



*How Can Science and Technology  
Contribute to the Reduction  
of Poverty and Inequality*

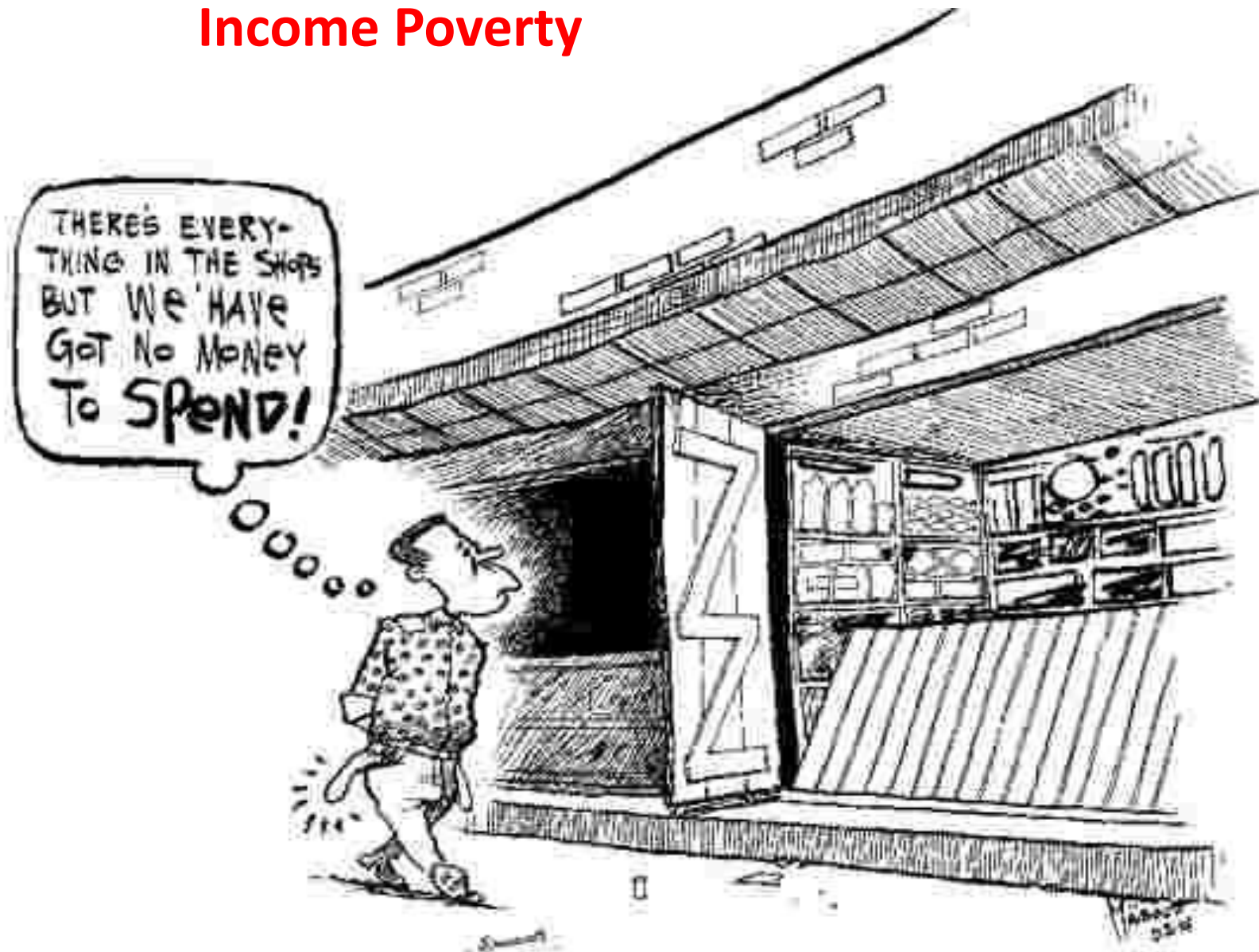
MARCH 27-29, 2019 | RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

## **Session 9: Building Better Science-Policy Interfaces for Poverty Eradication and Inequality Reduction**

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NRSP Pakistan

## Income Poverty



# So where is “Income Poverty”

- It is at the Household level
- Policy makers accepted it
- The key was to somehow reach the household and Work with the family to increase income



