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Sindh Basic Education Program

In partnership with USAID

Newsletter

Volume II | Issue I

October 2015 - March 2016

The future

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Together we are creating a **ROSHAN PAKISTAN**



Profile

Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) is an integrated program towards modernizing the education in Sindh. The Government of Sindh's Education and Literacy Department (E&LD) and U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are working together to implement the SBEP. The program aims to improve the quality of and access to basic education for children in Sindh by increasing and sustaining student enrollment at primary, middle and secondary levels. USAID is contributing \$155 million to the program while the Government of Sindh (GoS) is adding \$10 million contribution to implementation unit of the program. The implementation period is from 2012 to 2018.

Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU):

In order to ensure transparent and efficient management of SBEP, the Education & Literacy Department (E&LD), Government of Sindh established a Program Management and Implementation Unit, which is headed by SBEP Program Director, a grade 20 officer, who reports to Secretary E&LD.

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 E&LD 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 E&LD.



Message

I am feeling honored to share with you the great news of completion of Sindh Basic Education Program's first state-of-the-art school building in District Khairpur. This speaks highly of the tireless efforts done by all concerned quarters. I am especially thankful to Chief Secretary, Secretary Education and Literacy Department, Additional Chief Secretary- Planning and Development and Secretary, Finance Department Government of Sindh, USAID, Halcrow Pakistan and the staff of Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU) – SBEP without whose continuous support and hard work, it would not have been possible.

I am also indebted to all stakeholders, including Community Mobilization Program, Sindh Reading Program, and Sindh Capacity Development Program for their contribution towards modernizing education in Sindh.

I would like to assure you that despite facing significant challenges, we will continue to work hard and achieve the ambitious targets we have set for ourselves and for the program.

Tameezuddin Khero
Program Director

Program Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU) - SBEP



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PMIU UPDATES

State of the art school building for better learning

Construction of the first state-of-the-art school building for Government Boys High School Jhahj Regulator of Taluka Faiz Gunj, district Khairpur is completed. The new school building is child friendly and equipped with key features like library, computer lab, science lab, administrative block, multipurpose hall, health room and separate toilets for boys and girls. Boundary wall of the school ensures the safety and privacy of the teachers and learners. The

school also has its own filtered drinking water supply, an electric connection and sewerage disposal. A separate administrative block serves the needs of school administration, staff and visitors.

With its deep foundation system, cavity perimeter walls and high ceilings ideal for the hot weather conditions, the school building is



a veritable symbol of art and architecture and a greater step towards modernizing education in Sindh.

Partnership with Rotary International

The E&LD and USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Rotary International under Public Private Partnership Node, for SBEP. Under this agreement Rotary International will provide

equipment and furniture for computer and science labs for SBEP schools.



First batch of four schools completed

Halcrow Pakistan, the construction firm for SBEP, is ready to handover the first batch of four state-of-the-art schools to Government of Sindh

by the end of February 2016. These school buildings, three in district Khairpur and one in Sukkur, have been completed within the record period of 18

months. The GoS has allocated Rs. 124 million to provide furniture for the constructed schools.



Upcoming construction packages

Project Management and Implementation Unit (PMIU) of SBEP has issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the 14 construction school of Package 1 and 2. These schools include six in Dadu, six in Larkana and two in Sukkur districts. The PMIU has also issued NOC for the six Package 1 construction schools for district Dadu, which include two boys, two girls and two schools in the co-education category. PMIU has finalized the procurement process and issued work orders for the construction of these schools.

To date, PMIU has notified 35 schools on design and tendering stage after the completion of land mutations out of 58 schools constructions in Karachi, Khairpur, Larkana, Dadu, and Sukkur districts. The land accusation for Karachi ii and Kashmore is in progress. 130 milestones out of 510 for 58 schools have been achieved so far. The MOU signing ceremonies have been carried out with communities for construction of these schools.

District	No. of Schools		Update
	Package-1	Package-2	
Khairpur	6	9	Two schools are completed and two schools are at completion level. Construction work on remaining schools is in progress.
Sukkur	11	2	One school is near completion
Larkana	7	6	Construction work is in progress
Karachi	5	4	Construction work in progress on 5 schools. Land mutations for 4 schools is in process
Dadu	6	6	Construction work is in progress
Kambar Shahdadkot	7	14	Construction work for package -1 is expected to be awarded by end of January 2016
Jacobabad	17	N/A	NOC for Jacobabad has been issued by E&LD
Kashmore	14	N/A	Land mutations in process
Total	114		



"I and my younger sister always thought that would we ever be able to smile? The newly constructed school in our village makes us smile."

