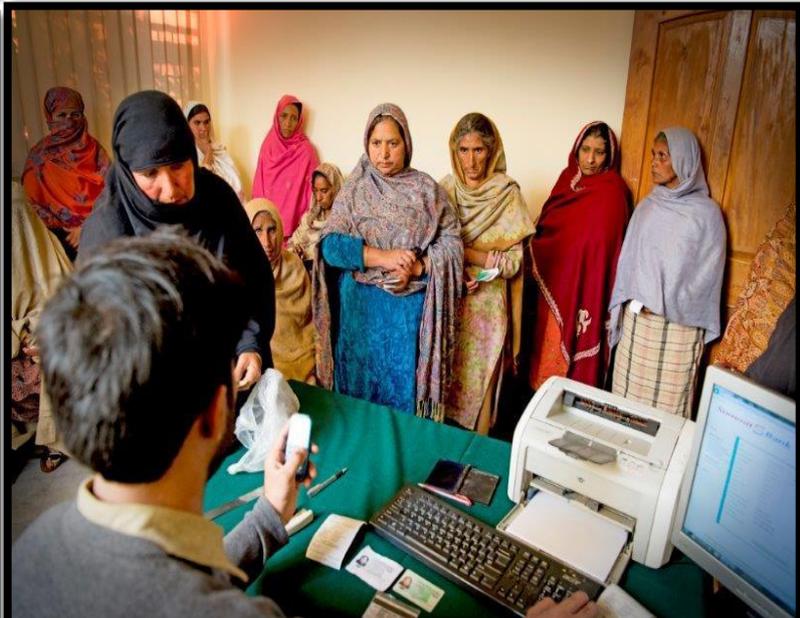




**International Online Training Programme on  
“Social Safety Nets: Challenges and Opportunities”,  
Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development  
(AHKNCRD), Islamabad, Pakistan**

**06-09 April 2026**



**AFRICAN ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION  
(AARDO)**

## Introduction

Poverty remains one of the most pressing global socio-economic challenges. According to global estimates, hundreds of millions of people continue to live below the international poverty line, with extreme poverty concentrated in some developing countries Africa, fragile regions, and certain rural areas. Despite decades of progress, the pace of poverty reduction has not progressed as desired thus making the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-1) of ending extreme poverty by 2030 increasingly challenging.

Addressing poverty requires multidimensional interventions, including equitable access to education, healthcare, infrastructure, and financial inclusion. In this context, Social Safety Net (SSN) programmes obviously play a vital role in protecting vulnerable populations and promoting sustainable socio-economic development.

Pakistan has implemented several state-sponsored social protection initiatives such as Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ehsaas Programme, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), Employees Old Age Benefit Institution (EOBI), and Akhuwat Foundation Programmes. These initiatives provide unconditional and

**Programme Duration:**  
**Four (04) Days from 06-09**  
**April 2026**

**Last Date to Apply:**  
**25 March 2026**

**Session's Timing:**  
**14:00 – 16:00 Hrs**  
**(Pakistan Standard Time)**  
**(GMT+05:00)**

**Organizing Institution:**  
**AHK-NCRD, Islamabad,**  
**Pakistan**  
**([www.ncrd.gov.pk](http://www.ncrd.gov.pk))**

**Sponsoring Organization:**  
**AARDO,**  
**New Delhi, India**  
**([www.aardo.org](http://www.aardo.org))**

conditional cash transfers, pensions, interest-free loans, education stipends, and livelihood support to millions of beneficiaries.

In view of the importance of programmes mechanism as Social Safety Nets in poverty alleviation and sustainable development, the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), in collaboration with the Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), Islamabad, Pakistan, is organizing this International Online Training Programme for its Member Countries and Centres of Excellence.

### **Aims and Objectives of the Programme**

To build the capacity of participants to analyze and understand the role of Social Safety Net programmes in poverty alleviation and sustainable socio-economic development. The specific objectives of the programme are to:

- + discuss the concept of Social Safety Net Programmes & their importance for poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood particularly in Africa and Asia;
- + provide an overview and assess the impact of various Social Safety Net Programmes and
- + provide a forum for sharing relevant experiences and strategies regarding the role of Social Safety Nets in reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable development in African & Asian Countries.

## Thematic Areas

- ✚ Concept and Framework of Social Safety Nets in Poverty Alleviation.
- ✚ Key Components of Social Protection Systems and Policy Approaches.
- ✚ Role of Government Institutions in Designing and Implementing Social Safety Net Programmes.
- ✚ Cash Transfer Mechanisms: Conditional and Unconditional.
- ✚ Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as a Flagship Social Safety Net Initiative in Pakistan.
- ✚ Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Community-Driven Development Approaches.
- ✚ Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) and Social Welfare Interventions for Vulnerable Groups.
- ✚ Interest-Free Microfinance Model of Akhuwat Foundation for Livelihood Support.
- ✚ Digitalization and Transparency in Social Protection Delivery Systems.
- ✚ World's Best Practices in Social Safety Net and Welfare Programmes for Sustainable Rural Development.

