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

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27 JANUARY 2021
When Covid-19 hit...

30% of school-aged children are out of school (majority girls)

19 Million out of school children

75% ten-year-olds can't read and age-appropriate text

84% when we consider the potential impact of COVID-19
Potential disproportionate impact on girls’ and young women access’ to education through ...

- Reduced household incomes – child labor
- Fear of contagion – parents worried about their children’s health
- Reduction on education supply in the private sector

**ASPIRE Program** Equity (girls in disadvantaged areas)

*(200M; Program for Results)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3R</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Resilience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept</strong></td>
<td>30-Apr-2020 - (A)</td>
<td>1.4 Months</td>
<td>1.7 Months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Decision</strong></td>
<td>11-Jun-2020 - (A)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td><strong>Approval</strong></td>
<td>31-Jul-2020 - (A)</td>
<td>✔</td>
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Program’s Result Areas

Result area 1 - Response, Recovery and Resilience

- Adapt and develop **distance learning** content sensitive to girls
- **Learning materials** targeting girls in disadvantaged districts
- **Communications and enrolment campaigns** targeting parents of girls
- Improve **safety protocols** in schools (water & sanitation)
- Support **students’ and teachers’ mental and emotional health** – special focus on girl students with higher likelihood of **gender-based violence**

Result area 2 – Improved learning opportunities for Out of School Children

- **Expand girls’ access to education** by providing pathway towards education certification through multimodal education
- **Communications and outreach campaigns** targeting girls and out of school children
  - Improving existing infrastructure (wash facilities, classrooms)
  - Interventions to ‘nudge’ change by teachers, students and parents (of girls)

Result area 3 – Stronger federal provincial coordination

- **Data systems** with gender disaggregated data better targeting
- **Federal- Provincial coordination** on issues of out of school children and girls’ education
- **Equity** focus
Challenges Going Forward

Implementation
• Multiple stakeholders provincial and federal (and their procedures)
• ‘Normalization’ of the effects of the pandemic
• Not quick enough
• Changing priorities – moving target

A few lessons...
• We can streamline our process, but if government’s aren’t, delays are inevitable
• Design with enough flexibility to accommodate changing environment
• We can prepare projects fast even with no emergency procedures
• Focus on equity (girls' education) is possible even when rushing to support
Parents are concerned about their children contracting COVID at school...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of respondents</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Little</th>
<th>More or less</th>
<th>Quite</th>
<th>A lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50</td>
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Phone survey carried out during January 2021 to 2,007 household heads with school-aged children in Pakistan