



REFORMERS



JULY - SEPTEMBER 2024

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Empower Through Education

MESSAGE

Providing access to quality education for the children of Sindh is a top priority for the Government of Sindh. This commitment to education reform is unwavering, and I would like to reaffirm our dedication to overcoming the barriers that hinder educational progress. Official data from the Finance Division reveals that Sindh boasts a literacy rate of 61.8%, ranking second among the four provinces, including literacy rates for youth and adults. However, we recognize that there is still much to be done to ensure that all children in Sindh, especially those from marginalized communities, receive the education they deserve. The journey toward educational reforms in Sindh is not without its challenges. Issues such as poverty, gender disparities, cultural norms, and inadequate infrastructure coupled with natural disasters continue to affect access to education and hinder the process of learning in many areas.

Yet, the Sindh Government remains steadfast in its mission to improve both the reach and quality of education. We are implementing a multi-faceted approach, addressing these barriers through initiatives that are both broad in scope and detailed in focus. In the fiscal year 2023, the Sindh government allocated Rs. 34.2 billion toward 397 ongoing and 332 new development projects within the education sector. This substantial investment reflects our commitment to transforming the educational landscape. These projects range from establishing new schools and improving school infrastructure to upgrading facilities like water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) resources, ensuring that our schools provide a conducive learning environment for every child. One of our recent initiatives is the introduction of Teacher Licensing program. Once implemented, this program will ensure meritocracy & will further enhance the quality of teaching in our schools. In addition, we have prioritized the provision of essential educational resources, including textbooks, learning materials, & technology. By equitably distributing these resources, we aim to bridge learning gaps & give students access



Syed Sardar Ali Shah

Minister for Education, Mines & Minerals Development, Government of Sindh

to up-to-date information that enriches their educational experience. To keep pace with the global technological advancements, the Government of Sindh has declared this year as the "Year of Science." Under the banner "Science in Sindh," schools across the province are encouraged to organize science-related activities to spark curiosity & foster critical & innovative thinking in students. While we have made significant progress, the journey of reform is still ongoing with myriad of challenges, hence continued cooperation from all stakeholders is essential to achieve our objectives. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who have contributed to these efforts. Your unwavering support is invaluable as we work to build an inclusive, resilient, and high-quality education system for every child in Sindh.



Mr. Zahid Ali Abbasi

Secretary

School Education & Literacy Department

School Education & Literacy department is committed to providing quality education & promoting literacy across Sindh through various initiatives & programs. The devastating floods of 2022 which massively dented the education reform activities in Sindh but SELD, with continuous cooperation & support from Government of Sindh & Development Partners, remained resilient in delivering its promise of creating & strengthening a conducive learning environment. We are extremely thankful to Government of Sindh for their support & equally thankful to our development partners for their immense cooperation and contribution. We are also focused on improving the enrolment and retention rates in schools. Efforts are already underway to streamline accessibility of education to children & to identify & address the barriers that prevent children from attending school. We are also clear in our objective of girls' education, as they face additional challenges in it's access . In today's digital age, it is crucial for students to have the necessary skills to navigate & utilize technology effectively. Therefore, initiatives have been taken to equip the schools with access to computers and internet facilities. Our aim is to ensure that every child has access to quality education that equips them with the necessary skills for a brighter future.

I am elated to announce the release of our first newsletter issue after a hiatus of several years. This revitalized communication aimed at providing updates on our education sector reforms & celebrating our collective achievements in enhancing educational opportunities for all children. With the active support of our valued development partners, we have made significant strides in school renovation, the restructuring of facilities & establishing temporary learning centers throughout the province. The provision of essential resources such as curriculum materials, furniture & improved sanitation facilities has been a focal point of our efforts, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment. Additionally, a vital development on data collection through our online data dashboard, has enabled us to make informed decisions & tailor strategies that address the diverse needs of our students & schools. Moreover, STEAM festivals in various districts of Sindh, under the banner "Science in Sindh" has remained instrumental in igniting creativity & fostering innovation amongst students. Our Enrolment & Retention Drive 2024-25 focused on bringing back out-of-school children, enhancing retention rates, & accelerating enrolment numbers across the region. We look forward to sharing more progress in the coming months as we build a stronger educational foundation for our future generations.



