

# Girls' education in **SINDH**



**6.4**  
MILLION children in Sindh  
are out of school<sup>1</sup>.

in Sindh



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



**4.8**  
MILLION  
are missing out on  
middle or secondary  
education<sup>3</sup>.

There are  
**38,132**  
primary schools  
and just **291 higher  
secondary schools**<sup>4</sup>.

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

**34%**  
BOYS

**25%**  
GIRLS

are able to read a sentence  
in Urdu and Sindhi.

**26%**  
BOYS

**19%**  
GIRLS

are able to read words  
in English.

**32%**  
BOYS

**24%**  
GIRLS

are able to do  
subtraction in arithmetic.



## Overview

Though Sindh's Education Sector Plan (ESP) commits to improving equity, access, quality, accountability and financing in the province, there has been little progress for girls. While the total education budget in Sindh increased by 39% between 2014–15 and 2017–18<sup>6</sup>, there has not been a significant accompanying increase in school enrolment numbers. Lack of secondary schools means dropout rates remain high.

Most of Sindh's education budget is currently allocated to recurring expenses such as teachers' salaries, which leaves little room for capital investment in infrastructure. Financial inefficiency and governance issues mean funds are not released on time and often remain unused at the district and school level. For the year 2015–2016, Rs. 134 billion of the allocated Rs. 148 billion were spent<sup>7</sup>.

### We are calling on the Sindh government to:

- Reform education sector policies to *rectify the balance between recurrent and development budgets*, and ensure *optimal utilisation of the development budget*.
- Establish *equitable spending mechanisms* which target out-of-school children — especially girls — and support the disadvantage through weighted funding.
- Scrutinise budget proposals and spending for their impact on girls through a new mechanism, *gender and inclusion audits*.
- Ensure planning and *budgeting processes are transparent* and open to civil society organisations by participating in official government partner groups, like local education groups.

### 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>8</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>9</sup>.



HEALTHIER

- Just one additional year of education for girls decreases the infant mortality rate by up to 10%<sup>10</sup>.
- If all girls complete their secondary education, child deaths could reduce by 49%<sup>11</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>12</sup>.
- Women with secondary school education earn almost twice as much as those with no education at all<sup>13</sup>.

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