# Two key Policy initiatives taken by the GoP

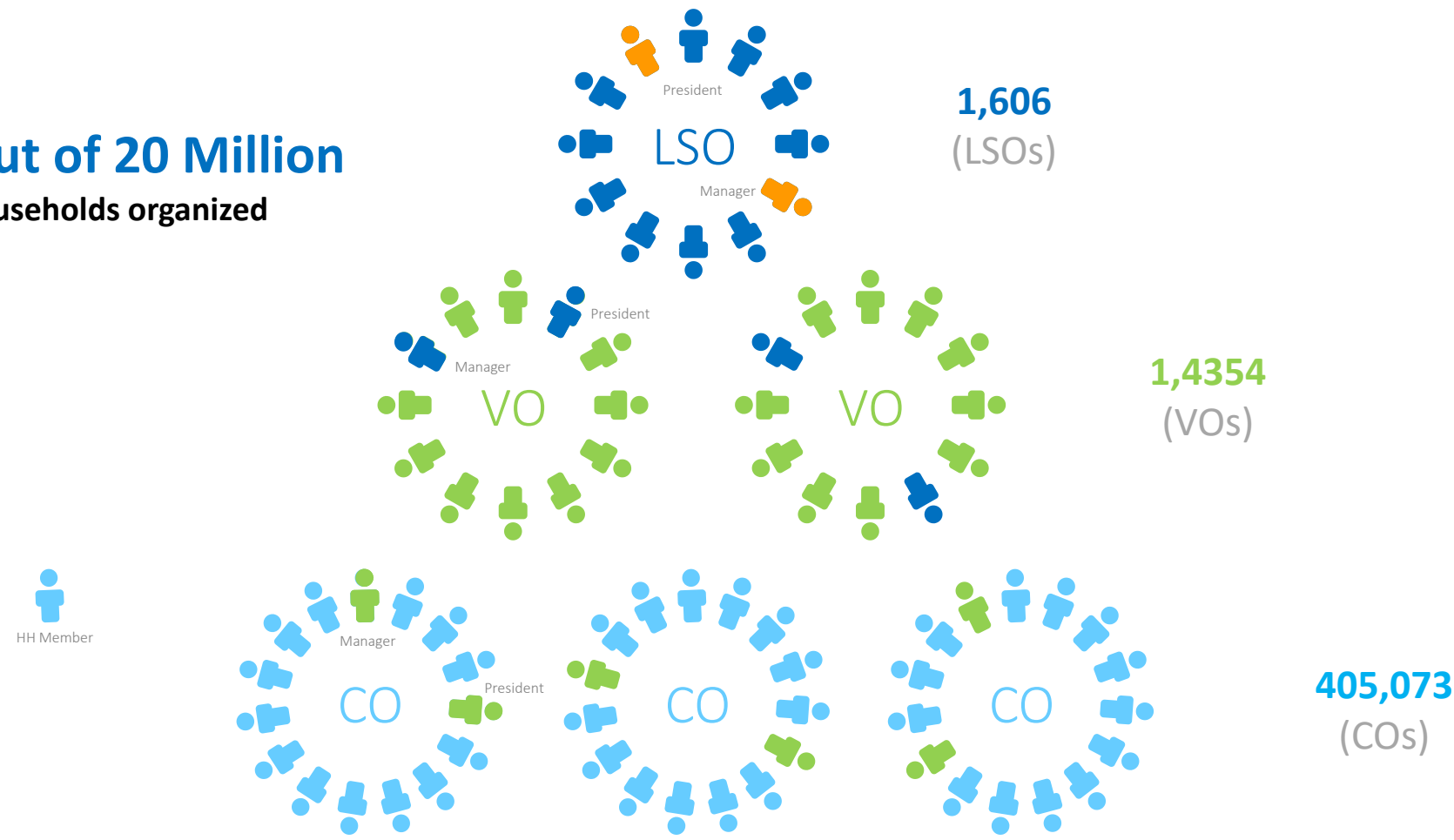
- Setting up of National Rural Support Program in 1991 with an endowment of 10 M \$ to reach the poor and improve incomes
- Starting a direct (and perhaps easy) “national cash transfer” Program in 2008
  - The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)

# NRSP:

- Core objective was to organize the rural poor to create a system of **grass roots governance**
- Hypothesis that Individually the poor are unable to increase incomes and build assets and come out of poverty
  - Collectively they stand a better chance

# Core Business of NRSP: Fostering a Three-Tiered Social Mobilization Network

7.5 out of 20 Million  
households organized



# BISP



- A national registry of Poor was established after doing a country wide poverty census with the help of World Bank
  - Proxy means testing as a tool was used
- World Bank arranged key consultants from Brazil to help set up the Program
- Program currently covers 6.5 M poorest Households
  - Monthly stipend is @ 15 \$
  - Total per annum cost to GoP is @ 1 Bln \$



# World Bank “bolt from the blue”

- According to the national poverty line set in 2001, Pakistan has seen an exceptional decline in poverty—
- falling from nearly 35 percent in 2001 to less than 10 percent by 2013-14

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/who-poor-pakistan-today-raising-basic-standard-well-being-changing-society>