Dr. Junaid Hameed Samo

Chief Program Manager
Reform Support Unit



School Education & Literacy
Department Government of Sindh



School Education & Literacy
Department Government of Sindh



SELD.OFFICIAL



DIGITAL MEDIA CELL
SELD

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SELD WINGS

DIRECTORATE OF CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH (DCAR)



ABDUL MAJEED BHURT
Director
Directorate of Curriculum
Assessment and Research
(DCAR)

The Bureau of Curriculum and Extension Wing was Restructured and Renamed as Directorate of Curriculum Assessment and Research, as per School Standards and Curriculum Act 2014. The Directorate of Curriculum Assessment and Research (DCAR) is committed for providing quality Curriculum, Assessment and Research across the province of Sindh through various initiatives and programs. Furthermore, it continually updates the curriculum to align with modern educational standards and incorporate innovative teaching methods that significantly benefit students' learning outcomes. The Directorate of Curriculum Assessment and Research plays a vital role in Text Book Review and Certification.

SINDH TEACHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (STEDA)

The Sindh Teacher Education Development Authority (STEDA) is dedicated to managing and regulating teacher education and continuous professional development to ensure high standards in the teaching profession. Established under Act No. XVIII by the Sindh Assembly in November 2012, STEDA serves as a regulatory body overseeing both public and private teacher education institutions. Its core responsibilities include accrediting pre-service and in-service teacher education programs, granting teaching licenses, and ensuring quality assurance in education. Under the Sindh School Education Standards and Curriculum Act 2014, STEDA is committed to certifying and accrediting teacher education programs, thereby fostering professionalism amongst educators and preparing them to effectively deliver the curriculum. Through these efforts, STEDA aims to enhance the quality of education across Sindh, ultimately benefiting students and communities throughout the province.



SYED RASOOL BUX SHAH
Executive Director
Sindh Teacher Education
Development Authority
(STEDA)

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION (ECCE)



DR. FOUZIA KHAN
Chief Advisor
Curriculum Wing

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is one of the salient components of the education ladder. The ECCE vision is the provision of high-quality, responsive, accessible, and inclusive early childhood care and education for all children and families living in Sindh with trained and qualified early childhood personnel in a developmental environment. The main focus of ECCE is to develop ECCE teaching material and to upgrade the schools with ECCE facilities. Moreover, ECCE ensures to deploy dedicated ECCE teachers who are trained by specialized trainers to equip the teachers with ECCE teaching techniques, the Development of School Improvement Planning (SIP) of the School Management Committee (SMC), the ECCE Syllabus and the Strategic operation Plan.

SINDH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (SEF)



MR. ABDUL KABIR KAZI
Managing Director
Sindh Education Foundation
(SEF)

Sindh Education Foundation is an organization established under the SEF Act 1992, functioning under a Board of Governors chaired by the Chief Minister Sindh, and is mandated for the promotion and development of education in Sindh. Over the years the Foundation has evolved a number of educational programs focusing on improving access and quality of education across Sindh. The core programs of the Foundation amalgamated into the SEF's flagship program, i.e. 'Foundation Assisted Schools (FAS)' and Alternate Education Initiatives. These programs are run under the per child financial support model (also known as the per child subsidy model) which is basically the SEF's Public Private Partnership modality.

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCE AND TRAINING (HR&T)

The Directorate General of Human Resource and Training (HR&T) was established in 2017 to streamline and enhance the management of human resources through modern strategies, technology, and forward-thinking planning. Under its structure, the HR Wing handles staffing, inquiries on service matters, manages the biometric registration of the personal data of all employees through their HR-MIS Wing, & the Training Wing focuses on collecting the data regarding continuous professional development & incorporate in the data system. Together, these integrated functions empower the Directorate General of HR&T to play a vital role in reporting/hiring the staff (Teaching and Non-Teaching) of the SE&LD, framing the Recruitment rules of various posts of SE&LD, to maintain the working and vacant positions of whole HR of SE&LD, conducting enquiries, redress the grievances/complaints on service matters, scrutinizing the joining database of newly recruited teachers and process of release of their salaries on time, assessing the need of new HR for the department and carry out their recruitment process. Few notable achievements of the Directorate include recruitment of more than 3000 (ECT & JESTs) teachers during the year 2019-2020 under the Recruitment Policy 2017, appointment of 63,000 plus teachers (PSTs/JESTs) on meritorious grounds, appointment of 1,340 subject specialists(B-17) for various subjects & 288 Head Masters.



