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# SINDH BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



Photo credit: SBEP Teachers' & Children Literature Festival

**AUG' - OCT' 2019  
edition**

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## NEW SCHOOLS

With the project activities and deliverables picking up pace, things are moving very quickly. We are proud to announce the addition of the several new State-of-the-art educational facilities.



## NEW EXCITEMENT

This has been a very busy and happening quarter for all of us at the SBEP, including our implementing partners. View this newsletter to check out why.





**Mr. Mushtaque  
Ahmed Soomro**



## Program Director - PMIU

The Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) has marked a paradigm shift in the educational system of the province. It is one of the major programs that has been supporting SELD in achieving its goals. We are highly thankful for the financial support provided by the American People in improving the education in Sindh through construction of State-of-the-Art 106 school buildings in seven districts and five towns of Karachi in Sindh.

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to inform you that Government of Sindh and USAID have agreed to provide additional funds for two more districts i.e. Shikarpur and Ghotki. These schools are not ordinary schools. These schools are equipped with all the pre-requisite facilities like computer and science labs, health room, clean drinking water, separate toilets for boys and girls, ramp for disabled, library, multipurpose hall, and spacious & ventilated classrooms.

These are government schools but their management is given to well reputed private institutes so that their governance can be improved. SBEP is not just constructing school buildings, but it is also supporting SELD in training of teachers, formulating policies such as Education Management Organization (EMO) policy, Non-Formal Education (NFE) policy and in setting the reading standards for Sindhi and Urdu languages.

The SBEP has involved local communities and School Management Committees (SMCs) throughout the program interventions from selection of schools to monitoring of schools by using modern E-monitoring concept. It is good to know that SBEP implementing partners have been supporting the SELD in provision of one time small grant (PKR 150,000/school) to more than 300 non-construction schools.

Once again Government of Sindh and people of Sindh are highly thankful for the generous support from the USAID in improving the education, specially in far flung areas. I congratulate all SBEP team in making this program successful and hope that their efforts shall make a difference.

**Mr. Mushtaque Ahmed Soomro**  
Program Director  
SBEP (PMIU-GoS)







## Our implementing Partners

### Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU):

In order to ensure transparent and efficient management of SBEP, the School Education & Literacy Department (SELD), Government of Sindh established a Program Management and Implementation Unit, which is headed by SBEP Program Director, who reports to the Secretary, SELD.

### Sindh Reading Program (SRP):

SRP aims to address critical issues in early-grade reading and mathematics through continuous teachers' professional development, improving assessment, distributing supplementary materials, and encouraging family participation.

### Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP):

CMP is working on mobilizing the target communities for increasing enrollment with particular focus on girls' enrollment. CMP is also supporting SED in designing and implementing the initiative of Education Management Organizations (EMOs).

### Sindh Capacity Development Project (SCDP):

SCDP is supporting the sustainability of the SBEP by ensuring stronger governance and improved public accountability in the education sector through systems building and institutional strengthening of PMIU and SELD.



## Because we value



# What we stand for



The Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) is a holistic program towards modernizing the education in Sindh. School Education and Literacy Department (SELD), Government of Sindh and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are working together to implement SBEP. The program aims to improve the quality and access to basic education for children in Sindh by increasing and sustaining student enrollment at primary, middle and secondary levels. The USAID is contributing \$159.2 million to the program while the Government of Sindh is making its contributions to the implementation unit of the program.

The implementation period is from 2012 up to 2020.



# What's new this quarter?



**Three** more USAID-SBEP schools i.e. Government Boys Primary School Thoof Chausool in **Qambar-Shahdadm Kot** district, Government Girls Primary School Yousif Naich **Dadu** district and Government Boys Primary School Sahab Khan Bhatti in **Qambar-Shahdadm Kot** district were marked completed. With completion of these schools, the total number of SBEP constructed schools has reached to 68 (out of 106).

One more SBEP School i.e. Government Girls Elementary School Bachal Pusio in Dadu district has been provided furniture during the reporting month. Thus, a total of **41** schools have been supplied furniture till September 2019.