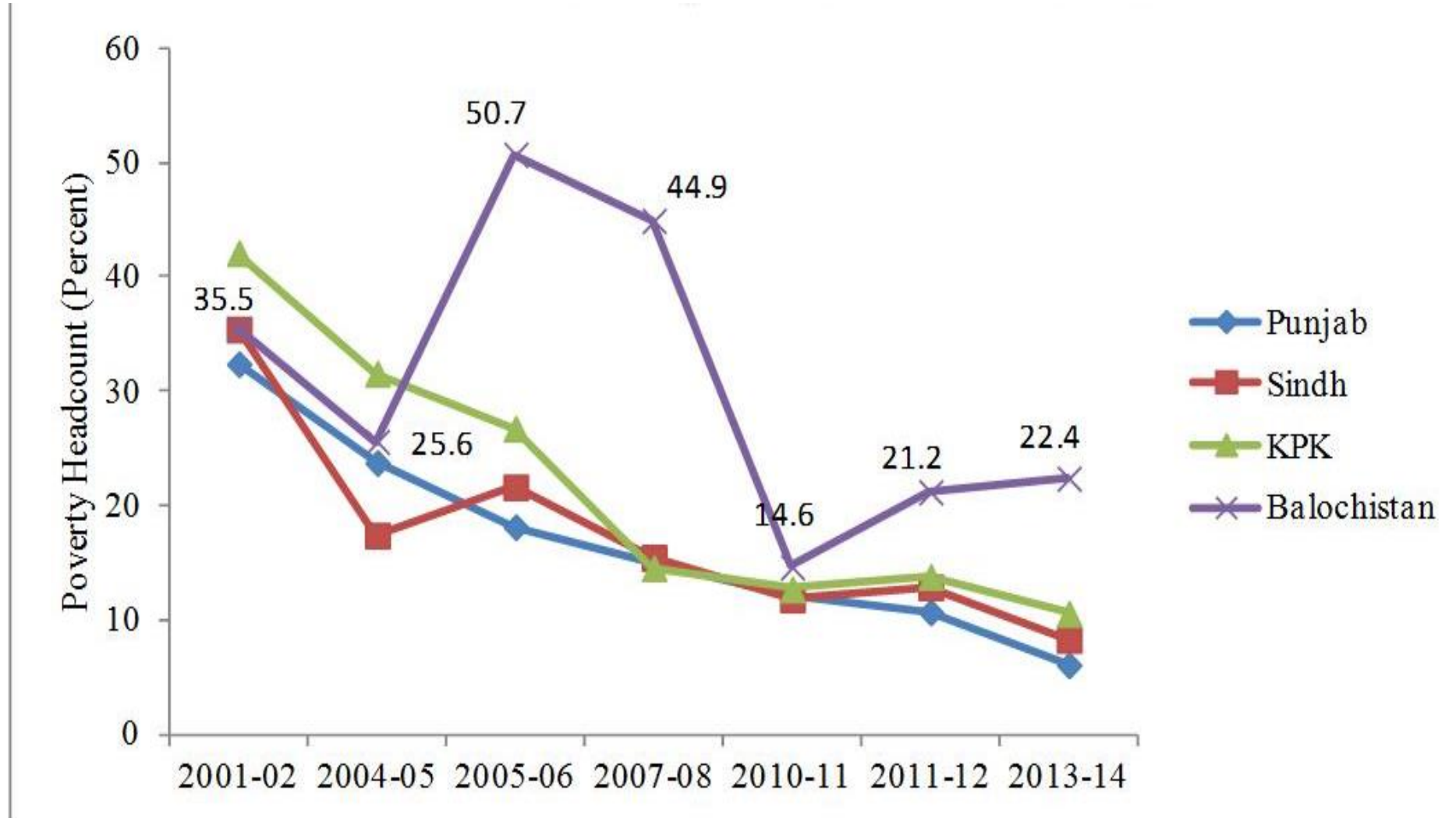
# Political reaction: Disbelief

- What!!
- How is it possible
- Data is incorrect
- How can it happen
- What will media say
- Call the author

The result:

## Provincial Poverty Trend 2001 – 2014

(Mansuri, G: World Bank 2016.)



However!