KISHORE KUMAR NARWANI
Director General
Human Resource & Training
(HR&T)

PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF TEACHER EDUCATION (PITE)



NUSRAT FATIMA KALHORO
Director General
Provincial Institute
of Teacher Education
(PITE)

The Provincial Institute of Teacher Education (PITE) Sindh, Nawabshah is responsible for implementing pre-service teacher education and continuous professional development programs based on school educational standards and curriculum for developing professionally competent teachers, teacher educators and head teachers. PITE is responsible for academic supervision of teacher education programs, whereas all constituent teacher education institutes as well as PITE work under the administrative control of education and literacy department.



DIRECTORATE OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) project in Sindh's School Education Department, launched in January 2015 with S-GPE, established a Directorate General to implement a technology-based teacher attendance system and collect crucial data on public schools. The Sindh School Monitoring System (SSMS) provides a comprehensive database for evidence-based decision-making, improving teacher attendance, school infrastructure data, and student-teacher ratios. District Reforms Oversight Committees (DROC) have been formed to analyze reports. The project has gained recognition from the World Bank, achieving disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs) and securing one million dollars in funding.



MR. MOULA BAKHSH SHAIKH
Director General
Directorate of
Monitoring & Evaluation
(M&E)

SINDH TEXT BOOK BOARD (STBB)



NUSRAT PARVEEN SEHTO
Secretary
Sindh Text Book Board
(STBB)

The Sindh Textbook Board was established in January 1971 & is operating autonomously through the Board of Governors. The Board is responsible for developing, printing, publishing, and marketing textbooks from Class I to XII in languages of Urdu, Sindhi, and English. The key development areas of Textbook which the Board overlooks are The Curriculum Development, Notifying scheme of studies from Class I-XII, approval & NOC of the developed textbooks, constitution of review & quality assurance committees. Through the assistance of Sindh Govt. STBB provides free textbooks to all public schools from ECCE to grade X. In a recent development, STBB has organized a workshop, with SELD's assistance, for authors & reviewers on alignment of curriculum framework & incorporating themes in textbooks.

DIRECTORATE OF LITERACY & NON-FORMAL BASIC EDUCATION

The Directorate of Literacy & Non- Formal Education (DL&NFE), Sindh, established in 2002, plays a crucial role in promoting literacy and provides accessible, inclusive, flexible and lifelong learning opportunities to marginalized populations in the province. It focuses on developing non-formal education programs that cater to various age groups, particularly Out Of School Children and adults and empower communities through skill development by providing technical & vocational education with the support of local stakeholders and organizations. The key functions include crafting a comprehensive policy & governance framework, engagement & coordination with stakeholders, designing curriculum & teaching learning material, teacher hiring framework & capacity enhancement, social mobilization guidelines & M&E Framework.



ABDUL JABBAR MARI
Director
Directorate of Literacy &
Non-formal Basic Education
(DL&NFE)

DIRECTORATE OF INSPECTION & REGISTRATION OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS



MS. RAFIA JAVED
Directorate of Inspection &
Registration of Private Institutions

The Directorate of Inspection/Registration of Private Institutions Sindh, established under the Sindh Educational Institutions Ordinance, is dedicated to improving the quality of education in private institutions. Located at the Government College for Women in Karachi, the Directorate's vision is to ensure equal educational opportunities for all children and youth in Sindh, fostering their potential and promoting social justice. It also focuses on enhancing access to quality education, particularly for marginalized groups, and improving learning outcomes through innovative teaching methods and strengthened governance.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP NODE (PPP Node)



ASHIQ ALI KHOSO
Senior Director
Public Private Partnership
(PPP) Node

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) Node was formed in 2013 to carry out functions including the identification of suitable projects, procurement of the services of transaction advisors for preparation & tenders, supervision of feasibility studies preparation, submission of project proposal through the Unit to the PPP Policy Board, conducting a competitive tendering process, carrying out bid evaluation & submission of recommendation on contract award to the Board, negotiation & signing of the Public-Private Partnership Agreement, monitor & evaluate project's operation & implementation. The PPP Node has, till now, executed contracts for 211 schools along with 3 teachers' training institutes which are being managed through 12 different credible private sector organizations providing quality education to approximately 100,000 students free of cost. Moreover, Girls Elementary Public Sector schools Project with the assistance of JICA, SBEP-Education Management Organization (EMO) project, Teachers Training Institutes (TTI) project & a feasibility study for the establishment of a non-formal education centre for OOSC in Sindh's 5 districts are also some of the key projects currently underway.

