

ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMME

INSTITUTE OF RURAL MANAGEMENT





Institute of Rural Management (IRM), in collaboration with Directorate of Education FATA and financial assistance from UNICEF, initiated an Accelerated Learning Programme in Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies and brought 992 school drop-outs (26% girls) from grade 2 to grade 5 back to mainstream education. 100% of the students passed the exam administered by the FATA Education Secretariat and were awarded grade 5 equivalence certificate.

Acknowledgment

We are grateful to the ALP FATA team for their support and assistance in the development of this publication and our special appreciation is extended to the Directorate of Education FATA, Chairperson and members of Education Review Committee UNICEF and FDMA. We would also like to show our gratitude to the field level Political Administration, Agency Education Officers and our implementing partners HRDN and Hayat Foundation in Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies for their splendid support.

Role of the parents of students enrolled in ALCs is highly commendable and they have played an important role in the success of the project. We also express our special gratitude to the elders of Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies. They provided full support and cooperation to enable the ALP Team to successfully implement the project activities in the operational area.

Lastly, we would like to appreciate the ALP FATA team for their hard work and dedication. Despite of all the challenges, risks and shortage of resources, their efforts made the ALP FATA a huge success.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Due to the prolonged conflict in FATA, coupled with poverty and lack of opportunities, a substantial number of children, especially girls, are forced to miss their precious schooling years. Majority of them are over aged and feel uncomfortable sitting with very young children. They are not very hopeful to re-start their education in future. Due to non-availability of schools in close proximity, militancy in the region and unavailability of qualified teachers, primary school dropout rates have been high and school enrollment has been low. According to officials from education departments, teachers are not willing to work in far-flung tribal areas because of the uncertain security situation.

To address this issue, Institute of Rural Management (IRM) in collaboration with Directorate of Education FATA and financial assistance from UNICEF initiated an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) to bring school drop-out children from grade 2 to grade 5 back to mainstream education through a one year condensed programme. The challenge was to bring 1000 out of school girls and boys from tribal areas of Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies and get them enrolled in IRM established Accelerated Learning Centers (ALC).

In the initial phase, IRM developed a condensed ALP curriculum which was duly approved by both FATA Education Secretariat and UNICEF. 25 ALCs (including 2 girls) were established and 1000 students (26% girls) were selected and provided accelerated education for one year. To ensure the quality of education, 50 teachers (including 4 female teachers) were identified and trained on modern teaching techniques.

The end result was phenomenal as 100% of the students passed the exam and were awarded grade 5 equivalence certificate by the FATA Education Secretariat, enabling them to join regular schools in grade 6.

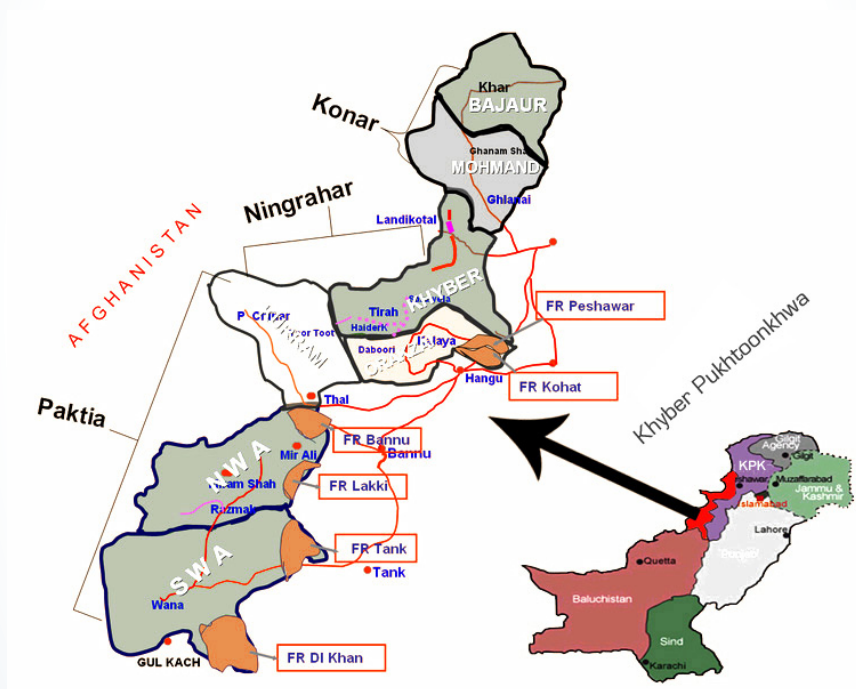
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To provide high quality and comprehensive education to primary school dropouts and those who missed out their primary education, through Accelerated Learning Approach in Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies in FATA.
- To develop condense curriculum for primary grades in two stages to complete their primary education in one year.
- To build the capacity of teachers to dispense the concise syllabus in the Accelerated Learning Centers.
- To provide on job follow up support to teachers and construct a continuous monitoring mechanism for effective implementation of the project.



