

Press Release

GPE approved \$ 66 million grant to support education reforms in Sindh.

Karachi, 07 July, 2014: The board of directors of Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has approved US\$ 66 million program implementation grant to support reforms in Sindh's education sector, conveyed to Sindh government by Mr. Alice P. Albright Chief Executive Officer, GPE.

“The Board of Directors acknowledged the leadership and commitment of the Government in preparing a proposal that clearly addresses Pakistan Sindh's education needs and challenges” Mr. Albright observed.

The Sindh Government has recently developed five year Education Sector Plan 2014-18 and its some components will be funded from this grant. This plan has developed in consultation of international and national experts and using UNESCO Education Planning and Simulation Model. The overall cost has been worked out to be Rs.940 billion for its full implementation and major portion will be financed by Sindh government.

Mr. Albright has informed about the approval of the grant in his letters sent to Senior Minister of Education Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuro and Finance Minister Mr. Murad Ali Shah.

Earlier in March, Education Sector Plan for Sindh was endorsed by the representatives of ten development organisations and agencies, at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Islamabad.

Additional Chief Secretary Sindh and secretary education Mr. Fazlullah Pechuho has represented Sindh in that meeting and had said “We identified the need for a new Education Sector Plan for Sindh in 2012. As a result of a consultative and comprehensive process which followed during the next two years, we have managed to formulate this plan, with support of the development partners including GPE. We are thankful to all those who are endorsing this document.”

With the help of the GPE grant, the Government of Sindh aims to increase the Net Enrolment Rate (NER) for 2014-2018 for Katchi from 32 to 45 per cent; for Primary from 59 to 77 per cent; for Middle from 32 to 50 per cent; for Secondary from 23 to 35 per cent and for Higher Secondary from 19 to 30 per cent.

Chief Program Manager of Reform Support Unit (RSU) Ms. Saba Mahmud said that the Education Sector Plan has been developed through a participatory and transparent process and provide an impetus for free and compulsory education as guaranteed by Article 25-A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

^This will establish a roadmap for education in the Sindh, with clear accountability mechanisms for implementing various components of the programme^ she observed. The development partners will be providing technical support to the education department in effective implementation of the plan and we are thankful to them.

We welcome to all your queries.

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