SINDH EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION (SEPC)

The Sindh Education Policy Commission (SEPC) is a pivotal arm of the School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, born out of the 18th Constitutional Amendment. With the devolution of the Ministry of Education's authority from the federal to the provincial level, SEPC took on the crucial mandate to shape, implement, and guide education policy across Sindh. The Commission is entrusted with continuing the functions of the former federal Ministry and innovating and enhancing education strategies in the province. SEPC aims to foster productive coordination between the public sector, private sector, NGOs, I-NGOs, and other stakeholders working to uplift school education and literacy. By focusing on policy development, monitoring, and inter-sector collaboration, SEPC is positioned to play an essential role in fulfilling commitments under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while ensuring compliance with constitutional obligations. Under the dynamic educational leadership of worthy Minister Education, the fully operational SEPC, with its Directorate serving as the Secretariat, stands as a beacon for the transformative change needed to build a robust educational future for Sindh.



DR. AFTAB AHMED SHAIKH
Director
Sindh Education
Policy Commission
(SEPC)



SELD INTERVENTIONS

REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES

Following the extensive flood damage across Sindh in the year 2022, an extensive school rehabilitation initiative was launched by Reform Support Unit, School Education and Literacy Department, in collaboration with UNICEF under various reform programs to restore educational facilities & streamline the learning process. This emergency response included minor and partial repairs, construction of new prefabricated structures, and the renovation of classrooms and washrooms. By continuously & rapidly addressing these needs, the project ensured safe, functional learning spaces, allowing students to return to school & resume their education in conducive & sustainable environments.

BEFORE



AFTER



A state-of-the-art prefabricated Transitional School Structure (TSS) has been set up at GGPS Chango Khan Jarwa, District Mirpurkhas, Tehsil Jhodo, UC Mir Allah Bachayo (SEMIS code 405040196). This TSS, developed by the Reform Support Unit (RSU) in coordination with UNICEF under the Education in Emergency Response (EER) project, consists of two solar-powered classrooms along with a wash facility. The initiative aims to provide a sustainable learning environment, especially in emergency settings, ensuring students have access to safe and conducive educational spaces. The project highlights the commitment of RSU and UNICEF to support education in times of need, paving the way for continuous learning even in challenging circumstances.

The School Education & Literacy Department (SELD), in collaboration with UNICEF, has successfully completed Phase I of the renovation and rehabilitation of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) classrooms in 25 selected primary schools in Sujawal district. This initiative represents a substantial step towards enhancing the quality of foundational education in the region, providing young learners with a more conducive learning environment. In continuation of these efforts, Government Boys Primary School (GBPS) Main Darro (SEMIS Code: 404050278) has now been equipped with new classroom furniture as part of Phase II, reinforcing SELD and UNICEF's commitment to sustainable educational improvement across Sindh.



GIRLS' STIPEND

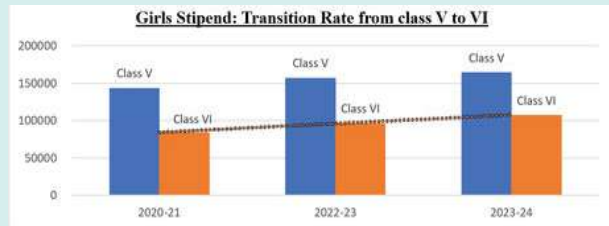
The School Education and Literacy Department is distributing Girls' Stipend in all public schools since 2006 to support girls student to continue their education.