PROJECT AREA

The programme was implemented in Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies in FATA. ALCs were established in Tehsils Pandiali, Haleem Zai, Khar, Utman Khel and Salar Zai.





PROJECT ACTIVITIES

i **Preparation of Condense Curriculum**

On the basis of the Government approved primary school curriculum in FATA, a condensed curriculum was developed in consultation with the FATA Education Directorate for two stages; Stage 1 (Grades 1 – 2) and Stage 2 (Grades 3 – 5).

ii **Designing Teacher Guides**

Latest teaching techniques, methodologies and joyful learning activities were incorporated in the Teacher Guides to enable them to teach a diverse group of students.

iii **Teacher Training**

To ensure the high quality of teaching in classrooms, 15 day Teacher Training was provided to 50 teachers on 3 modules.

Module 1: Training on latest teaching methodologies and techniques

Module 2: Subject specific training for classes 1 – 2

Module 3: Subject specific training for classes 3 – 5

iv **Formation of 25 Accelerated Learning Centres**

To provide the fast-track primary education to school drop outs, 25 Accelerated Learning Centers were established in the target areas of FATA.

v **Coaching and Mentoring**

Teachers were provided guidance to design their lesson plans, implement the new teaching techniques learnt and were given demo lessons. They were observed and encouraged to promote participation in the classrooms.

vi **Identification of Out of School Children**

Data on out of school children in the respective agencies collected by UNICEF's partners was used to identify the target beneficiaries. World Food Programme was also taken on board to link the school feeding/ration programme with ALP.

vii **Student Enrollment**

A total of 1000 students were enrolled in the ALCs.



ACHIEVEMENTS

25

Accelerated Learning Centers established in Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies in FATA.

50

Teachers trained in modern teaching techniques.

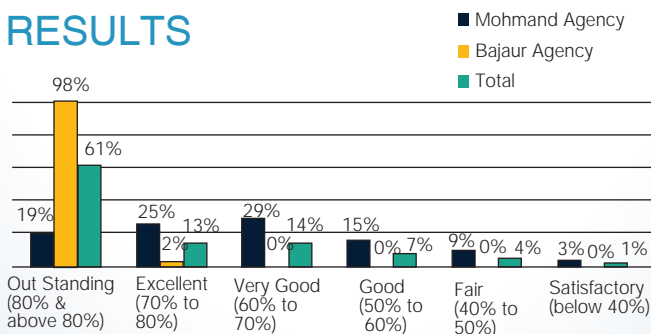
1,000

Students provided with student kits to return to schools.

992

Students brought back to mainstream education

RESULTS



MESSAGES

Pakistan faces the critical challenges of access to education, in particular quality and relevant education. More than 6 Million children of primary school age are not attending school. Of these, 2.9 million are boys and 3.6 million are girls. Over 2.7 million children of lower secondary school age are not attending school. Of these, around 1.1 million are boys and 1.6 million girls. Pakistan Labor Force Survey PLFS (2009-10) shows that literacy rate in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is 50.9 percent.

Persistent conflict in FATA together with poverty and lack of opportunities, a substantial number of children, especially girls, miss their precious schooling years. Low quality of education pushes children out of school. Only 58% children in Pakistan continue education after grade 5; in the case of FATA even 11% girls survive grade 5. The gender gap in education is highest in FATA with only one girl out of every five children (aged 6-16) being enrolled in a school.

The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) has been designed to re-enroll dropped out children from school in view of the ongoing conflict in most areas of FATA. It is an innovative programme focusing on children in the age bracket of 9-16, who had lost hope of ever resuming education. These children felt hesitant of sitting with younger cohort in primary schools. They were exposed to all sorts of exploitation and could have fallen in the wrong hands. The ALP became a beacon of hope for these children to complete full primary school course in one year.

The IRM staff including the teachers and mentors showed fearlessness and commitment in the most challenging environment where blowing up or bombing of schools has become a routine. IRM in its first phase established 25 centers and enrolled 1,000 out of school children. The children received education from the trained local teachers and completed their primary school course in one year. The children, including girls and boys, appeared in the government organized examination and managed to pass the primary course showing good academic performance. The FATA Education Directorate issued certificates to these primary graduates. Most of these children are now back in the mainstream and have enrolled themselves in schools to continue their elementary education.

UNICEF acknowledges and appreciates the IRM staff for successful implementation of the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) in Bajaur and Mohmand agencies of FATA. We hope our efforts contribute to achieving the shared goals of education.

