

ECW FUNDED MULTI-YEAR RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

FROM MADRASSA TO SCHOOL



ISRARULLAH (R), AFGHAN REFUGEE MADRASSA STUDENT ENROLLED IN ECW FUNDED ACCELERATED LEARNING CENTRE, GBPS MUKHZOON-AL- ALUM, LORALAI.

Israrullah, a 15-year Afghan refugee boy studies and lives in *Madrassa* Mukhzoon-al-Alum in Union Council Shah Karez, Loralai District, Balochistan, a rural locality, where poverty is rife. His father is a driver, earning meagre income. His nine siblings, including three sisters are out-of-school.

Israr's parents didn't allow their children to study in school, and preferred *Madrassa* education only, as per local norms. Long missed out school admission age and family refusal had closed the doors for Israr's education in school, though he earnestly wished becoming a doctor.

It was in August 2023, that Education Cannot Wait (ECW) funded Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) team including programme supported

"My parents were somewhat against school education and recommended *Madrassa* education only, just like many other villagers. My six brothers are *Madrassa* students. I desired to become a doctor and serve my people, with no hope for schooling at age of 15. My Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) teacher Yaqoob Khan, LSO members and MYRP team motivated my parents and *Madrassa* management to allow me to attend school. I am learning new things like geography, numeracy and ethics in the ALP Centre established by ECW. My parents now encourage my studying in ALP Centre. Dreams finally come true. I would have enrolled my three sisters as well, had there been a female ALP Centre in our village. Thank you Education Cannot Wait for supporting our education."

Israrullah, Afghan Refugee Student, ALP Centre, Government Boys' Primary School (GBPS) Mukhzoon-al- Alum, Loralai District, Balochistan.



WE ARE THANKFUL TO EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT (ECW) FOR ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN BALOCHISTAN.

Local Support Organisation (LSO) members, Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) teacher, Yaqoob Khan, were discussing community mobilisation strategies for enrolling the identified out-of-school children of their locality in the ALP Centre, recently established by MYRP in Government Boys' Primary School (GBPS) Mukhzoon-al-Alum. They were carrying out a strenuous enrolment campaign in community, though receiving little response. Villagers preferred sending their children to *Madrassa*, and did not recommend school education.

The team decided visiting the *Madrassa* management along with the local community elders, for motivating them to allow their students to attend classes in ALP Centre, after *Madrassa* education in morning.

Madrassa management was eventually convinced during subsequent visits that Islam promotes learning, including school education. MYRP team and elders informed them regarding programme's educational support, including effective management of ALP Centre, friendly teaching by trained ALP teacher and provision of teaching and learning materials, like school bags, notebooks, stationery and classroom items. They shared that ALP Centre will complete the five-year primary course in just three years.

Madrassa management was finally persuaded. They allowed the willing children studying in *Madrassa* to attend classes in ALP Centre, after consent from their parents. Many children like Israr eagerly

expressed their willingness to join. This was a ray of hope for them, aspiring to join school.

Whether their parents will allow them to attend school was another challenge. The community mobilisers capitalised on the approval of *Madrassa* management and intensified enrollment campaign. They informed the parents of *Madrassa* students and other community members regarding MYRP's aforementioned educational support, during visits to their homes, and community awareness sessions on importance of education. The committed community mobilisation team finally convinced parents like Israr's father to send their children to school.

They admirably succeeded in bridging the gap between *Madrassa* and formal schooling. Israr is among the 32 newly enrolled *Madrassa* students, who are attending combined classes in ALP Centre. He is passionate learner and is performing well. Approx. 16,226 out-of-school children, from 42,420 MYRP enrollment target of girls and boys, including Afghan refugee children and Children with Disabilities (CWDs) will be admitted in the 209 ALP Centres being established by Rural Support Programmes Network's (RSPN's) implementing partner, Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), in Panjgur, Loralai and Kohlu Districts of Balochistan.

Thanks to ECW funding for improving access to inclusive and equitable quality education to vulnerable children by providing whole-of-child solutions, as envisioned by SDG-4 Quality Education for all.



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