A stipend is a specific amount of money allocated to girl students from Class VI – X in all government schools to enable & support them to continue their education. The objectives of girls stipend are to;

- Relieve parents from financial burden of educating their children.
- Provide an incentive for girls to remain in school & pursue education.
- Decrease the drop-out ratio of girls while promoting from class V to VI and from X to XI
- Increase the transition rate of girl students in the schools.



ASC Year	Girls Enrolment of Class V Previous Year	Girls Enrolment of Class VI Current Year	Girls Transition Rates
2020-21	143978	84063	58
2022-23	157469	96556	61
2023-24	164581	107696	65



The stipend increases the retention and enrolment of girl students in public schools. Only those girls will be eligible for the stipend who are enrolled in the schools with valid SEMIS Code and are under the administrative control of the School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Sindh.

Moreover, Girl Students of only class 6, 9 and 10 for Academic Year 2023-24 will be eligible for stipend. Additionally, only those girl students will be entitled to the stipend who have school attendance of 60% or more in five months of academic year 2023-24 i.e. August, September, October, November and December 2023.

52nd LOCAL EDUCATION GROUP (LEG) MEETING

The 52nd Local Education Group (LEG) meeting, held in Karachi, focused on improving the Programme Document (PD) for the Sindh Learning Programme to address foundational literacy and numeracy & ensuring gender-focused actions & selecting a new Coordinating Agency (CA). The selection of districts, including Tharparkar, Umerkot, Dadu, and Tando Allahyar, was finalized to expand the program's scope while preventing overlap. Steps to initiate the process for selecting a new Coordinating Agency (CA) for GPE in Sindh were also discussed & suggestions from participants were also taken.

The forum also endorsed the reallocation of funds for printing learning material and also shared insights on integrating feedback, avoiding duplication, & fostering collective efforts to enhance educational outcomes. The next steps involved refining the PD based on feedback, finalizing it for submission to GPE, appointing the CA, and ensuring the prompt distribution of learning materials.



STEAM FESTIVALS

To encourage children in developing their cognitive skills in science & mathematics & to promote & cultivate a culture of innovation across the Sindh province, School Education & Literacy Department (SE&LD) and STEM working Committee in collaboration with UNICEF & Thar Education Alliance(TEA) organized a series of STEAM festivals in the districts of Karachi, Sukkur & Sujawal respectively. The festivals captured the curiosity, innovation & energy of the young learners from government schools, immersed into the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics, Inspirational panel discussions by seasoned professionals related to STEAM also remained the highlight of these festivals. Senior Government Officials, NGOs representatives, Educationist, Digital Media activists, Influencers, Government Teachers, Parents & children actively participated to demonstrate their support & encouragement for the children.



STEAM SYMPOSIUM

The STEAM Symposium 2024, organized by the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD), in collaboration with UNICEF & the Thar Education Alliance, was held in Karachi as a celebration of innovation and progress in STEAM education. The grand event showcased an impressive array of science & technology projects crafted by students from schools of Karachi, Sukkur, and Sujawal, demonstrating their creativity & potential. The symposium also recognized outstanding schools for their excellence in promoting STEAM education, fostering a culture of learning and innovation. A key highlight of the day was a technical dialogue featuring esteemed STEAM experts, who underscored the critical role of science and technology in shaping the future. Mr. Zahid Ali Abbasi, Secretary School Education & Literacy Department, Sindh, graced the occasion, applauded the creative skills of the participating students & commended the organizers for their unwavering commitment to STEAM education. The event concluded on a high note with the distribution of awards & souvenirs to students, organizers, and esteemed guests, acknowledging their contributions. It was well-attended by education officials, representatives from civil society, and development partners, reflecting their shared commitment.



STEAM MUQABLO

STEAM Muqablo, the inaugural STEAM Competition for government schools across Sindh, organized by STEAM Policy Unit, SE&LD was held from Jan-Mar, 2024, pitching interdisciplinary, real-world challenges to students & teachers of Classes 6 through 8. The competition engaged over 12,000 students across the school, district & province. More than 75% of the participants' school girls secured 25 of the 27 top awards. Teachers of girls' schools also claimed 2 out of 3 prizes in the Teachers' Challenge to design innovative educational games. The final & provincial round, held in Karachi, was attended by 5000 students & teachers. This vibrant event transformed the campus into a festival of learning, with designated activity areas featuring live science shows, maths games, STEAM game show, wellness workshops, interactive guest speaker sessions by STEAM Safeers, engineering displays, teachers' workshops in game design, STEAM teaching, theoretical physics, in addition to a high-energy award ceremony to celebrate the winners. The School Round of the 2nd STEAM Muqablo is currently underway with atleast 500+ schools expected to participate.

