

## Deliverable Report by Center for Economic Research in Pakistan

### For Activities during quarter Oct-Dec. 2018

#### Under the Letter of Agreement between UNDP & NSPP

Center for Economic Research in Pakistan deployed the BCURE (Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence) training modules developed by Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) at Harvard Kennedy School. The modules were deployed at following training cohorts:

- a. 109<sup>th</sup> National Management Course, NSPP Lahore
- b. 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Management Course, NIMs Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar
- c. 26<sup>th</sup> Mid-Career Management Course, NIMS Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad
- d. 46<sup>th</sup> Common Training Program & 41<sup>st</sup> STP PAS, CSA Lahore

The trainings were conducted as part of the activities to be completed under the Letter of Agreement signed between the United Nations Development Programme and the National School of Public Policy for the implementation of the project, titled "Reforms & Innovation In Government for High Performance".

Following BCURE Modules were deployed in these courses:

#### **Descriptive Evidence**

The unit aims to equip policy decision-makers with practical skills and frameworks for effectively applying data and evidence in their work. The objective of the course is to help civil servants:

- Be able to interpret distributions, and know the importance of looking at entire distributions.
- Accurately interpret and know when to apply various statistics
- When faced with descriptive evidence, pose critical questions about what is presented.
- Know the important factors about where the data come from and the basics of sampling.
- Understand important characteristics of sampling and data quality.

Because the necessary evidence to support policy decisions is not always available, this unit focuses on commissioning new evidence. The unit presents a framework for determining the specific policy questions for which new evidence should be sought, and for identifying what evidence in what form will best answer those questions.

#### **Commissioning Evidence**

The unit helps learners understand where commissioning evidence fits within the broader context of policy decision-making and when this step is most useful. The unit aims to:

- Define acts of evidence-commissioning as falling along a continuum, from the small (cheap, routine, simple) to the large (expensive, uncommon, complex).

- Identify different types of evidence and which types might be most useful in particular situations.
- Develop the perspective that everybody is a commissioner of evidence.

### **Aggregating Evidence**

The module enables policymakers to:

- Recognize that aggregating evidence sits within a broader process of evidence gathering and synthesizing.
- Understand the value of different types of quantitative evidence in policy decision making.
- Find, or know how to find, relevant evidence and have criteria for including it in a decision-making process.
- Be able to interpret existing evidence when faced with a policy decision.
- Be able to weigh different forms of evidence with appropriate judgment.

### **Cost-Benefit Analysis**

The module introduces fundamental concepts in cost-benefit analysis, such as the social discount rate, describes various methodologies used to estimate costs and benefits, and highlights common assumptions used in cost-benefit analysis. Learning outcomes are:

- Understand how cost-benefit analyses can play a role in the policy decision-making process.
- Be able to identify the costs and benefits of a given policy.
- Understand how costs and benefits are aggregated into an overall measure of net benefits.
- When faced with a cost-benefit analysis, know what questions to ask in critically consuming that cost-benefit analysis.

### **Impact Evaluations:**

The module equips policy decision-makers with practical skills and frameworks for effectively applying data and evidence in their work. The objectives of the course are:

- Establish how impact evaluations can play a role in the policy decision-making process.
- Explain how impact evaluations estimate impacts of social programs.
- Elaborate & discuss the meaning and importance of the “counterfactual” in evaluations.
- Enable the trainees to ask critical questions to assess impact evaluations.

### **Systematic Approaches to Policy Decisions**

This module reviews three alternative approaches to make systematic decisions – cost benefit analysis, decision analysis and policy analysis matrices. The unit aims to help the trainees to:

- Understand where, within the policy decision-making process, different approaches to analyzing policy decisions might be most useful.
- Understand the merits and limitations of different approaches to policy decision-making.


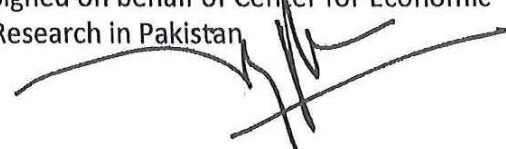
The summary details of the deployment is as below:

Activity & Course	Modules Covered	Venue & Date	Instructor	Participants
1.1 46 <sup>th</sup> Common Training Program	Descriptive Evidence, Commissioning Evidence, Aggregating Evidence, Impact Evaluations, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Systematic Approaches to Policy Decisions	Civil Services Academy, Walton, Lahore 12th to 27th November	Muhammad Farooq, Farooq Adeel, Maham Ashfaq, Waqas Aslam Rana, Nazish Afraz, Fareeha Armughan	311
1.2 26 <sup>th</sup> Mid-Career Management Course	Descriptive Evidence, Commissioning Evidence, Aggregating Evidence, Impact Evaluations, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Systematic Approaches to Policy Decisions	NIM Lahore – 1st to 3rd October, NIM Karachi & Peshwar – 29th to 31st October NIM Islamabad – 1st to 5th November NIM Quetta – 5th to 7th November	Muhammad Farooq, Ahmed Nadeem Khan, Nazish Afraz Syed Aljazullah Shah, Mohsin Mushtaq Chandna, Nighat Mehorze, Khalid Amin, Abdul Sattar, Idrees Khwaja, Mahmood Khalid, Khwaja Shaukat, Aslam Ghani, Jahanzeb	43 49 & 38 36 41
1.3 24 <sup>th</sup> Senior Management Course	Impact Evaluations, Systematic Approaches to Policy Decisions	NIM Karachi – 1st & 2nd November NIM Peshawar – 1st & 2nd November NIM Lahore – 12th & 13th November	Mohsin Chandna, Khalid Mirza, Neghat Mehroze Dr. Saad S. Khan,	44 39 46
1.5 109 <sup>th</sup> National Management Course	Impact Evaluations,	NSPP, Lahore – 3rd & 5th October	Fareed Mahmood Chaudhry	58

**Annexures:**

- A. Training Agendas
- B. List of Participants

This successful deployment of the BCURE Modules qualifies CERP to apply for the release of Tranche 3 under the LOA's schedule of payment for the sum of PKR 12,908,378/-

Signed on behalf of National School of Public Policy  Date: <u>10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2018</u>	Signed on behalf of Center for Economic Research in Pakistan  Date: <u>29 Nov, 2018</u>
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