## Construction of Schools via Sindh Basic Education Program

25 High Priority (neighboring) schools 11 in Sukkur, 06 in Larkana, 04 in Qambar Shahdaskot and 04 in Dadu districts) grouped with 20 SBEP schools under RFP# 4 handed over to the EMOs i.e. Sukkur IBA University and The Citizen Foundation (TCF) on 27-29 August, 2019.

Another SBEP School i.e. Government Girls Elementary School Bachal Pusio in Dadu district has been provided with furniture during the reporting month. Thus, a total of 41 schools have been supplied furniture till September 2019. The budget for school furniture has been provided by the Government of Sindh in addition to the 10 million USD share for PMIU operation.

Three more USAID-SBEP schools i.e. Government Boys Primary School Thoof Chausool in Qambar-Shahdaskot district, Government Girls Primary School Yousif Naich Dadu district and Government Boys Primary School Sahab Khan Bhatti in Qambar-Shahdaskot district were marked completed. With completion of these school, the total number of SBEP constructed schools has reached to 68 (out of 106).



### Salient Features of SBEP schools

- Spacious classrooms,
- libraries, Science & computer labs, Playgrounds
- Separate toilets for males & females
- Tube well & water filter system
- On-site wastewater treatment & disposal
- Solar powered electrical systems
- Modern furniture & equipment



## Working to assure quality of all levels at all the SBEP schools

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Program Director, SBEP Mr. Mushtaque Ahmed Soomro on Thursday, August 22, 2019 at the Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU) of SBEP. The objectives of the meeting were to review and address the missing facilities in schools handed over to the EMOs under RFP#4. These issues were pertaining to installation of Pole Mounted Transformers (PMTs) and/or connection of electricity power. The other issues include, having no water in water coolers and in washrooms because electric motor cannot run without electricity; due to which, students and teachers have been facing multiple issues.

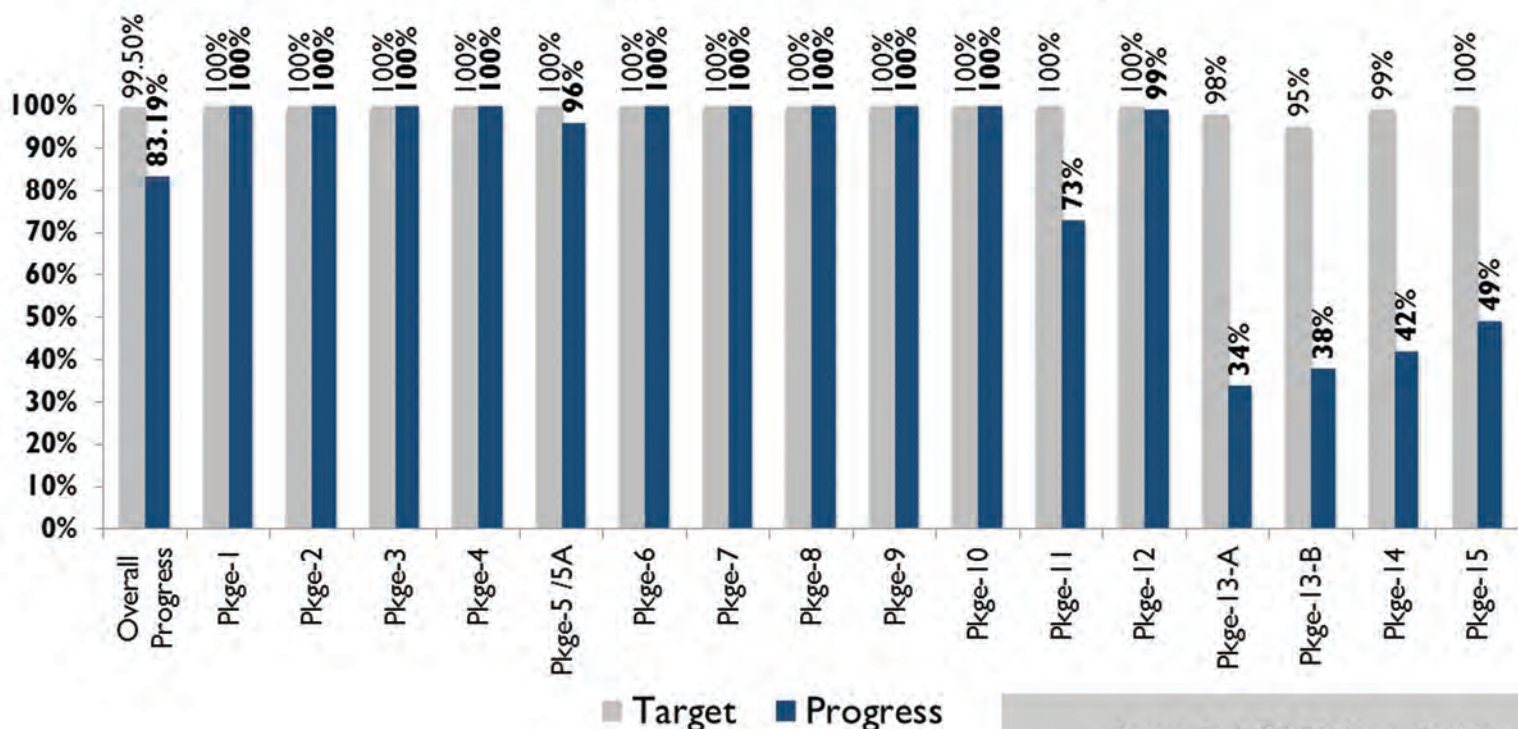
It was decided during the meeting, that Director PPP Node (SELD) and Legal Advisor of Community Mobilization Program (CMP) to look into the legal formalities and contractual arrangements with EMO(s) for provision of variations and/or amendments through which availability of furniture in two schools can be procured and supplied by EMO. The provision of variation/amendment shall then be discussed with Secretary (SELD) and PPP board by August 30, 2019.