SUCCESS STORIES

SADIA SUDHEER

Sadia belongs to a village Ghano Kalhoro of Khairpur District where she is taking non formal education. She is also running a small tuition centre at her courtyard where she teaches children of her neighborhood free of cost. She is an enthusiastic and determined girl and tries hard to instill in children whatever she learns from her teacher at NFE center. Seeing her passion for education, she was sent to Nepal by Government of Sindh for an educational program. She is highly motivated and wishes that every child gets the best education.



NADIA AIJAZ ALI



Ms. Nadia, from the Ghano Kalhoro family in Khairpur District, defied cultural norms that discouraged girls' education. Despite strong opposition, especially from her uncle, she pursued her dream, completed her graduation, and is now doing her Master's. Driven by her passion for learning, she also teaches at an NFE Center in her village. In a remarkable turn of events, her uncle, seeing her strong passion for education, has now donated his own land for the establishment of a school, where she teaches the village children. Ms. Nadia embodies resilience, courage, and determination, inspiring her community toward change through the power of education.

SORATH RANOMAL

Sorath, a dedicated community mobilizer from the village of Tharanth in Umerkot, has become a powerful advocate for education. Having personally experienced the limitations of not being educated, she deeply realized the importance of education and is now determined to create change in her village. Sorath actively engages with families, passionately enlightening them with the benefits of education and influence them to send their children, especially girls, to school. She is a staunch believer that education serves as a foundation for enlightenment, capable of transforming the lives of children and lifting entire families out of poverty. Sorath's commitment to fostering awareness and encouraging education has made her an inspiring figure in her community, bringing hope for a brighter, more educated future.



CHANGE MAKERS

We are pleased to highlight Marvi Farooq, who brings a wealth of experience to her role as a Local Support Coordinator with the Reform Support Unit. With an M.Ed and a background as a Grade 17 Gazetted Officer and Head Mistress, Marvi is dedicated to enhancing our operations at the district level.

In her current position, she focuses on:

- Providing technical support to ensure effective system usage.
- Coordinating with central IT teams to address technical issues.
- Monitoring local system performance.
- Ensuring compliance with district regulations, for Implementing policies effectively within the district.

Marvi's commitment and expertise play a vital role in our mission to support and improve educational outcomes. Her effective coordination during STEAM Muqabla is a testament to her skills and dedication to the educational reforms in the province.



MARVI FAROOQ
LSU Coordinator
Kemari & West
Karachi



DURGA PARKASH KHATRI
LSU Coordinator
Umerkot

We are proud to feature Durga Parkash Khatri, our dedicated District Coordinator for the Local Support Unit in Umerkot. With an M.Sc. & MS/M.Phil in Computer Science. Durga has been instrumental in driving educational initiatives since he joined the team in February 2022. In his capacity as District Coordinator, Durga plays a vital role in fostering collaboration among various stakeholders to enhance educational infrastructure and support within Umerkot. His key responsibilities include:

- Liaison between the Education Department, district government, NGOs, INGOs & local community leaders to facilitate education initiatives.
- Collecting & uploading stipend forms for girls in classes VI, IX, X & assisting parents with any concerns related to girls' stipend.
- Managing the collection & distribution of School Management Committee forms along with overseeing data upload & training TEOs on dashboard usage.
- Coordinating the distribution of Annual School Census forms & training enumerators for both manual & online data collection.
- Supporting DEOs & TEOs in developing plans for Enrolment & Retention Drive campaigns to motivate parents to enrol their children in government schools.

We are elated to highlight Muhammad Aslam Soomro, Senior Data Processing Officer & District Coordinator for the Local Support Unit (LSU) in South/Central Karachi.

Aslam oversees various key initiatives aimed at enhancing education within the district. His responsibilities include:

- Monitoring & ensuring accurate data collection for the annual census to assess school enrolment & performance.
- Managing the implementation of Girls' stipend program to support girls' education & increase enrolment rates.
- Facilitating the effective functioning of School Management Committees to promote community involvement in school governance.
- Implementing & monitoring policies that enhance collaboration amongst schools within clusters for improved educational outcomes.