# PAKISTAN

East and South Asia

SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018



Global Responsibilities

## OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Index score

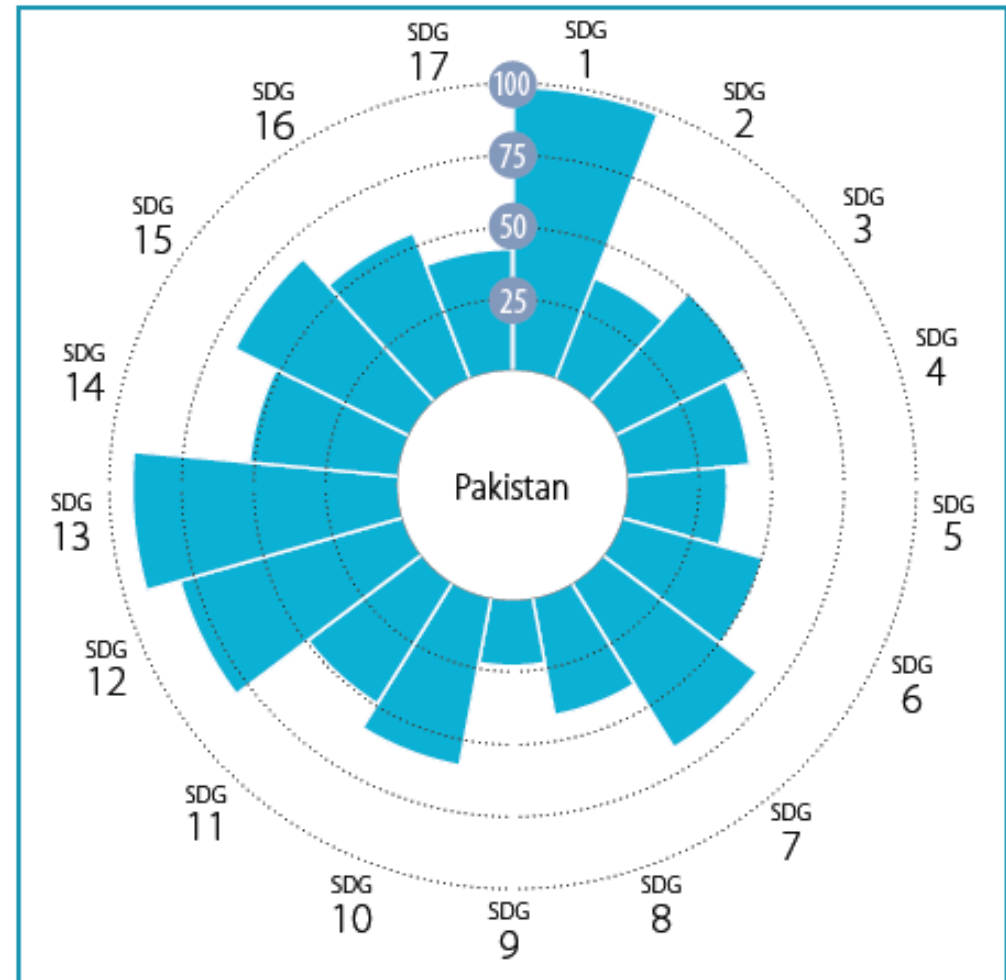


Regional average score



SDG Global rank

126 (OF 156)



## AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG

# Policy makers are forced to look at MPI & other SDGs

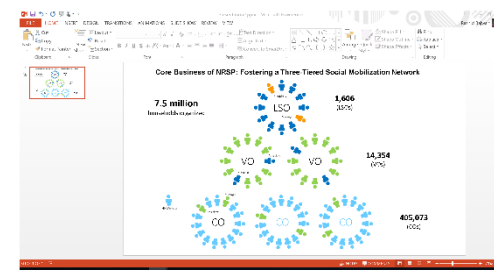
- Quick realization that income poverty and Multidimensional Poverty are two different animals
  - Income Poverty is a “private good”
  - Multidimensional poverty is a “Public Good”
- Problem with “public good” is that the Government keeps investing more and more but overlooks the outcomes
  - More budgetary allocations and expenditures will solve the problem

