

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- i. Balochistan Rural Support Programme implementing the project in districts Pishin and Jaffarabad.
- ii. National Rural Support Programme implementing the project in districts Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and Thatta.
- ii. Sarhad Rural Support Programme implementing the project in districts Battagram, Haripur and Mansehra.
- iv. Thardeep Rural Development Programme implementing the project in districts Jamshoro and Tharparkar.



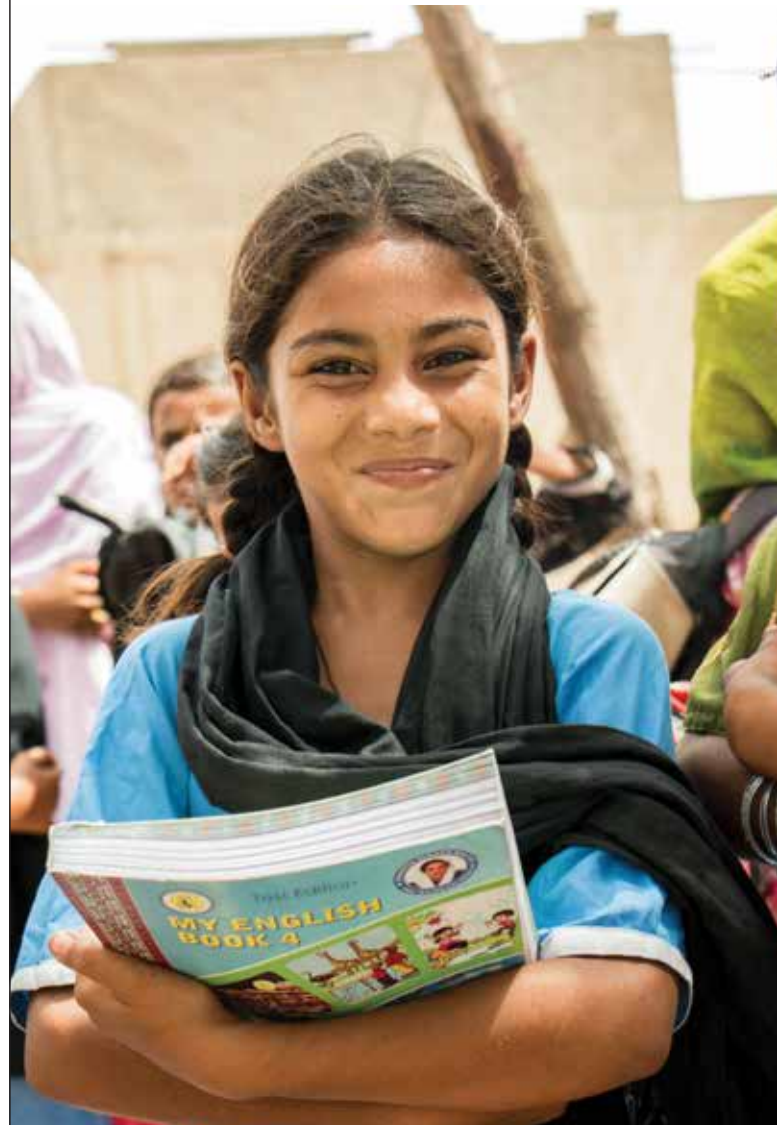
RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES NETWORK (RSPN)

The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) is the largest development network of Pakistan, with an outreach to over 38 million rural Pakistanis. It consists of 11 member Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) that espouse a common approach to rural development: social mobilisation. Social mobilisation centres around the belief that poor people have an innate potential to help themselves, that they can better manage their limited resources if they organise and are provided technical and financial support.

The RSPs provide social guidance, and technical and financial assistance to the rural poor. RSPN is the strategic platform for the RSPs: it provides capacity building, research, knowledge management support to them, and assists them in policy advocacy and donor linkages.



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**MOBILISING COMMUNITIES
TO DEMAND EDUCATION
(ARTICLE 25-A) AND
LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

July 2014 - June 2015

OVERVIEW

Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with a population of 18 million. This population includes 26.98 million children between the ages of 5-9 years who are eligible for primary education; one of their most important and basic rights. Despite the government's commitments to provide education to its people, Pakistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the region, currently estimated at about 58 percent (69 percent for men and 49 percent for women). Although the government is taking measures to respond to the situation and improve its service delivery, there remains much to be done. To raise public awareness for education and ensure that the rural poor have access to quality education, RSPN has partnered with Alif Ailaan to implement a project which is not only sensitising communities about their right to education, but encouraging them to seek education and demand education reform through lobbying with their local stakeholders – specifically the district Education Department, politicians, political party workers, journalists and religious leaders.

OBJECTIVES

The project's objectives are to:

- i. Facilitate communities to actively engage with the political system, i.e. political parties, public representatives and the Department of Education, for the improvement of education and related physical and policy level infrastructure.
- ii. Create accountability mechanisms whereby organised communities, i.e., Village Organisations and Local Support Organisations can access and ensure quality education.

ACTIVITIES

This project, focusing on both the demand and supply issues related to education, comprises of the following activities:

- i. Orientation and training of LSOs for implementation of project activities through LSO master trainers.
- ii. Community level campaigning for improving access and quality of education through Community Resource Persons.
- iii. Collection of household and school level data by communities to ascertain actual number of out of school children and state of facilities in schools.

- iv. Enrolment of out of school children and their retention.
- v. Engagement with external stakeholders for improving access and quality of education through individual meetings, group meetings, special events and text messages.
- vi. Lobbying with local stakeholders through District Parent Ittehad committees in order to resolve supply-side issues relating to education.
- vii. Holding School Management Committees accountable through regular interaction.
- viii. Awareness raising of external stakeholders for increase in access and quality of education through postcard signature campaign carried out by school children.
- ix. Engagement with local media to raise awareness regarding improvement of access and quality to education.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

The deliverables of the project will consist of:

- i. Designing and developing of IEC material for 88 LSOs consisting of counselling cards, brochures, banners and posters.
- ii. 176 members from 88 project LSOs trained in how to implement project activities.
- iii. 880 Community Resource Persons trained in delivery of awareness-raising sessions to communities.
- iv. 320,000 community members made aware of the importance of education, Article 25-A and their responsibility in working with their local stakeholders to improve the state of schools in their localities.
- v. Collection of household and school data across 88 union councils in 11 districts.
- vi. Enrolment of 25% of out of school children and dropout remains below 4%.
- vii. Engagement by 88 LSOs with external stakeholders.
- viii. Improvement in facilities of 160 schools.
- ix. 10,000 postcards filled out by school children sent out to external stakeholders.
- x. Exposure visits and articles printed in local media regarding education.