## Serving the community at the ground level



Program Director-SBEP Mr. Mushtaque Ahmed Soomro (Program Director, SBEP) accompanied by Mr. Tariq Anwar Khokhar (Deputy Program Director, SBEP), DEO Dadu and Director Schools Hyderabad visited GHS Taga on 24 August, 2019 to meet the representatives of Education Management Organization (EMO) - the Citizen Foundation (TCF) in the presence of the parents of the candidate students and resolved the admission matter of the 93 students on the spot. Speaking to the students and their parents, PD-SBEP assured them that no student shall be restricted for admission to the SBEP School and the government policy for admission shall be implemented in the school. The representatives of TCF also assured the full cooperation with the SBEP team as well as communities on any matter of the school.

## Planned Progress vs Achieved Progress



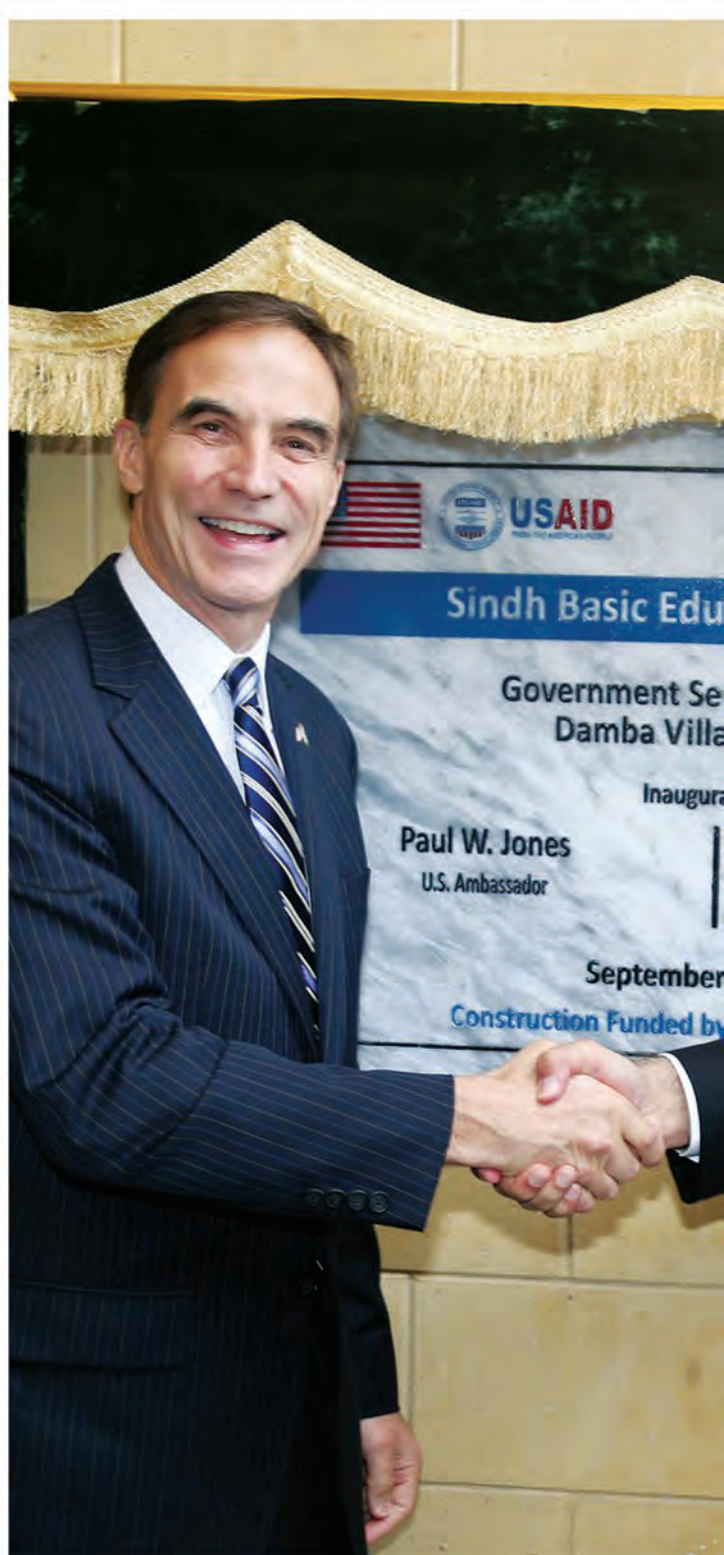


# Program Management Implementation Unit (PMIU) updates

His Excellency U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. **Paul W. Jones** and Honourable Chief Minister of Sindh, **Syed Murad Ali Shah** with Secretary School Education and Literacy Department Government of Sindh **Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi** on September 17, 2019 inaugurated a recently completed school that was constructed with support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at Damba Village in Gadap Town, Karachi. Many local students attended the ceremony and saw where a computer lab, health room and library will be installed to give them a very enhanced learning environment. The modern school is built to high standards so that multiple generations of students will benefit.

This new school building was constructed with the support of USAID & Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP), in partnership with the Government of Sindh.