# The Gap between service providers and beneficiaries



# Project WISE

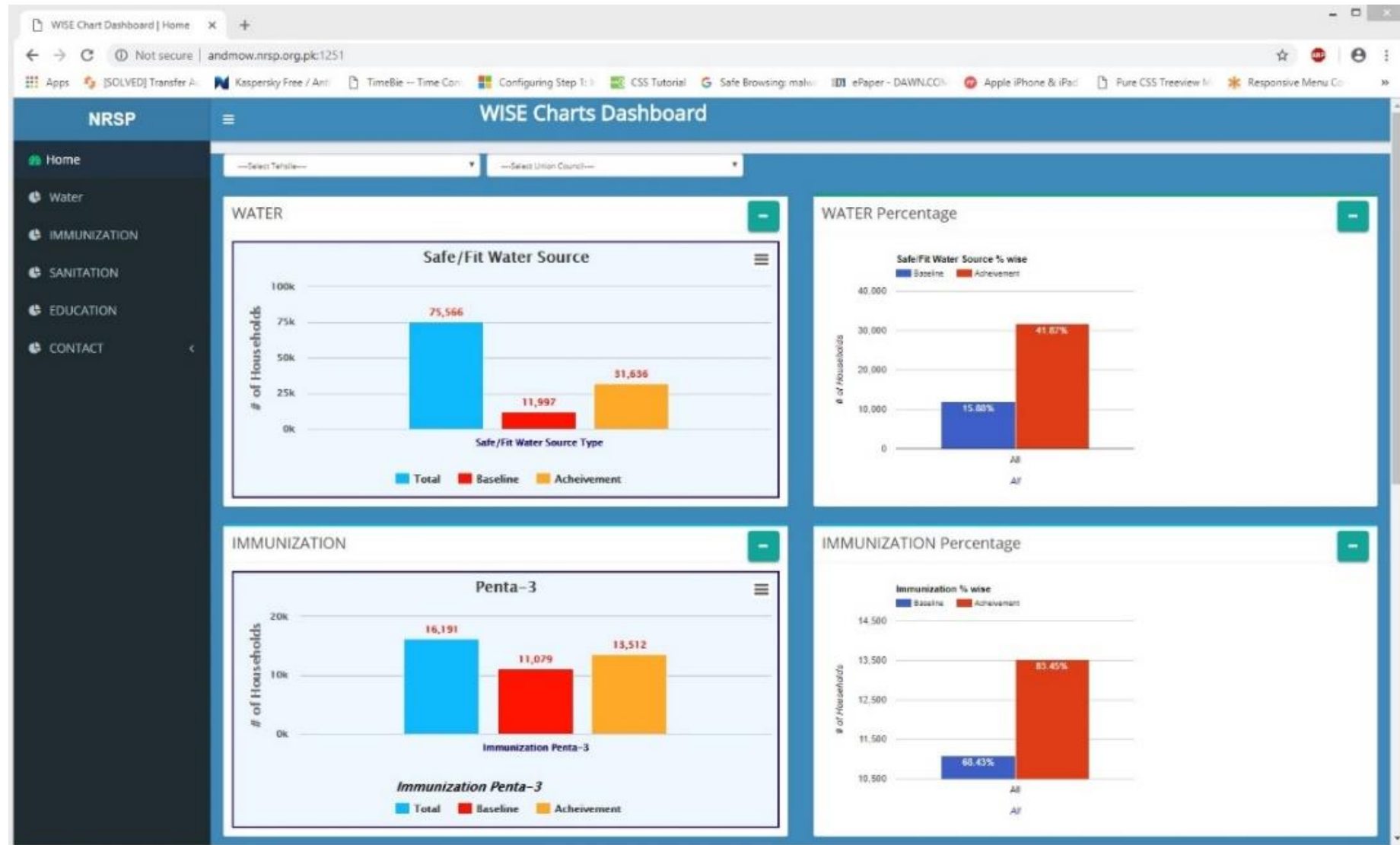
## Science and Technology to bridge the Gap



- Use the organized poor to create demand for services in Water, Immunization, Sanitation and Education (WISE)
- Use digital data through smart phones/tablets
- Train local “female” workers to capture baseline data as a **census** in each village on Android platform and quarterly update
- Upload data on central server using 4g sims

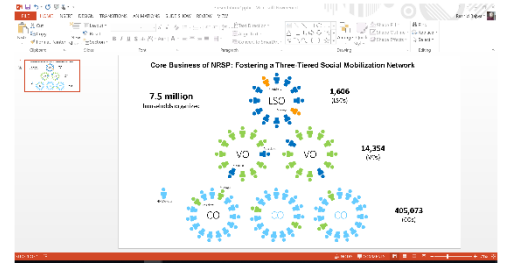


# WISE dashboard - <http://andmow.nrsp.org.pk:1251/>



# Project WISE

- Data creates demand for services for which the local organizations Lobby with service providers with evidence about missing services
- Two districts Hasilpur in Punjab and Tando Mohd Khan in Sindh with 100,000 Households were chosen