His commitment to educational betterment is evident in his proactive approach to managing these portfolios. We appreciate his hard work and dedication to making a positive impact in the community.



MUHAMMAD ASLAM SOOMRO
LSU Coordinator
South & East
Karachi

ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION DRIVE

ERD 2024-25 LAUNCH

Provincial Launch of the Enrollment & Retention Drive (ERD) 2024-25 was held on August 12, 2024, in Karachi, organized by the School Education & Literacy Department (SELD) in collaboration with UNICEF. The event commenced with a heartfelt performance of the National Anthem by children from Deaf Reach School, followed by a vibrant tableau by GBSS, N. Nazimabad. Dr. Junaid Hameed Samo, CPM, RSU welcomed the guests & shared the objectives of the drive. Mr. Prem Bahadur Chand, Chief - Field Office, UNICEF Sindh, emphasized the significance of the drive in his remarks. Minister for Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah reaffirmed the government's dedication to ensuring quality education, with a particular focus on advancements in science education. A documentary showcased the resilience & determination behind the ERD efforts. Prominent speakers provided insights into community engagement & social mobilization. The event concluded with a collaborative reflection session leaving attendees inspired to contribute to the drive's success.



ENROLLMENT WALK

With the aim to increase enrolment & retention of school going children & adolescents in school, School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, with support of UNICEF initiated an extensive Enrolment & Retention Drive 2024-25 ERD 2024-25 with the slogan "Parhay ga Sindh, to Barhay ga Sindh" in the province. The drive aimed at mobilizing parents, community members & influencers to create awareness about the importance of education & to motivate people to send their children to school. A series of activities have been carried out for community awareness in the districts which include District Level Seminars, Enrollment Walks, Broad based Community Meetings, Door to Door visits to influence opinion of parents on Rights of Education, Dissemination & display of IEC awareness material at District, Taluka & School level, Broadcasting of messages through Radio, Text Messaging Service & Announcements through area masjids.



TRAININGS

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY (EiE)

A three-day capacity-building training on Education in Emergencies (EiE) was held in the districts of Sukkur, Hyderabad, and Karachi. The primary objective of this critical initiative was to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of emergencies, particularly those impacting education, and to equip them with essential response methodologies and tools aimed at minimizing disruptions to the continuity of education. The training, conducted by the Reform Support Unit (RSU), SELD with support from UNICEF, brought together education officers from Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, and Karachi regions. Representatives from organizations including UNICEF, Save the Children, JICA, Right to Play, SPO, Islamic Relief, HANDS Pakistan, ITA, SRSO, Tameer-e-Khalq Foundation, also participated. Experienced trainers covered critical topics such as data assessment and evaluation, categories for planning and decision-making, program design and its stages, physical and psychosocial protection and well-being, and teacher supply, selection, and recruitment during emergencies. The sessions were interactive, engaging participants in practical and brainstorming activities to deepen their understanding of these essential components.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION (ECCE)

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is the foundational component of the education ladder. The vision is the provision of high-quality, responsive, accessible, and inclusive early childhood care & education for all children & families living in Sindh with trained and qualified early childhood personnel in a developmental environment. For the continuity of the development & implementation process of ECCE Intervention in Sindh Education & Sector Plan & Roadmap, School Education & Literacy Department in collaboration with UNICEF conducted rigorous 5 days each training for school teachers in 3 phases in the districts of Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Tharparkar, Umerkot, Dadu, Kamber Shahdadkot, Naushero Feroz, Jacobabad & Khairpur. A total of 2,700+ teachers have so far been equipped with ECCE knowledge & teaching methodologies by specialized trainers.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SELD'S PROJECTS

SINDH EARLY LEARNING ENHANCEMENT THROUGH CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATION (SELECT)

The SELECT Project introduces a multi-pronged approach towards improving the quality of teaching and learning practices in primary education, with a particular emphasis on foundational reading in grades 1 through 5. The project comprises a series of focused and flexible implementation strategies, targeted at the school and meso- levels of governance (personnel and systems at the school, taluka and district levels). The project supports improvements in the transition from primary to elementary school, as well as a reduction in dropouts through targeted student attendance redress mechanisms and procedures. Desired Project outcomes would eventually contribute to reductions in learning poverty and in the number of out-of-school children.