A young Student from Koro Goth

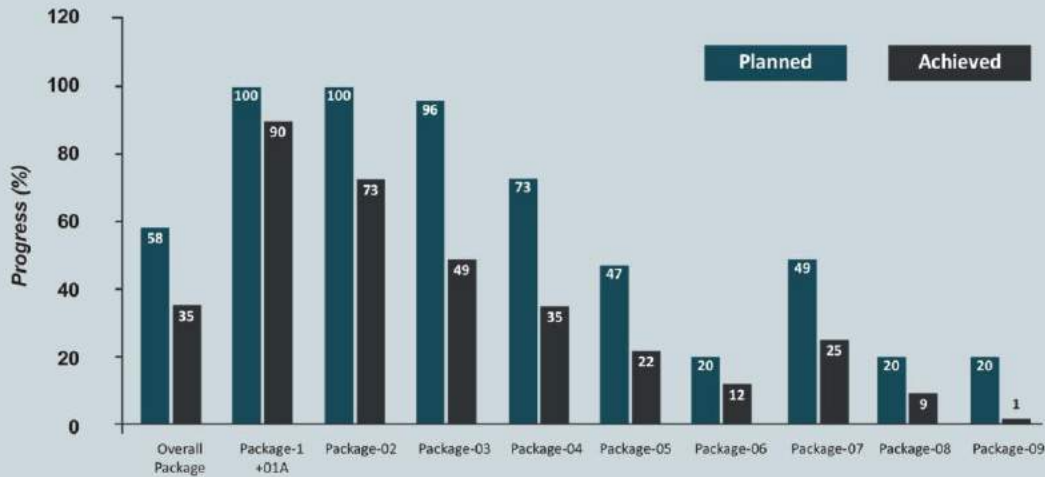


"Yes I can read it. Let me recite what is written on the banner."

A little girl from Arain School participated in school enrollment campaign

Summary of physical progress on construction

Planned vs Achieved Progress (%)



A leap forward for better education management

In compliance with article 25-A of the constitution of Pakistan, Government of Sindh has passed the “Sindh Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2013.” The legislation pits a renewed obligation on the GoS and E&LD to provide improved delivery of services in the education sector to all children in the province of Sindh. Under the Government of Sindh Public Private Partnership (PPP) Act 2010, E&LD will contract credible Education Management Organizations (EMOs) from the private sector to manage and improve the functions of public schools by introducing innovations, modernizing the education system, addressing management gaps, maintaining

and upgrading the school buildings and facilities, and cooperatively working along with teachers schools staff, School Management Committees (SMCs), surrounding communities and local tiers of E&LD. The visualized impact of

EMOs will bring not only a noticeable change in those schools where EMOs perform, but will also be a splendid trend-setter to replicate the same approach in many other schools of the province.



SINDH READING PROGRAM

School-based support for early grade reading

Sindh Reading Program (SRP) developed and distributed academic teaching and learning materials (TLMs) in 1460 schools of Cohort-1 during December 2015. These materials include 29,200 Lesson Plans, 87,600 Levelled Readers, and 3,720 Read Aloud in 930 schools. The provision of materials to all target schools will continue till the end of this academic year i.e. mid-March

2016. Following this, Teaching & Learning Associates (TLAs) have started observing lesson plan delivery and data derived is being uploaded on web portal to help make informed adjustments in material content and OTJ support strategy.



ICT-based diagnostic assessment

SRP made a landmark achievement by introducing ICT-based Diagnostic Assessment for Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) in Sindh province. Electronic assessment of 23,943 grade 2 students in 1,425 schools for their reading skills and levels were successfully carried out, which will lead SRP to launch the next cycle of Formative Assessment in

all its target schools. This mechanism will also enable results to be distributed to parents, providing them insights into the performance of their children and schools and building a culture of accountability at the grassroots level.



Promotion of reading materials and reading spaces

A consultative workshop was organized on libraries development to engage key stakeholders from public and private sectors. Led by SRP's technical team and Rob Davies, an international expert on libraries development, the objectives of the workshop were a) to introduce participants to the state-of-the-art global practices for the management and maintenance of in-school and public libraries; b) to start a dialogue about the key challenges faced by stakeholders in the



development of libraries and; c) to collaborate on key solutions to overcome these challenges. This is the first in a series of workshops that will continue to promote critical thinking among the stakeholders about their approach



to libraries development. The initial key outcome of the workshop was the formulation of a libraries working group to ensure sustainable library development process in Sindh.