## Programme Methodology

The programme will be highly participatory and interactive and will ensure maximum involvement of the participants. Important modules related to Social Safety Net policies and programming will be presented by eminent resource persons, through lecture cum discussions, case presentations, and brainstorming. The methodology is designed to enable participants to

critically analyze Social Safety Net mechanisms and consider their adoptability and applicability in their respective national contexts.

### Essential Qualification

- i. Bachelor's degree with considerable experience in the concerned fields;
- ii. Proficiency in spoken and written English, as the medium of instruction is English only; and
- iii. Must be conversant with ICT and willing to undertake online training programme.

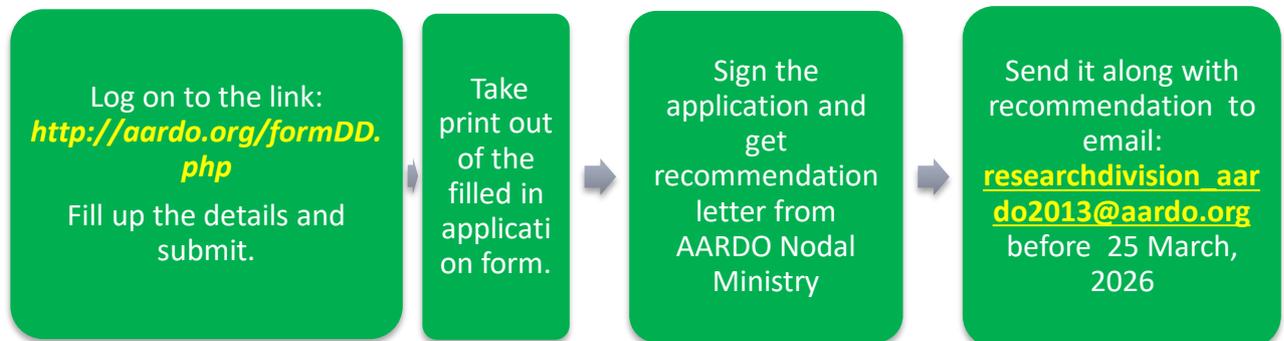
### Who Can Apply

Middle and senior level officials from government departments, ministries, development organizations and institutions engaged in formulation and implementation of policies and programmes related to the subject of the training programme. Women candidates would be highly encouraged to participate in the training programme.

### Selection of Participants

The participants of the training programme will be selected by AARDO and AHKNCRD. Thereafter, selected participants will be provided with login ID and password to access the programme.

## How to Apply



## Certificates

E-Certificate will be provided after the successful completion of the training programme.

## About AARDO

AARDO, established in 1962, is an Inter-Governmental rural centric Organization, consisting of 36 Members, i.e; 32 countries Governments and 04 Associate Members from Africa and Asia working in the area of agriculture and rural development. AARDO subscribes to the spirit of South South and Triangular cooperation and African Asian Solidarity. With over 63 years of experience, AARDO, as a policy advocacy institution, remains at the forefront of focused SDGs in rural areas, through different and evolving forms, including technical cooperation, sharing of knowledge and experiences, training, capacity building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms. For more information, AARDO website ([www.aardo.org](http://www.aardo.org)) may be visited.

## About the Host Training Institute (AHKNCRD)

Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (AHKNCRD), an Executive Department of Establishment Division (Prime Minister's Office), Government of Pakistan is responsible for promoting the cause of rural development and poverty alleviation in Pakistan. It performs the functions of capacity building of mid-level officials/functionaries of Nation Building Departments and Local Government functionaries from all over the country. AHKNCRD also provides assistance to provincial Local Government Training Institutions in curriculum planning and training programmes. The Centre organizes seminars, workshops and training courses in which eminent resource persons/experts are invited to share the knowledge and vast experience on the given subject. As the nodal agency and link institution, AHKNCRD also fulfils the mandate of three International Organizations namely African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutes in Asia and the Pacific. For more information, its website <http://www.ncrd.gov.pk> may be visited.

## Important Note

- i) Applications without recommendation of the AARDO's Nodal Ministry/Center of Excellence in participant's country will not be considered.
- ii) Applications, duly completed, must reach the AARDO Secretariat before or on the closing date, **25 March 2026**.
- iii) Due to limitation of number of participants, only selected candidates would be intimated through the Nodal Ministry and AARDO's Centres of Excellence.
- iv) Selected candidates will be required to actively attend all the live sessions of e-training programme to be eligible for e-certificate(s).

## Programme Coordination

### From AARDO

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