# EVALUATION REPORT

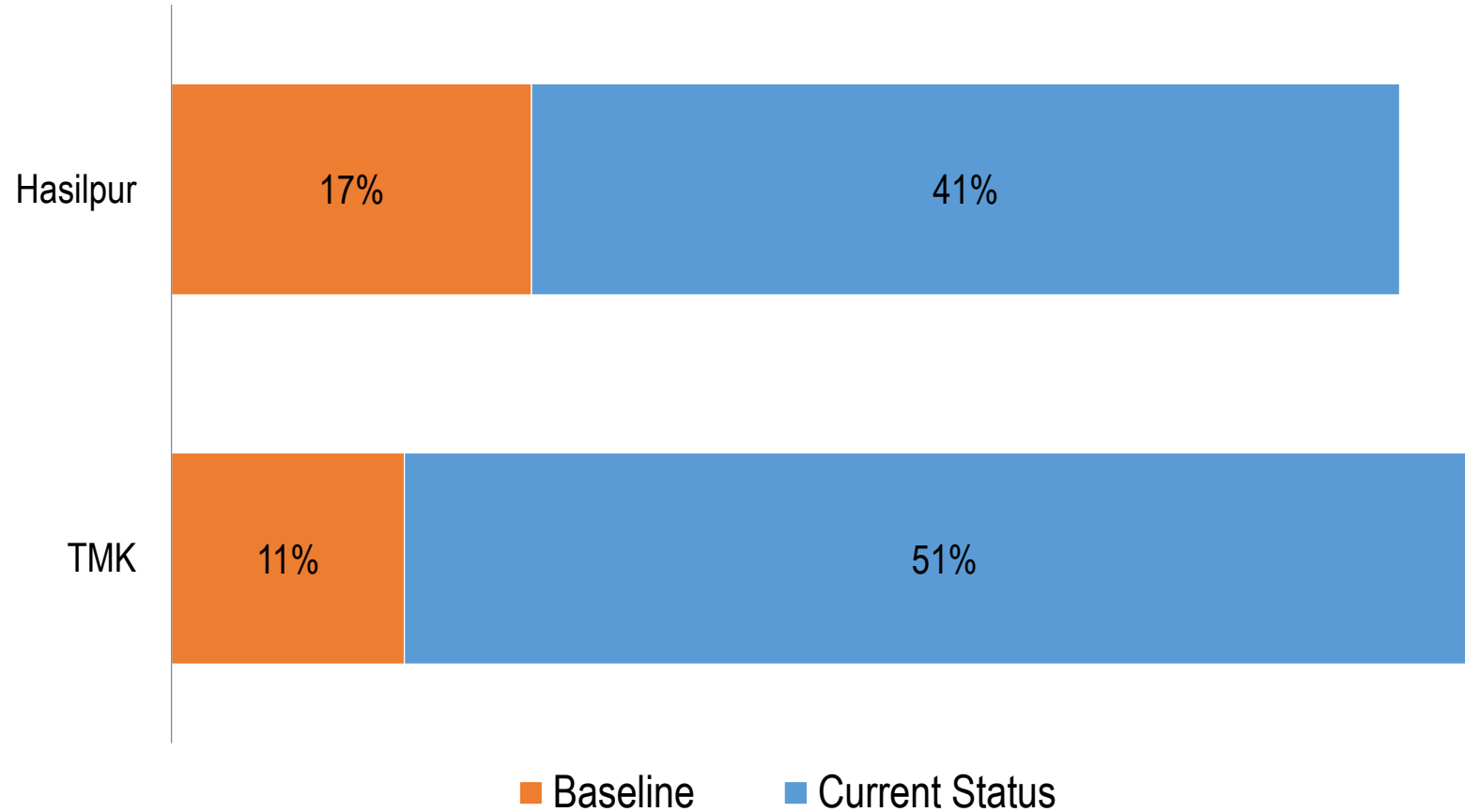
February – March 2019



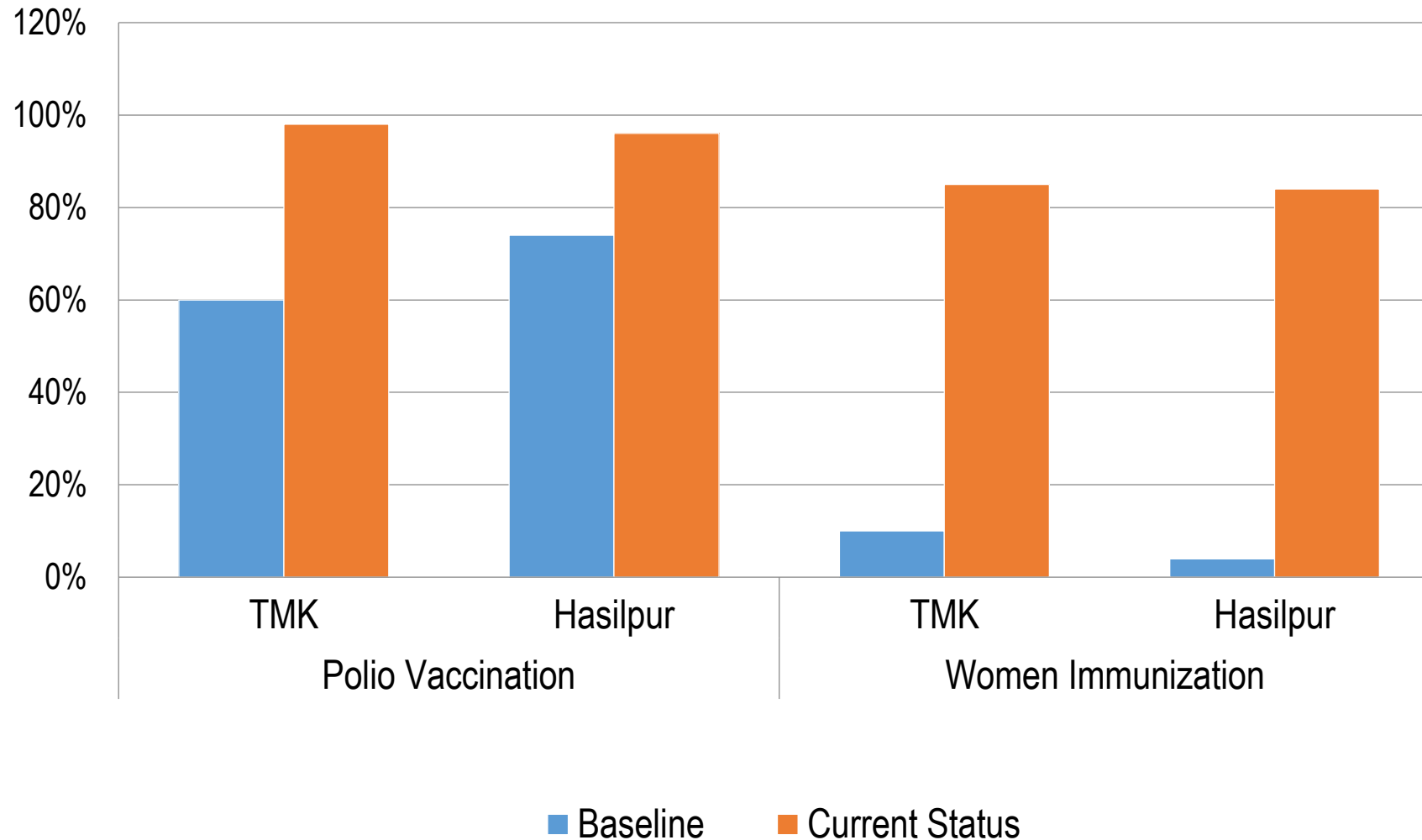
## Water, Immunization, Sanitation & Education (WISE) Project