Reading out of school

SRP partnered with Directorate of Non Formal Education (NFE) Sindh and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to initiate the trans-adaptation of NFE materials produced by JICA. The program has been leading NFE curriculum and material development in Sindh, which will be institutionalized in all donor-funded and government-supported NFE centres across Sindh. The following draft NFE

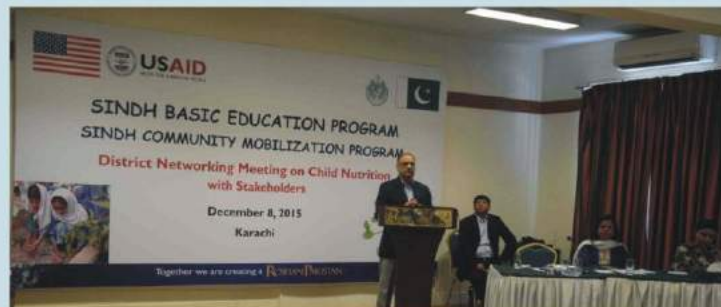
curriculum and trans-adaptation of JICA Punjab materials have been completed for Sindh province:

- i) Package A (Sindhi, Maths and English);
- ii) Package B (Sindhi, Maths and English);
- iii) Package C (Sindhi, Maths, Science, Social Studies and English).

SINDH COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

Launch of networking group on child nutrition

SBEP - CMP launched District Networking Meetings on Child Nutrition with stakeholders working in the nutrition sector in its program areas, by holding two networking meetings in Khairpur District and Karachi. The coordination meetings are part of program's ongoing efforts to explore options for networking and mutual collaboration among nutrition sector stakeholders, to support program's nutrition related activities. The meeting sessions also introduced CMP's nutrition program and activities. Representatives, including from E&LD, Department of Health,



nutrition cell, and development organizations working in nutrition sector participated in the networking sessions. Nutrition working groups were formed to streamline, synergize and sustain nutrition related activities. In

Khairpur, this marks the first time ever a working group formed in the nutrition sector.

Universal Children's Day celebrations

Universal Children's Day celebrations were organized across CMP program districts and Karachi towns to emphasize the importance of ensuring that children are able to survive and thrive through education and empowerment. 21 schools in the program targeted districts and Karachi welcomed 5,012 participants, including 3,845



students, teachers, SMC members, parents, community members, and district level E&LD officials to these celebrations. CMP facilitated these events with SMCs to improve the schools' learning conditions, inform children regarding their rights, including the right to education, and motivate communities to enrol their children, especially girls in school – all to help unleash the children's potential. The activities included general knowledge quiz, debating competition, art competition, and role plays on various topics related to education, and performances on folk songs to the enthusiastic and encouraging audience of proud parents and well-wishers. Participating students were also recognized with trophies. School bags printed with the message "Let us go to school" were presented to the newly enrolled students.

CMP joins hand with Telenor Pakistan for small grant disbursement

SBEP, has signed a Letter of Intent with Telenor Pakistan through its sub program CMP on November 19, 2015. A Grants Disbursement Agreement was also signed between SBEP-CMP, Tameer Microfinance Bank Limited and Telenor Easy Paisa. CMP will provide small grants to the SBEP selected schools in seven northern districts of Sindh

and five towns of Karachi, by utilizing Easy Paisa services of Telenor through its subsidiary Tameer Microfinance Bank Limited. Telenor Pakistan has also shown its great intent to provide in-kind support worth PKR 2.5 million for selected CMP-targeted public schools in Sindh. This partnership is a significant mark in collaboration of public



private entities and development sector to synergize social development investments, particularly in the education sector.

Groundbreaking ceremony at Dadu

SBEP's fifth groundbreaking ceremony was held on October



2, 2015 at Government Boys Middle School Waleed Shaikh, Dadu. It was inaugurated by Dr. Fazlullah Pechuho, Secretary E&LD. The ceremony marked the beginning of school construction in Dadu. The groundbreaking ceremony was also attended by USAID representatives, MNA Mr. Rafiq

Ahmed Jamali and MPA Pir Mujeeb-ul-Haq as well as E&LD officials and teachers, students, and members of the community. Government Boys Middle School Waleed Shaikh is one of the 6 schools of Package 8 (Dadu 1) that has been contracted out for construction.