DEVELOPMENT OF ENHANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (DEEP)

DEEP is formed with the objective of restoring fully damaged schools and their infrastructure, ensuring they are fully functional for the benefit of students in the five most affected Talukas of Sindh due to floods and rain damages in 2022. The project is focused on the construction of Two Rooms Primary Schools / Six Rooms Primary Schools Middle schools / Elementary / Secondary / High & Higher Secondary Schools with allied facilities enabling the students to get their education at their easy access.

ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN PERFORMANCE FOR INCLUSIVE AND RESPONSIVE EDUCATION (ASPIRE)

Actions to Strengthen Performance for Inclusive and Responsive Education (ASPIRE) has been launched as a five years (2020-2025) project with the support of Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MOFEPT) and World Bank to mitigate the negative effects of Covid-19 on education system of Pakistan. In this regard, Provinces receive the share as a Grant from Government of Pakistan. This Project has been designed on Performance-for-Result (PforR) mode, meaning thereby in selected districts.

Four Districts are Selected for Intervention on the bases of Percentage of out of school children & Gender-parity index in the districts (Tharparkar, Umerkot, Shaheed Benazirabad and Dadu). Provinces receive the grant after fulfillment of certain targets (DLI/DLRs)

ROLLING WORK PLAN (RWP)

The Rolling Work Plan aims at strengthening Coordination and Communication mechanism, supporting & implementing key reforms as chalked out in School Education Sector Plan & Road Map (SESP&R). The Seven phases of the SESP&R have been completed successfully and the Eighth phase is currently underway. The objectives of RWP include strengthening policies and coordination for education sector reforms with all the stakeholders, enhancing data management for evidence-based decision-making, building capacity for school improvement plans (SIP) and Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), smooth implementation of District Education Plan (DEP), Capacity enhancement to counter education emergencies & rehabilitation of schools, improving communication to accelerate enrolment & improvement in retention and to monitor the budgetary support.



SINDH SECONDARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SSEIP)

The Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project (SSEIP) aims to enhance access to secondary education, with a special focus on increasing girls' enrollment. This goal is being achieved through the upgradation of primary schools into secondary schools, selected based on district education rankings, low female literacy rates, high poverty levels, and a shortage of secondary schools. The project is supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and is being implemented by the School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh, under the leadership of Mr. Muhammad Rizwan Soomro, who serves as Project Director. Upon successful completion in the initial ten districts, the project will be expanded across the province, addressing the longstanding shortage of secondary schools and contributing significantly to the improvement of education quality in Sindh.

ADVANCING QUALITY ALTERNATE LEARNING (AQAL) PHASE II

The Advancing Quality Alternate Learning (AQAL) Phase II project, implemented by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), runs from February 2021 to January 2025 and provides technical assistance to strengthen non-formal education (NFE) in Pakistan. In partnership with federal and provincial education departments, the project aims to improve access to quality education for disadvantaged children, youth, and adults. Key goals include developing and implementing accelerated learning programs, literacy, life skills, and work skills initiatives, and enhancing governance and management in NFE. Major accomplishments include strengthening the NFE system through policy development, strategic planning, and the creation of the NFEMIS, enabling data-driven decision-making. The project has also designed curricula and teaching materials for Accelerated Learning Programs (ALP) and Integrated Literacy & Skills (ILS) programs, providing customized education opportunities to out-of-school children and youth. Regular coordination through NFE Taskforce meetings ensures continuous improvement and collaboration across stakeholders.

DIGITAL MEDIA CELL

To disseminate timely and accurate information about education reforms in Sindh, the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) has established a Digital Media Cell at the Reform Support Unit, Karachi. This initiative aims to enhance communication, transparency, and community engagement by promoting educational initiatives, improving communication, encouraging community involvement, highlight best Practices, innovations & success stories, expanding outreach & raising awareness about the importance and impact of quality education programs. The Digital Media Cell will streamline communications, manage media relations, and enhance SELD's visibility, improving public perception and supporting its educational initiatives.



DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