In addition to constructing schools, SBEP aims to increase and sustain student enrollment in primary, middle, and secondary public schools in select areas of Sindh. SBEP also supports the government's reforms in education, community mobilization, public-private partnerships, and improving reading competencies of students.



## Students of Dadu to benefit from USAID funded State-of-the-Art

Dadu (September 30, 2019) – United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Acting Director for Sindh and Balochistan Mark Sorensen and Program Director SBEP Mushtaque Ahmed Soomro today inaugurated a recently completed school for the local community at Mondar, Dadu. Over 800 local students will benefit every year from the modern classrooms, computer and science labs, health room, and library at the new school constructed with support of USAID.







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I am pleased that the partnership between the U.S. Government and Sindh government is showing great results through improved quality of education in public schools in the province.

His Excellency U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan  
Mr. Paul W. Jones

//

True and lasting development starts with education. The United States and Pakistan share this belief, and that is why we are committed to expanding our cooperation in education.

Honourable Chief Minister of Sindh,  
Syed Murad Ali Shah



Photocredit: Jahan Pakistan newspaper - Sept. 18, 2019

## SBEP PSC Progress Review Meeting



The 21<sup>st</sup> Program Steering Committee (PSC) of Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) met to review program progress on October 18, 2019 at PMIU, Karachi. The meeting was led by chairman PSC **Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi** Secretary School Education and Literacy Department (SE&LD). Program Director SBEP **Mr. Mushtaque Ahmed** Soomro apprised the chair about USAID supported Sindh Basic Education Program being executed by SELD. The meeting reviewed progress of SBEP, issues faced and challenges to be resolved with a forward looking approach.



# Pakistan Reading Project (PRP) updates

## Continous Professional Development

School Support Visits are one prong of PRP's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) model. Teachers receive on-the-job support from project staff through these visits. During the months of August & September 2019, School Support Associates conducted 158 school visits and provided support to 184 teachers (123 males and 61 females). During these visits, the project staff met with teachers and Head Teachers of the schools and provided support on Print Rich Environment, Use of Reading Learning Material and Assessment activities.

During this time, 46 classroom-based corner libraries and 37 tablets were also distributed in intervention schools across EMO-managed schools and High Priority schools in SBEP districts.



## International Literacy Day celebrations



International Literacy Day was celebrated across intervention districts of Sindh, to raise awareness regarding literacy and promote reading culture in schools and communities. Various activities including speeches, awareness walks and reading games were organized by PRP intervention schools with support from PRP staff. District and Taluka Education Officials, community leaders, parents and students actively participated in the activities.





**11,302** workbooks are also distributed in grade 2 students during the TIG Module

## TIG Module

During the months of August & September 2019, 169 Teachers Inquiry Froup meetings were conducted in Shikarpur & Ghotki districts.

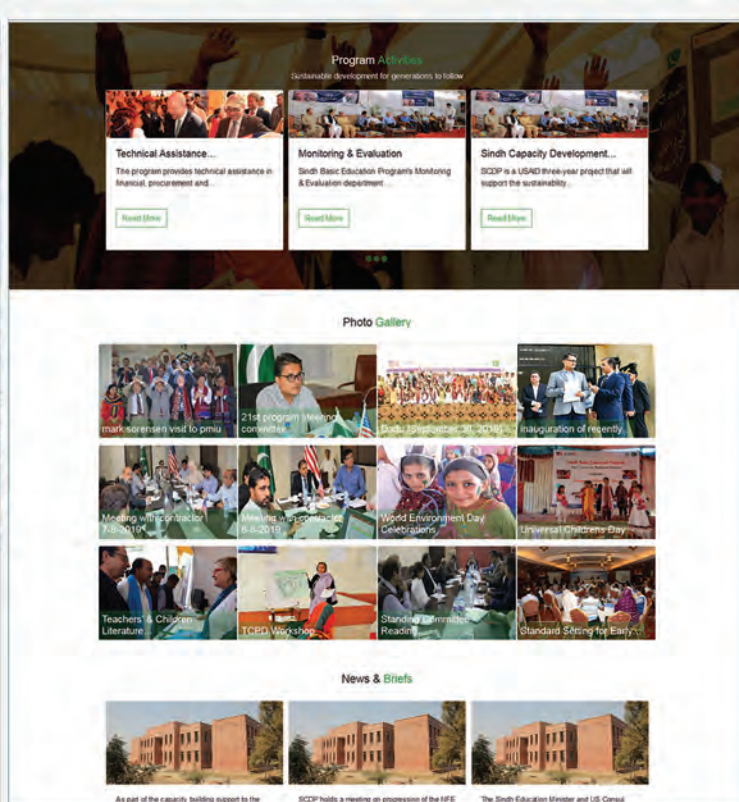
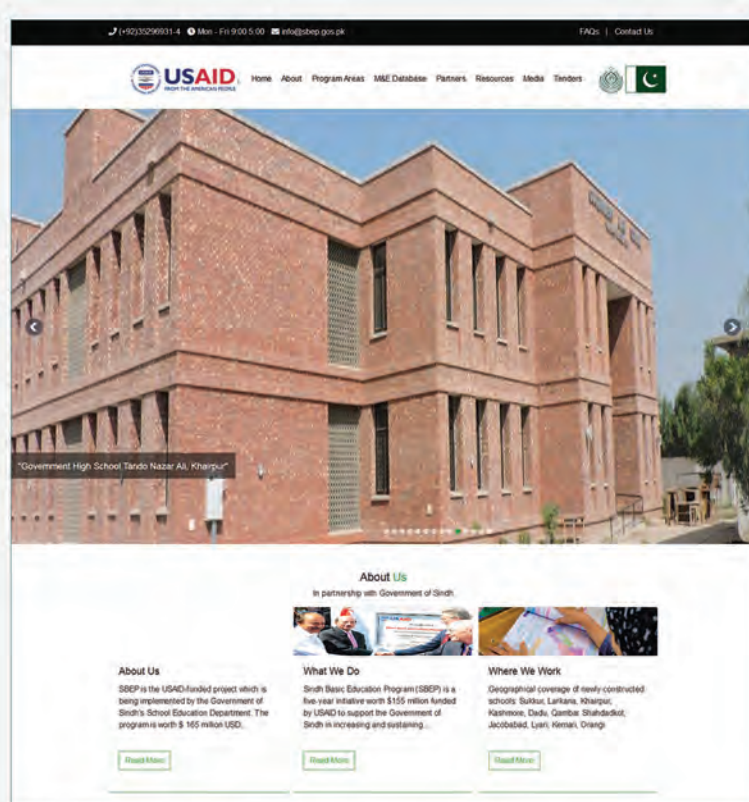
These meetings were attended by 2,682 PRP-trained teachers (2,189 males, 493 females). In these meetings, the TIG modules used were 'Ude of Levelled Readers' and 'Differentiated Instructions were discussed.

## Training Sessions at Dadu District

4-day training sessions were organized at districts Dadu from July 29 to August 01, 2019. Government and EMO appointed teachers participated in these training events. A total of 10 teachers (9 male and 01 female) from 7 schools attended the trainings. During the training, a brief introduction of Pakistan Reading Project (PRP), highlighted significance of the reading along with detailed discussion on "Reading and its components" were introductory agenda. Introduction to PRP developed reading learning material of grade 1&2 was made for the participants.

Grade-1 RLM orientation, demonstration and practice of all DRLP steps including 3 times assessment were the major activities held.





# SBEP Media updates

## SBEP website gets a complete revamp

We at SBEP believe that the real impact comes when we ought to bring improvement in every thing what we do, whether it would be in the real time activities in the field or at the digital / social mediums. For the same reasons we have revamped our official website.

The new SBEP website was launched with the support of Sindh Capacity Development Project (SCDP) in August 2019.

### So what's new?

To make our website more comprehensive and to ensure that our followers and stakeholders get thing related to SBEP on their finger tips, we have added the following new features to our website:

- Photo gallery
- Events
- Latest News & Briefs,
- Latest & upcoming activities
- Information regarding our Program Areas & Partners
- Links to social media pages
- Subscription area
- Success Stories from the field

Visit our website:  
[www.sbep.gos.pk](http://www.sbep.gos.pk)



or scan the above QR code

### So what has improved?

Some of the enhanced features of our new website include:

- Ease of data availability
- Browser & mobile friendly and compatibility with all modern browsers
- Improved loading time
- Corrected earlier identified errors
- Effective & improved Navigation
- More Secure and virus free
- Modern outlay







 **Subscribe**



<https://www.youtube.com/Sindh Basic Education Program>

Subscribe now to get the latest video updates from the USAID funded project activities, along with its partners

## SBEP on air

Weekly Radio Program on FM 101 with USAID funded Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) was aired on September 26, 2019. PD SBEP Mr. Mushtaque Ahmed Soomro, representatives from CMP and EMO - Charter for Compassion (CFC) participated in the show. The participants highlighted unique features of SBEP and briefed about quality of education being delivered through USAID SBEP schools

## SBEP video documentaries

Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) has always kept its stakeholders informed over its program and latest related activities via different platforms on social media. Following the same SBEP has developed different video documentaries which depicts program over-views of all over partners and snapshot of what we stand for, and the work we are doing to make the community a better place.

These video documentaries will also include Our latest video documentaries include briefers over SBEP, SCDP & ICT programs, along with a few of our recent event coverages.

Most of these documentaries are easily accessible via our YouTube page, with more to be uploaded soon.



Core Communications Working Group of USAID funded Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) at the weekly Radio Program on FM 101.



# Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) updates

## CMP organizes Taleemi Mela in Karachi

CMP organized School Level Taleemi Mela at an SBEP school in Karachi. The event was successful and hosted a total of 300 participants (160 male and 140 female) during the event.



Participating students of 'Taleemi mela' are showcasing their projects to the visiting officials in Karachi.

## International day of the girl child celebrations

Early marriages, domestic workload and mobility are the main challenges for girls' students other than lack of facilities. Objectives of celebrating GCD was to create awareness of the education right of girl child, increase motivation of parents towards education of girls.