Engaging SMCs in school construction

CMP team, in coordination with PMIU, led the coordination and execution of MOU signing ceremonies for each of notified construction schools in CMP targeted districts. For this activity CMP team worked to mobilize the local communities, including SMCs, to ensure their attendance at the MOUs signing ceremonies. As a result of CMP's effort parents, community members, district government officials, teachers and students participated in the ceremonies. The MOU were signed among the staff of schools, representatives of SMCs, community, sub contractor

and Halcrow which encompass the following roles and responsibilities:

- Contractor will be responsible to arrange a temporary school facility till the completion of the school construction.
- Contractor will be responsible to pay rent, as well as manage provision of all basic needs like water supply and utility bills of the temporary school facility.
- Contractor will also be responsible to transfer furniture, and other teaching, learning material to the temporary school.

Students also participated in the role plays focusing on the importance of education and girls' enrollment and delivered speeches on the need for education and increase in enrollment.





Success Story

Changing community norms to improve girls' access to education

Limiting girls' right to education and prohibiting them to go to school has been a long-time practice in the Syed Community of the Pir Essa Village in the Khaipur District. Although not

necessarily a social norm across the district, the CMP team learned quickly that this was a challenge for the SMC of the Pir Essa Government Girls' Primary School. During initial meetings between the SMC and CMP, particularly during discussions on the importance of increasing girls' enrollment, the SMC members shared that it was uncommon for girls to attend school.

The CMP team worked closely with the SMC to devise a mobilization strategy to raise awareness of parents and other community members, including village elders about the importance of educating all children, including girls, and to influence them to enrol and send their girls to school. Based on this strategy, the SMC and CMP team conducted a comprehensive set of activities, including a series of separate meetings with male (26) and female (19)





representatives from the Syed Community. During these activities, the team shared key information about the SBEP, promoted upcoming community mobilization activities, and encouraged parents and community members to consider allowing their girls to receive education. An enrollment campaign walk was also organized throughout the village. More than 240 students, teachers, parents, and other community members joined the walk to show their

commitment to girls' education by displaying the posters with key messages and reciting "*Acho ta school hallo*" (Let us go to school in Sindhi) as they walked. During the walk, the Syed Community also announced their decision to send their girls to school.

As a result of the jointly implemented community mobilization efforts in the Pir Essa Village, perceptions about girls' education have begun to shift. This shift in perspective has influenced many Syed Community families from the Pir Essa Village to enrol their children in school, including nine girls into the school. The SMC and CMP have not fully overcome this obstacle, but these nine girls reflect the beginning of a change in social norms of the community.

Science projects of SBEP schools get selected for Intel's National Science Fair

Five out of sixteen science projects presented by students of SBEP schools at the Intel Provincial Science Fair 2015 in Karachi were selected for participation in Intel National Science Fair, which was held in January 2016 in Islamabad. These projects were developed by students from government schools of Larkana, Sukkur, Khairpur and Karachi. CMP team

facilitated Intel trainers from ISEF in conducting orientation sessions for participation in Intel Science Fair for 76 participating

schools of Larkana, Sukkur, Khairpur and Karachi in May 2015. Approximately 6,394 students (girls: 2,585 and boys:

3,809) from grade 8 to 11 and 545 teachers participated in the orientation sessions and 190 students got registered with Intel for participation in the national, provincial and regional science fairs.



Strengthening communities

CMP takes lead in communities to strengthen their role for better education. Communities were engaged in trainings for capacity building on different issues related to education prevailing in schools

and communities. 29 trainings were conducted in which 400 participants developed their skills in dealing with community level issues. Female participants from communities remained an encouraging sign of change in

behaviours. About half of female have attended training sessions (144 females out of 256 participants) from 80 SMC subcommittees of 80 schools on water and sanitation.



Sindh Cultural Day celebrated

The CMP marked Sindh Culture Day in schools across the program targeted areas with events to create awareness about culture, harmony, and peace as well as about increasing girls' enrolment. The schools welcomed 1,599 participants including parents, district and local community officials, children, and spectators to the events. Students delivered speeches on the importance and role of culture and heritage, displayed tableaus and traditional items, performed dances of folk /cultural songs and role plays, and competed in quiz contests. The children wore traditional Sindhi "Ajrak" (shawl) and "Topi" (caps), making the

events colourful and lively. The participating students received

trophies amid applause from the audience.





