

# Girls' education in **PUNJAB**



**10.5**  
MILLION

children in  
**Punjab** are out  
of school<sup>1</sup>.

which accounts for more than half of  
all Pakistan's out-of-school children.

in Punjab



**HALF**

of out-of-school  
children are  
**GIRLS**<sup>2</sup>.



**08**  
MILLION

children are missing  
out on middle or  
secondary education<sup>3</sup>.

There are



**36,990**

primary schools

and just **680 higher  
secondary schools**<sup>4</sup>.

Of all boys and girls aged 5–16 in Punjab<sup>5</sup>:



**51%**  
BOYS



**48%**  
GIRLS

are able to read at least a  
sentence in Urdu.



**47%**  
BOYS



**44%**  
GIRLS

are able to read words  
in English.



**51%**  
BOYS



**48%**  
GIRLS

are able to do  
subtraction in arithmetic.





## Overview

Since 2003, Punjab has made significant efforts to reform school infrastructure, teachers' management and overall education sector governance. Yet given the scale of the problem in the province, the need for a renewed focus and increased resourcing is urgent. The provincial government is currently conducting an education policy review.

The 2011 Punjab Education Policy estimated that Rs. 3387 billion would be required in order to achieve 98% enrolment rate of all children aged 5–16 years by 2024–25. While education budgets have increased since 2011, they fall far short of the required levels currently standing at Rs. 296.19 billion for 2016–17<sup>6</sup>.

### We are calling for the government of Punjab to:

- Commit to a 20% increase in the provincial education budget each year.
- Ensure more education *development funds* are allocated at the district level to respond better to local needs.
- Increase the number of girls' secondary schools.
- Introduce a girls' education strategy focused on *increasing the enrolment and retention of girls, improving the quality of secondary education* for girls and *addressing missing facilities*.
- Bring forward reforms which *build the capacity of teachers* and introduce new methodologies to *improve learning outcomes*.
- Adopt a Punjab Ministry for Information campaign to *address the social barriers that prevent girls from attending secondary education*.

### The benefits of educating all girls for 12 years:



SAFER

- Doubling the percentage of students finishing secondary school could cut the risk of conflict in half<sup>7</sup>.
- Girls' education reduces a country's vulnerability to natural disasters and is one of the most cost-effective strategies to tackle climate change<sup>8</sup>.



HEALTHIER

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>9</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>10</sup>.



WEALTHIER

- If every girl around the world received 12 years of free, safe, quality education, lifetime earnings for women could increase by up to **\$30 trillion**<sup>11</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost **twice as** much as those with no education at all<sup>12</sup>.

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