



USAID/PAKISTAN EDUCATION FACT SHEET

SECTOR OVERVIEW

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works with the Government of Pakistan and development partners to increase inclusive access to quality education from basic through higher education.

SECTOR BACKGROUND

Since 2010, USAID has partnered with the Government of Pakistan (GOP) to provide high-quality basic and higher education to Pakistani students and improve learning outcomes. The programs have strengthened the education system; trained teachers, administrators, and faculty; supported educational policies that are responsive to local needs; and increased community involvement.

SECTOR PRIORITIES

INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO BASIC EDUCATION

Increasing access to quality education for all children is essential for Pakistan's development as nearly 22.5 million children are out of school, the majority of whom are girls. USAID's education programs have also provided emergency education to children affected by conflict and natural disasters and enrolled students in schools and non-formal education programs.

IMPROVED BASIC EDUCATION QUALITY

USAID aims to strengthen the quality of education, particularly in the early years, by focusing on foundational reading and mathematics skills. USAID has trained teachers in reading instruction, produced and distributed reading materials in local languages, and introduced public-private partnerships for improved school management.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

USAID programs help Pakistani universities increase access to and improve the quality and relevance of their degree programs. USAID has provided scholarships to talented low-income and marginalized students and helped Pakistani universities improve their ability to manage financial aid programs.

KEY RESULTS

- Trained more than 51,500 teachers, school administrators and officials.
- Provided over 19,500 scholarships for talented students to attend higher education. Since 2014, 50 percent of those scholarships have been awarded to women.
- Reached more than two million primary-level learners throughout the country, and improved reading skills for 26 percent of grade-two students in USAID supported classrooms.
- Provided more than 120 applied research grants to university faculty.
- Provided more than 500 exchange opportunities to students and faculty for training in the United States.
- Built four modern applied research centers with 22 fully equipped labs for water, energy and agriculture research and built 17 teacher education buildings on university campuses to ensure training of future educators.
- Built or repaired more than 1,737 schools across Pakistan.

CURRENT/ ONGOING ACTIVITIES

PROJECT DESCRIPTION + BRIEF RESULTS

IMPROVING GIRLS' EDUCATION ACTIVITY (IGEA)

USAID is supporting the Education Department of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province to develop policy and regulatory framework for effective Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) models. IGEA (2021-2026) aims to improve school learning outcomes and enrollment through improved school management, particularly in girls' public schools in KP. The project has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Education Department and successful PPP models will be scaled up across the KP province.

SINDH BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM (SBEP)

Through SBEP (2011-2024), USAID is supporting the Government of Sindh to improve basic education service delivery in ten districts of Sindh through construction of 106 state-of-the-art school buildings and introduction of public-private partnerships in education, which benefit 80,000 marginalized children each year through improved school management. The Government of Sindh is scaling up USAID's public-private partnership model for education, which partners private sector management companies with public schools to introduce management efficiencies at the administrative and classroom level. The Government of Sindh will expand this model to include more schools, non-formal education, and teacher training institutes in Sindh and KP.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY (HDA)

USAID is supporting the Government of KP to improve educational and health outcomes in the districts of Buner and Upper Dir. Through strengthening local organizations' capacity to implement innovative practices and scaling-up locally relevant health and education programs, HDA (2021-2024) aims to address access and quality issues pertaining to basic education and health benefiting the most disadvantaged women, girls, children, and newborns. HDA has awarded 22 sub-grants to local organizations.

MERIT AND NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (MNBS)

USAID is supporting the federal Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan to increase equitable access to quality higher education by providing scholarships to talented, economically-strained students to pursue higher education degrees in 30 universities across Pakistan. MNBS (2004-2024) has awarded more than 6,100 scholarships nationwide. Since 2014, sixty percent of the scholarships have been awarded to women. The program also builds university staff capacity to administer financial aid programs.

HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM STRENGTHENING ACTIVITY (HESSA)

USAID is supporting the HEC of Pakistan and 16 Pakistani public sector universities, including five women's universities, to improve institutional capacity and strengthen higher education programs and services, resulting in improved employability of university graduates. The program focuses on three tiers of system change: fortifying senior leadership, governance and management; improving program quality and relevance; and enhancing student support services. The University of Utah along with University of Alabama and the International Institute of Education (U.S.) are the technical assistance partners under HESSA (2021-2026).