Implemented by:  
National Rural Support Programme (NRSP)

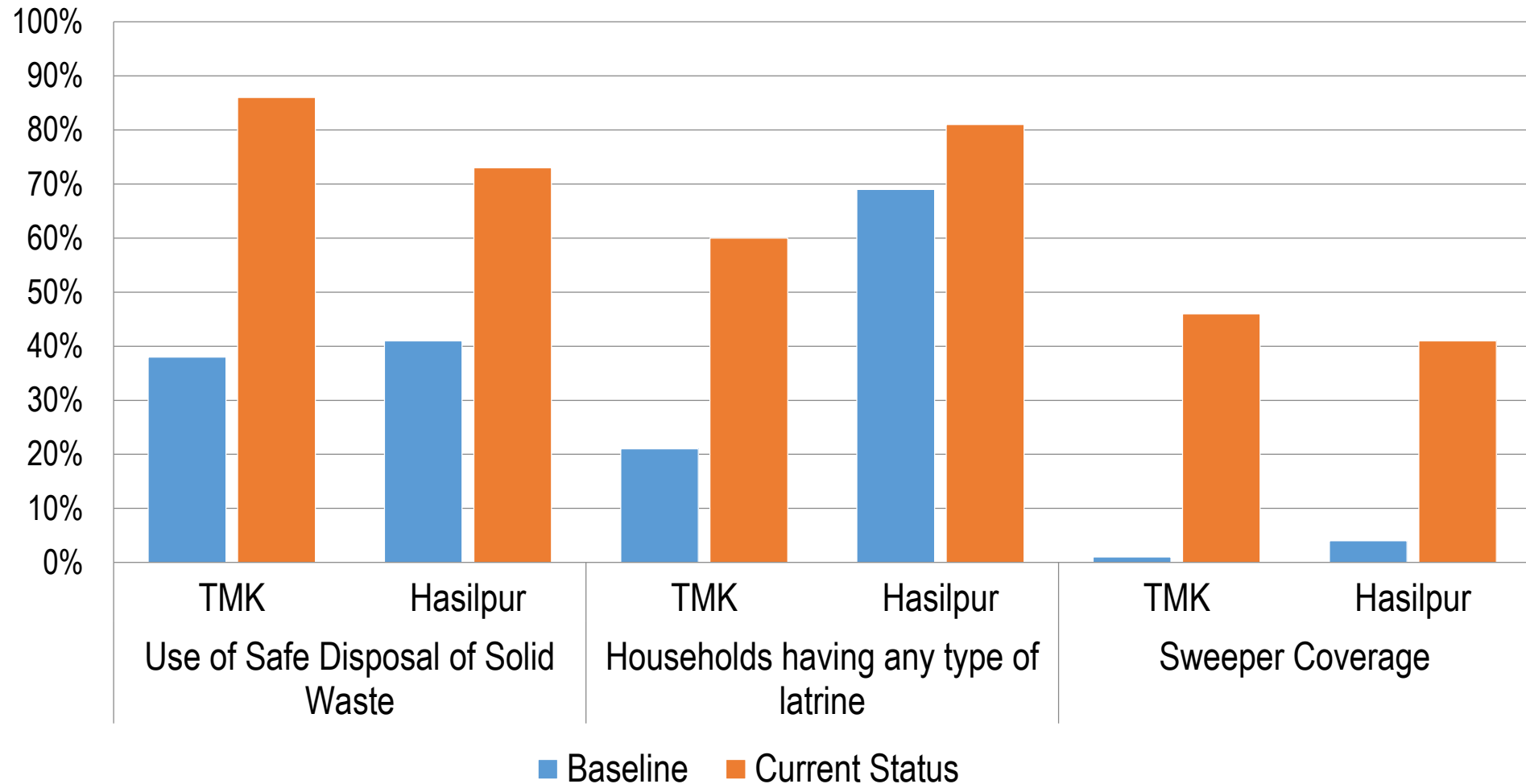
# Households accessing safe water under WISE



