

Press Release

INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE DATA DISSEMINATION KIOSKS DASHBOARDS AT AUDITORIUM, M/o PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL INITIATIVES (PD&SI) PAK SECRETARIAT, ISLAMABAD BY FEDERAL MINISTER FOR PD&SI

July 28, 2022: Mr. Ahsan Iqbal Minister PD&SI Inaugurated the Data Dissemination KIOSK. Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician, PBS briefed the Minister PD&SI that PBS being the National Statistical Organization is mandated for collection, compilation & Dissemination of data on various socio economic sectors both through Primary & Secondary sources for evidence based policy making. He added that as The World under **"Digital Transformation"** become **"Global Village"** therefore **"Data"** is the **"new currency for development"** and availability of timely credible data in an interactive way is the need of the time. PBS under policy of "Digital Pakistan" and Vision 2025 has also undergone **"Digital Transformation"** and shifted from **manual approach** to **electronic data** collection.

Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Member Support Services informed PBS have paradigm shift on data dissemination from unidimensional mode of fixed formats in to **interactive customized dashboards**: which provides open access to data with infographics along with comparison with previous years of several indicators as per requirement of users. In addition to it PBS is also working of linking geographic database with information for producing heat maps with layering of other information like roads, railroads, rivers, schools, hospitals etc. for provision of updated information for proper planning. Accordingly, using the wealth of data available with PBS, customized dashboards namely **"Census Information Management System"**, **"Mouza Census Information Management System"**, **"PSLM & SDGs Information Management System"** & **"Price Management Information System" (PMIS)**, **"GIS based system for COVID-19 Management"**, **"6th Population & Housing Census-2017"**, **"Pilot for "Digital Census-2022"** and decision support systems namely **"Decision Support System for Inflation" (DSSI)** and **"Evidence Based Decision System for Planning Commission/Provincial P&Ds"** have been prepared, which are available online and also installed on Data Dissemination KIOSK for increasing Statistical literacy among data users and to create awareness about importance of data for informed decision making. Therefore, PBS has installed their standalone dashboards and information management system in dissemination KIOSK at Ministry of Planning Development & Special initiatives (being the central ministry where all projects get approved). *This will enable Policy Planners to have instant and updated information on data through customized dashboards for decision regarding development programs.* This is the major step towards the modernization of PBS and data dissemination, it will work as confidence building measure between data users and producers and will result in evidence base decision making. Further based on the requirements and feedback provided by the users, researchers and policy makers, the dashboards & information systems can be enriched. Secretary PD&SI highly appreciated PBS work and was of view that this will be a Step towards **"Digital Pakistan"** and **"data driven policy making"**. The Member Support Services also presented the live demonstration of the Dashboards.

Minister for PD&SI Prof. Ahsan Iqbal appreciated the PBS for developing the dashboards by using the data as an important currency of this digital age. This intervention of PBS is actually a start of open data revolution in the country which gauge up the economic growth, provide avenues to the researchers and plays pivotal role for job creation in the country. By adopting the open data policy by facilitating the data users through such dashboards, businessmen can devise their business plans in the light of timely and credible data, researchers can explore

different dimensions of the economy and Government functionaries may devise the transparent policy and plans to enhance the performance of government. Mr. Ahsan highlighted that in past time lag of data was the main problem for evidence based policy making and also the data was remained stored in libraries, publications and reports without easy access of the data users. Pakistan can engage the best national and international researchers to explore the different avenues of the economy through which the growth of potential areas may be increased.

The Minister further directed that PBS must organize the workshops for the awareness and better utilization of data by having access through PBS KIOSK dashboards. For this purpose, separate workshops may be arranged with Media, Academia and Federal Ministries to promote research and evidence based decision making. He also emphasized that data PBS must produce timely, reliable and credible data. The Minister also highlighted that PBS is going to conduct the 7th Population & Housing census- 2022 digitally by adopting the best technologies of international standards and the data collected will be more credible and timely. He congratulated the Chief Statistician and whole PBS team for putting best efforts to develop dashboards with open data dissemination policy.

