues with a female Gender Specialist from PIU.
58. The ADB's TA have been taking a lead role in social sector owing to their engagement with SSEIP since 2019.
59. ADB-TA Gender Specialist has visited seven (07) out of ten (10) districts namely Thatta, Matiari, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando AllahYar, Sujawal, Badin and Tharparker.
60. ADB-TA Gender Specialist has only submitted a Gender Report for Thatta, Matiari, Tando Muhammad Khan and Tando AllahYar without differentiating between 'Feasible' and 'Non-Feasible' school sites.
61. ADB-TA Gender Specialist could not complete and submit her its Final Report(s) by the end of her contract on 31st Dec 2021.

62. It is unclear if TA Gender Specialist will visit the schools in the remaining districts considering her contract was completed on 31st Dec 2021.
63. It is also unclear whether Gender report(s) for the remaining districts will be submitted to PIU.

Capacity Building / Training of PIU-SSEIP

64. Capacity Building or Training on any gender related topic was not done physically or virtually.

9. POVERTY AND SOCIAL IMPACT

65. It is expected that this Project will increase awareness in girl population, enhance economic opportunities, create temporary livelihoods during construction of secondary school blocks, improved health and education, and elevate standard of living of communities in general.

10. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE

66. PIU-SSEIP understands that Public consultations are an important feedback mechanism during project life.
67. Presently the ADB's TA have been taking a lead role in social sector owing to their engagement with SSEIP since 2019.
68. No such activity has been reported by ADB's TA. PIU was unaware of the scope of activities to be performed by ADB's TA.

11. MONITORING AND REPORTING

69. Grant agreement covenants, ADB's SPS, legal, environmental, social and gender safeguards are being monitored through Project Reviews Missions.
70. Safeguards Monitoring will be performed by PIU and its results will be included in the semi-annual reports.
71. This Semi-Annual Social Monitoring Report got delayed but will be submitted to ADB within due time for the next reporting period.

12. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

72. Since ADB's TA has exhausted its consultancy quota on 31st Dec 2021 without completion / submission of documents to PIU; PIU-SSEIP will have to take up TA's incomplete work for successful implementation of the project. Apart from actions already mentioned earlier in this report.
73. Project Implementation Unit is processing final list of 160 schools based on information (DDR / screening checklist) acquired from ADB's TA Consultants.
74. In order to do so, PIU will utilize Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialist within the ambit of contractual agreement between PIU and DSC to execute safeguard activities.
75. PIU-ESS along with DSC-Environmental Specialist and DSC-Social Safeguard Specialist will prepare project's proposed schools maps, eligible for contraction of secondary school blocks, in its existing condition with school boundary walls for each unit, to determine any possible encroachments, third party use and therefore involuntary resettlement issues.

76. Field assessments and monitoring of SSEIP's proposed school will be carried out regularly with the approval of Project Director to ensure safeguard compliance.
77. Any grievances of local communities will be addressed through the GRM established at PIU-SSEIP level as well as districts' level and will cater to environment, social and gender safeguards.

==THE END==