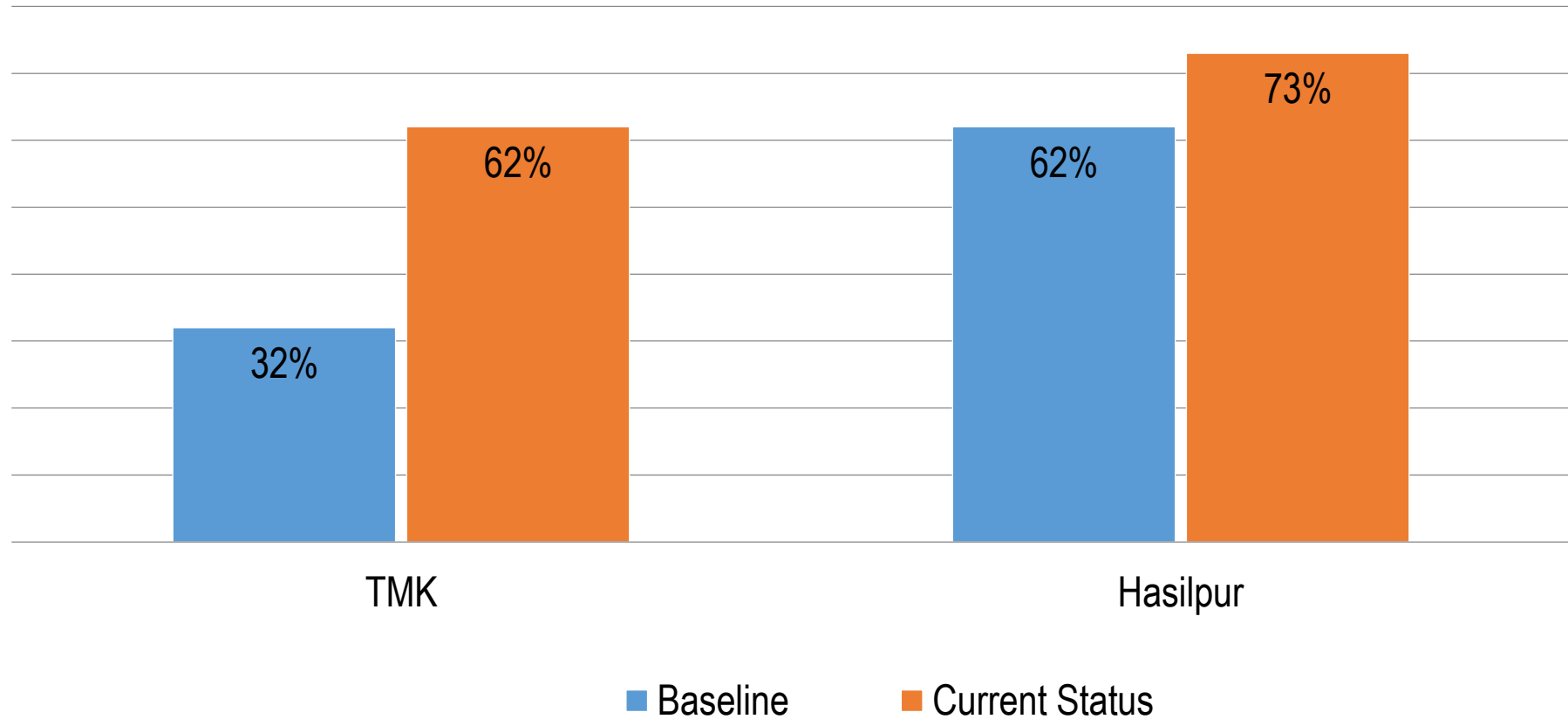
# Status of Polio vaccination for children & women Immunization under WISE



# Sanitation component



# Education: Children enrollment in Government schools





# Lessons

- Science and technology can be a key instrument in creating impact on public policy especially in the context of key SDGs
- Project WISE is now under active consideration by Provincial and Federal Government only because technology could
  - Create credible evidence
  - Show outcomes in a short period of time
- Software and dashboard is available free for any one interested

# Thank You