SINDH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Orientation for the PMIU team

A comprehensive orientation workshop was organized on October 06, 2015 for all PMIU staff including PD-PMIU to familiarize them with SCDP scope of work and project work plans. Objectives of the workshop were to provide orientation of SCDP to PMIU, extend team building across PMIU and SCDP, undertake collaborative work-planning of SCDP for 2015-16, and acknowledge and appreciate the accomplishments of PMIU leadership and its team.



At the end of the workshop, Dr. Randy Hatfield, Senior Policy Adviser and Manager SBEP, USAID distributed certificates of appreciation for milestones achieved by PMIU team.

Engaging partners

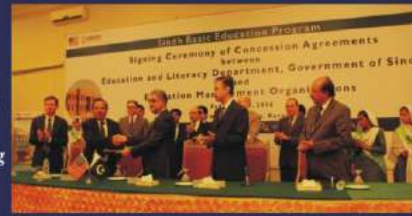
SCDP organized a workshop on December 02, 2015 at Royal Rodale Club for all SBEP partners. The representative from CMP, SRP, PMIU, USAID and Halcrow Pakistan attended the event. The workshop achieved successful outcomes on:

- providing orientation of SCDP components to SBEP Implementation Partners,
- seeking out clarity on overlapping segments across SRP/SCDP and CMP/SCDP,
- undertaking collaborative work-planning of SCDP/SBEP for 2015-16, and
- enhancing team building for SBEP, its common goals, outcomes, outputs and key performance indicators.

EMOs - A new approach Agreement signing ceremony

Education and Literacy Department Government of Sindh has setup new approaches in education through the introduction of Education Management Organizations (EMOs). E&LD - GoS hold an agreement signing ceremony at Chief Minister House, Karachi, with EMOs under Public Private Partnership Node Act 2010. GoS has contracted with EMOs for first four schools constructed with the support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the USD 165 Million Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP).

Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, David M. Hale, U.S. Counsel General, Brian Heath, Senior Minister for Education, Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, and Provincial Director of USAID, Craig Buck attended the signing ceremony along with other high-ranking officials, ministers, political leaders and representatives from the United States Government, Government of Sindh, development partners, teachers, students, and members of the beneficiary community. The signing ceremony kicked-off implementation of GoS policy reform of EMOs under which GoS is entering into partnerships with credible organizations from the private sector to manage and improve the functioning of public schools under the Sindh Public Private Partnership Act 2010. During the ceremony, the GoS signed management contracts with Institute of Business and Administration (IBA) Sukkur, and Charter for Compassion (CFC) Pakistan for the first four schools in District Khairpur and Sukkur, out of an approximately 106 schools which are being constructed under USAID funded Sindh Basic Education Program in Khairpur, Sukkur, Dadu, Qamber-Shahdadkot, Kashmore-Kandhkot, Jacobabad, Larkana, and five towns of Karachi.



The Winning Team Sindhi Language on Google Translate

Sindhi Language is one of the ancient languages in the world having 60 million users and speakers across the globe. The growing usage of language has created an intense need to incorporate it as a translatable language on worldwide Web.

Sindh Basic Education Program (SBEP) through its "Program Management & Implementation Unit" (PMIU) envisioned the importance of task and constituted a committee consisting of 10 members of the program to start translation of English words, phrases, idioms, proverbs and sentences into Sindhi language in Google Translate Communities. With the passage of time and the efforts taken by PMIU team, Sindhi language has attained status of translatable language in 105 international languages of the world, on 21st Feb 2016 on International Mother Language Day. This happened because of the tireless efforts made by the team along with many other contributors from different sections of the society in this cause; which makes Sindhi as the Global Computing Language. The Education & Literacy Department of Government of Sindh which is administrative department of SBEP has performed outstanding job not only helping people around the globe for better understanding and usage of Sindhi Language but will also open windows for world to know about the ancient civilization of Indus valley.

PMIU is privileged to share this great news with the language lovers all around the world. The Government of Sindh has achieved another milestone in serving the people of Sindh Province. The PMIU SBEP takes special pride in accomplishing this national task as now translation from Sindhi to English, French, Chinese, Arabic & many other languages and vice versa is possible. This will also make Sindhi language a language of international commerce and trade and transfer of knowledge among the languages of globe.



"Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to".

To acknowledge his determination, Mr. Tameezudin Khero Program Director, SBEP is being awarded a shield by Dr. Randy Hatfield, Senior Policy Adviser and Manager SBEP, USAID.

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