

Objectives:

The project objective is to improve access to and increase the retention and quality of primary education in 17 marginalized districts across the country through multiple interventions at the institutional and community levels. To achieve the project aims, UNESCO sets four outcomes:

1. Increase enrolment of Out-of-Schoolchildren (OOSC) in the primary schools in marginalised communities in provinces/areas through the mobilisation of local communities.
2. Improve retention and quality of primary education in the marginalised communities of target district/union councils through improvement in the school learning environment.
3. Improve the capacity of relevant provincial/area and district education officials to create an enabling school environment for education.

Actions:

UNESCO Pakistan to reach the revised project enrollment target of 75,000 OOSC.

The project will prioritize the following project implementation strategies:

1. More focused approach on the provinces and districts with higher numbers of Out-of-Primary-Schoolchildren (OOPSC), while expanding the project implementation in additional union councils within the existing districts.
2. Proactive engagement of local community groups, i.e., School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parent-Teacher Committees (PTCs) for social mobilisation, especially in door-to-door contacts with parents and family members to identify and enroll OOPSC.
3. Creating more learning spaces in existing schools, i.e., pre-fabricated, low-cost shelters, WASH facilities and other missing school facilities.
4. Provision of additional teachers and/or arrangements for evening classes and transportation support, especially for girls and female teachers.
5. Establishment of Non-Formal Basic Education (NFBE) centers with support from local communities.
6. Engagement with the private sector under a public-private partnership, especially to provide missing facilities in schools/learning centres.
7. Organising preparatory or catch-up classes for older children to support their enrollment in age-appropriate grades.

Results:

- A total of 33,214 OOPSC enrolled, including 14,858 girls;
- Missing School Facilities (MSF) provided in 428 schools, which included refurbishment and construction of classrooms, water and sanitation facilities and other minor repairs;
- 2,071 teachers including 924 female teachers imparted with knowledge and skills related to Activity-Based Learning (ABL), and Multi-Grade Teaching (MGT);

- 1517 village, mother/father groups and youth groups for supporting and promotion of primary education in underprivileged communities;
- 6,533 SMC/PTC members trained including 2695 females, these training were focused on SMCs' roles and responsibilities, community mobilisation, School Development Planning (SDP) and monitoring of education interventions in their areas;
- 50 additional teacher was provided in Government schools where there was a shortage of teachers;
- 20 Non-formal Basic Education (NFBE) centres to absorb OOPSC;
- Interactive learning through online classes started in nine public schools of Islamabad;
- 55 government education officials from the target districts and areas trained on effective monitoring of the school system and extended support to the teachers at the classroom level;
- 53 Policymakers, parliamentarians and government officials sensitised on legislation and;
- implementation of Article 25-A of the Constitution.

Meaningful Impacts:

- The project contributed to one of the major issues of OOSC in the county.
- Quality of teaching and learning process in schools improved and served as a stimulus to attract students towards learning and motivate parents to send their children to school, which is well recognized at the government level.
- The project's evident results encouraged donors' attention, which helped in geographical expansion and enhanced outreach. The project started with 304 girls' primary schools of 13 districts in 2016, with minimal funding support from a reputed partner. The number of target districts also increased from 13 to 17.