



Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics



No. PBS. CPMU. Media (01)/2023

Islamabad, the 7th December, 2023

PRESS RELEASE:
Data Users and Producers Workshop

- Data is the new currency; therefore, its correct dissemination is important.
- Engagement of Data Users and Data Producers in a Dialogue on Data Dissemination Policy is a vital step towards addressing existing gaps in Data dissemination process.
- National Data Dissemination Policy crafted through this approach will ensure that statistical information reach a wide array of users and is utilized effectively for evidence-based decision-making.
- The workshop is third in series as first two workshops are already conducted in Lahore and Karachi. Data users and producers from AJK, GB and Islamabad participated in the workshop.
- The conduct of Nation-wide workshops is a great step towards quality and accessibility of Statistical Data.

Islamabad 7th December, 2023: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in collaboration with UNFPA Pakistan hosted a Dialogue Workshop between Data Users and Data Producers at Ramada Hotel, Islamabad. (The workshop was attended by Stakeholders and Development partners from Islamabad, AJK and GB i.e., Public organizations, relevant Ministries, HEC, researchers, data users and representatives from International Organizations etc). The participation of all stakeholders helped in gathering diverse perspectives, identifying needs, and addressing any existing gaps in the data dissemination process. Chief Statistician, Dr Naeem uz Zafar (SI), Member SS/RM Muhammad Sarwar Gondal (SI), Member C & S, Mr. Ayazuddin, Member NA, Syed Ejaz Wasti and senior officers from PBS and representative from UNFPA were also present at the occasion.

The keynote speeches and events included welcoming remarks by Ms. Rabia Awan, DDG, comments of UNFPA representative, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, brief on PBS vision on Data Dissemination by Dr. Naeem uz Zafar (SI), Chief Statistician, PBS, presentation on Data Dissemination by an International Expert, Mr. Sufyan Abu Harb. Group discussion on thematic areas and solution of issues defined in group discussion session and concluding remarks by Secretary PD & SI, Mr. Awais Manzoor Sumra.

Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, (SI), Chief Statistician set the context by presenting history and functions of PBS by focusing on the First ever Digital Census, shared his thoughts on engagement of data users and producers for Data Dissemination Policy, and threw light on importance of their input on how to make data more useful, current modes of data

dissemination were also part of presentation and he anticipated that with the collaboration of stakeholder Data Dissemination system can be improved.

UN representative Dr. Luay Shabaneh acknowledged the completion of census and congratulated PBS on achieving the Benchmark of first Digital Census. He further added that it is very important to perceive, use and utilize data appropriately in Pakistan for informed decision making. PBS has the capacity to not only deliver its product and services as per demands at Federal level but can also play a vital role in upgrading capacities of provincial Bureaus.

Mr. Sufyan Abu Harab from Palestine, Central Bureau of Statistics presented Data Dissemination strategies in an interactive way and stressed on disseminating the data according to needs of users. Statistical office should be proactive about data user demands and Data dissemination can become attractive for different categories of data users.

Secretary, PD & SI, Mr. Awais Manzoor Sumra in his concluding remarks appreciated PBS for completion of first ever Digital Census and anticipated that the workshop would be able to identify the emerging user needs and data requirements and the challenges faced by both data producers and user. This workshop will help to design targeted and tailored data dissemination and enhance data accessibility. The workshop would set a milestone to devise a credible national data dissemination policy enabling all the stakeholders to satiate the thirst for data in interactive and friendly manners.

The participants were divided into five main groups for discussions on thematic areas. The thematic areas discussed in group discussion session were emerging user needs and data requirements, Challenges in data dissemination and accessibility, Strategies of web based data dissemination, partnership for data dissemination and mechanism for systematic feedback on data dissemination. All the issues discussed in group discussion were resolved by PBS team. The division of participants into groups to deliberate and formulate recommendations on various thematic areas is an excellent approach. This ensures a comprehensive analysis of emerging user needs, challenges in dissemination, and strategies for dissemination, partnerships, and feedback mechanisms, leading to well-rounded recommendations.

Strengthening the statistical process and fostering trust between producers and users are pivotal for ensuring the reliability and accessibility of information. A well-crafted national data dissemination policy will undoubtedly contribute to evidence-based decision-making and effective policy planning, ultimately leading to the prosperity of the nation.



(Muhammad Sarwar Gondal)
(Member Support Services/RM)
Official Spokesperson PBS

Some Glimpses from an Event:

