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NEWSLETTER

Sindh Basic Education Program

In partnership with the Government of Sindh

The Government of Sindh and U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are working together to implement the Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) 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. USAID's \$155 million program is being implemented by Government of Sindh's (GoS) Education and Literacy Department, with an additional \$10 million contribution from GoS. The implementation period is 2012 – 2016 (extension till 2018).

SPRING 2015



38 government schools are under construction in Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana and Karachi



96 government schools consolidated to enhance school management

Highlights



Over **16,000** children (including 7,000 Girls) enrolled in government through enrollment campaigns



25 private land owners donated land to GoS for reconstruction of schools



650 teaching kits provided to government schools



1,500 School Management Committees formed to mobilize communities



100 School Health & Nutrition Committees formed to improve child nutrition



Over **2,000** primary teachers inducted in on-the-job coaching & training program



Over **12,000** students from grade 3 & 5 assessed in reading and math skills



Reconstructing Government Schools

Groundbreaking Ceremonies

Sindh Chief Minister Mr. Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Sindh Senior Minister for Education Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuro and U.S. Ambassador Mr. Richard G. Olson unveiling the commemorative plaque at the first groundbreaking ceremony. So far three groundbreaking ceremonies have been held in Khairpur, Sukkur and Larkana districts.

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SBEP will be constructing up to 120 state of the art schools to replace damaged schools in flood affected areas across seven districts of northern Sindh including Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana, Jacobabad, Kashmore, Dadu and Qambar Shahdadkot, along with five towns of Karachi including Lyari, Kemari, Orangi, Bin Qasim and Gadap.



Sindh Govt. Schools in Disrepair



On-going Reconstruction in 38 Govt. Schools



Final Look After Completion

- ### Achievements

 - Contracts worth \$25 million have been awarded to contractors
 - Out of 120 schools, 38 schools are under construction in Khairpur, Sukkur, Larkana & Karachi
- 46 government schools are at tendering and design stage
 - 58 government schools have been finalized for reconstruction in five districts
 - Land acquisition for the next 25 schools has been finalized

Architectural & Engineering Services

Halcrow Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd has been engaged by USAID to carry out the Architecture & Engineering services. It is providing construction supervision to

monitor the construction activities for a quality and cost effective completion. National Engineering Services of Pakistan (NESPAK) has also been engaged to

monitor the ongoing construction in accordance with the Technical Specifications. So far NESPAK has successfully verified thirty five milestones.

Consolidation of Government Schools

Government of Sindh approved the policy of School Consolidation in February 2012 to rationalize school infrastructure and management and to enhance quality of education.

Program Management & Implementation Unit

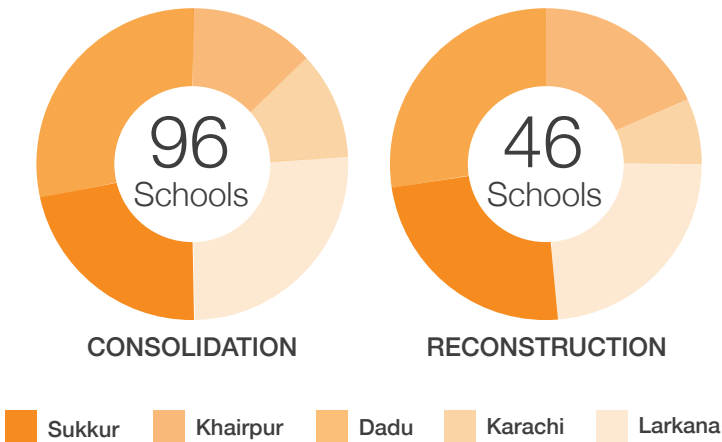


The PMIU Team with Program Director Mr. Tameezuddin Khero

Program Management & Implementation Unit (PMIU) was established by the Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh in 2012. It has been operating efficiently since, providing technical assistance to Education department and ensuring smooth running of the Sindh Basic Education Program.

Donation of Private Land to Education Department

Private land owners of twenty government schools in Khairpur, Sukkur and Larkana donated land worth Rs.49.44 million free of cost to Education and Literacy Department so well equipped schools can be built in their community.



With PMIU’s assistance, under the Sindh government’s up-gradation, consolidation and merger policy, 46 SBEP schools are notified as campus schools in which 96 adjacent schools have been consolidated. These reforms will consolidate several small schools that exist in a village into a single properly managed facility.

Program Director’s Message

"Program Management & Implementation Unit (PMIU) is commemorating its second anniversary with its first newsletter to highlight the milestones Sindh Basic Education Program has achieved."

Mr. Tameezuddin Khero, PD

Sindh Community Mobilization Program




“Our closed school will open. Our new school building looks like a palace. Female teachers will teach our girls and we will ensure effective performance of the school. Village girls are very excited and so are we. Our heartfelt gratitude to USAID and SBEP.”

Abdur Rehman Chawro
Community elder


As a component of SBEP, the Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) was awarded to International Relief & Development (IRD) on August 7, 2013 by USAID in the same geographic areas as the parent SBEP. CMP focuses on the following objectives:

- 1) Increase communities' involvement in GoS reform of merging, consolidating, and upgrading schools;
- 2) Improve community and district administration's coordination for increased girls' enrollment;
- 3) Improve child nutrition in selected communities and government schools through research that informs innovation and good practice; and,
- 4) Sustain community mobilization and school-based management through public-private partnership.


Mobilizing Communities in Sindh




Over **16,000** children (including 7,000 Girls) enrolled in government through enrollment campaigns




2,500 School Management Subcommittees trained where GoS notified the new construction and neighboring schools




Annual School Days celebrated in 46 SBEP schools to recognize attendance & high achievers




Over 200 District Education Officers trained to involve communities in consolidating, merging & upgrading schools




1,500 School Management Committees formed to mobilize communities



120 Social Mobilization Plans developed by communities



100 School Health and Nutrition Committees formed to improve child nutrition



40 School Improvement Plans developed by communities

Encouraging Private Sector in Public Schools

Community Mobilization Program and PMIU are providing assistance to Education & Literacy Department to develop a policy framework to outsource Educational Management Organizations (EMO) in order to improve quality of education of public schools. Three consultative sessions have been held so far with private NGOs, school adopters and government officials on this note. The newly constructed 120 schools will be managed by the EMOs, selected through a competitive process.




High grade achiever awarded trophy and certificate on Annual School Day at GBPS Saleh Indhar Sukkur


Sindh Reading Program





The Sindh Reading Program (SRP) is another component of SBEP which was awarded to Chemonics International by USAID on Jan 6, 2014. It aims to improve early-grade reading and mathematics of children in primary schools through teachers' continuous professional development, improving assessment and providing supplementary teaching and learning materials.


Improving Quality of Primary Education in Government Schools


 **Over 2,000 primary** teachers inducted in on-the-job coaching & training program

 **147 master trainers** trained to improve quality of teaching

 **Training manuals** developed for master trainers and teachers in Sindhi and Urdu language

 **650 teaching kits** provided to government schools

 **Baseline assessment Survey** conducted in 560 schools

 **12,000 students** from grade 3 & 5 assessed in reading and math skills

Training teachers for effective early grade reading and mathematics instruction

Sindh Reading Program launched the first cohort of teacher training program with a 2-day orientation on December 30-31, 2014 for 2,645 primary school teachers. The approach includes face-to-face training as well as on-the-job coaching and training over a period of four months.



Story telling at SRP stall during Karachi Literature Festival to promote reading culture.



“This is the first time we have seen a program focusing on reading—an area that has been neglected over the past many years. Being a supervisor, I have now started to give more time to the primary grades to provide solutions for improving reading and math skills of young learners.”

Yasmeen Bhatti
Supervisor, Sukkur

Other Donors

1. **SBEP Dissemination Conference** was held in Islamabad to highlight and promote the shared vision of USAID and GoS in modernizing education in Sindh with other donors.
2. MoU was signed with the following:
 - I. **Rotary International** will equip Science & Computer laboratories of SBEP schools
 - II. **Intel Pakistan** will provide trainings to government teachers to enable them to use information communication technology (ICT) in school education, literacy, and daily life.
 - III. **Universal Service Fund** would provide broadband connectivity to SBEP schools
3. **Asia Foundation** will be donating 5000 books to SBEP school libraries
4. **Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry** has committed to provide furniture, books and other equipment to SBEP schools.



Sindh Capacity Development Project

The Sindh Capacity Development Project (SCDP) is a three-year activity to support the sustainability of the Sindh Basic Education Program. The purpose is to ensure stronger governance and improved public accountability in the education sector through systems building and institutional strengthening of the Government of Sindh.

SCDP is under procurement phase. It's expected to have a selected local firm on board in April 2015 to implement the project.