## Facilitation for Transparency

CMP provided facilitation to Transparency International team to raising awareness about their Anti-fraud Hotline and also facilitate them to distribute giveaways to 26 SMC executive committees of SBEP target schools in Dadu, Khairpur and Sukkur districts



## Health & Hygiene Sessions



CMP organized five Health & Hygiene, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Water & Sanitation (WATSAN) awareness raising sessions in five communities of Qambar-Shahdadkot, Kashmore, Karachi and Larkana district





Awareness sessions being held during the Global Hand Washing day at the GGPS Pandhi school in Kalwar-Kashmore

## Global Hand Washing day celebrations

Global Handwashing Day is an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of washing with soap and water to prevent disease. Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) team used the day to design, test, and replicate creative ways to encourage people to wash their hands at critical times, like before eating and cooking, and improving overall health and well-being for our beneficiaries.

CMP brought more than 1,100 students, teachers, parents, school management committees, and education and health department officials together for Global Handwashing Day events on October 15, 2019

With events in Jacobabad, Kamber Shahdadt, Karachi, Kashmore, and Larkana, staff organized short presentations and videos on the benefits of handwashing and hygiene practices at school, alongside practical demonstrations, art competitions, and skits.

CMP used the events as an opportunity to launch a campaign to improve hygiene facilities in homes and schools. With important actors like mothers and school and government officials attending the celebrations, teams urged simple behavioral changes that can ultimately reduce respiratory and diarrheal illness in children.



We are thankful to CMP for arranging the event at our school. It will be beneficial for students to have knowledge of the importance of handwashing and personal hygiene.

Waseem Ahmed, Head Teacher - Government Boys Primary Schools in Gabar Massan, Larkana

## Technical Assistance provided to SMCs

CMP provided technical assistance and support to five SMCs/schools, school administration and staff for implementation of indicators for Consolidation and merging policy at school level in Jacobabad, Qambar-Shahdadt, Kashmore and Larkana districts. Besides that, CMP facilitated SMCs of 60 schools in Dadu, Jacobabad, Qambar-Shahdadt, Kashmore, and Larkana districts to update their existing school improvement plans. Besides that tracked the implementation of 15 SIPs in Jacobabad and Kashmore district. Moreover, Senior District Managers CMP Jacobabad, Karachi, Qambar-Shahdadt, and Larkana districts visited 41 SBEP targeted schools where they conducted meetings with SMCs for smooth execution of program activities. Also, CMP facilitated SMCs to prepare visibility material.



# Success Story

## Making a School: Child Centered & Learning Enabled

It goes without saying that, quality education needs much more effort than state-of-the-art infrastructure. It includes effective management practices, leadership's vision and wisdom, and community's meaningful engagement. Since the inauguration ceremony of Government Girls' High School Arain and handing over to Charter for Compassion, one of the Education Management Organizations (EMOs), the school is continuing to excel in the areas of access, retention, quality and impact.

The students as well as teachers of GGHS Arain, one of the USAID SBEP schools, feel a remarkable change in teaching and learning environment due to EMO's efficient management. The EMO has introduced many unique initiatives, like; In-house Teachers' Training Program, Community and Parent Body Meetings for sharing the progress of students, Enrollment Enhancement Drive, sports and other community recognition days/events, health room with dedicated staff for screening, and functional science and computer labs.

One of the key achievement of the EMO is to leverage private sector investment to establish fully equipped Computer Lab (24 Desktops, two Servers), through the generous contribution of approximately PKR 2.5 Million from "The Rotary International Foundation". This computer lab, with the assistance of lab instructors, is helping in enhancing ICT skills of students of grade IV – X.



Students of Government Girls' High School Arain are using computer lab, established with the support of Rotary International Foundation



When I compare my school and its management three years back and today, I can see the vast difference, not only in physical infrastructure but also the way teachers' pedagogies and content delivery. The plan and conduct their sessions with child-centered approach. EMO has ensured that the school offer every opportunity which is required for our learning and growth. We really enjoy studying here. We also feel enthusiastic, while learning computer.

**Fiza Ali**, Student,  
Grade - X, GGHS Arain, Sukkur

### Our dedicated editorial board

<b>Patron in Chief:</b>	Mustaque Ahmed Soomro
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