Ms. Pilar Aguilar

Chief of Education, UNICEF Pakistan

MESSAGES

IRM has done a wonderful job in implementing the Accelerated Learning Programme in Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies. I am utterly satisfied with their performance in successfully delivering the programme. The ALP FATA team has done a commendable job and made this programme a role model for DoE FATA and other IPs.

I would like to take this opportunity to praise the outstanding work done by IRM. It is very rare to come across such an efficient organization like IRM. Their team completed all the tasks / activities pertaining to the programme in a swift and highly professional manner. Despite of all the challenges, risks and shortage of resources, the ALP FATA team delivered the programme effectively. Their hard work and dedication has made the ALP FATA an exemplary programme.

Mr. Abbas Khan,

Deputy Director, Directorate of Education, FATA

I deeply acknowledge the cooperation and excellence of the team work of ALP (Accelerated Learning Project) in Mohmand and Bajaur Agency. They have embarked on an extraordinarily remarkable journey and for that I admire them greatly. Their curriculum and teacher's training programmes are one of a kind. It is their sheer dedication and passion in their work that has made it possible to bring the children back to the schools.

I give my heartiest congratulations to their Project Director for it is, undoubtedly, dynamic leadership that always paves the way to success.

I give all my best wishes to the ALP. May it forever shine bright and remain sustainable. I pray that the message of the ALP spreads throughout F.A.T.A. Amen.

Long Live Pakistan!

Ms. Khalida Adib,

Chairperson, Education Review Committee /
Principal, G.C.E.T (F), Jamrud, Khyber Agency

FROM IDP CAMP TO SCHOOL - STORY OF NAIMAT ULLAH & AMINA BIBI

Following the militancy in the Bajaur Agency, Naimat Ullah and his younger sister Amina Bibi left school and moved to an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in District Dir along with their family. Both Naimat and Amina suffer from dwarfism by birth and always faced disrespect at school by teachers and other students. "I felt sad when my friends made fun of me and wanted to run away from school" Naimat said. But despite of all the discrimination, they were keen on going to school and studying but due to the deteriorating security in the area, they were forced to quit their education. After living in the IDP camp for one year, the family moved back to Jar Sabanday, their native village in the Bajaur Agency.

Although the family started living a normal life, both Naimat Ullah and Amina were struggling. Being enthusiastic about education, they were sad how they had to leave school and how an important year of their life has been wasted. Their friends moved to higher classes and going back to school meant that Naimat and Amina had to study with juniors. They were both uncomfortable with the idea and were scared that they will have to face the discrimination once again.

Hope was brought back into their lives when the ALC was established in Jar Sabanday. Naimat and Amina were very excited to find out that they could make up for their year lost. They got enrolled in the IRM established ALC and within a year, they were ready to join the mainstream education and their old friends. Study environment in the ALC and attitude of teachers encouraged both the siblings to carry on with their education and fulfill their dreams. Both Naimat and Amina are now eagerly planning to go back to school for pursuing their dreams of becoming a doctor and a teacher.

A DREAM COME TRUE FOR FARMAN SHAH

Farman Shah, a resident of Ghunda Shah, Tehsil Pandiala, Mohmand Agency was in Grade 2 when his father died. He had to leave his education because his mother was unable to afford his tuition fees. Having 3 brothers and 2 sisters, Farman was the eldest in his family and had the responsibility to look after them. To fulfill the needs of his family, he started looking after his family's livestock including 20 sheep and 2 cows and also started farming.

The village of Ghunda Shah is known for the art of Carpet Weaving. Farman started learning this art and within a year, he started making and selling carpets to feed his family. Despite of all the hard work, he was barely able to fulfill the needs of his family. He was also very eager to go back to school but the circumstances did not allow him. He felt extremely worried about his future as he had to give up his education at a very young age. After 5 years of leaving school, his friends were now in grade 7 and whenever Farman saw them going to school, he felt left out. "I saw friends going to schools and wished that I could go to school with them", says Farman shah.

Farman's dream of going back to school was about to become reality. Establishment of the Accelerated Learning Center in his village brought hope back in his life. He was now hopeful that he would be able to continue his education. With the setting up of ALC in village Ghunda Shah, Farman got enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Programme. He was a brilliant student and was keen on learning and making up for the 5 years lost. Along with his education, he kept weaving carpets, farming and looking after the livestock. His hard work paid off. He completed the accelerated course with outstanding marks and is now ready to go back to school with his friends. He is now ambitious to complete his education and wants to become a businessman.

1 MILLION
PEOPLE
TRAINED



6, St# 56, F-6/4 Islamabad, Pakistan. Email: info@irm.edu.pk
Phone: +92-51-2822752, 2822792 | Fax: +92-51-2823335
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