

Programme Area Summary

Country: Pakistan

Programme Area: Education 2005-2011

What is the aim of the programme?

The aim is to improve the quality of primary education and encourage more parents to send their boys and girls to school.

Why is VSO working in that particular programme area and region?

The right to education is being denied to a major section of society in Pakistan. In 1998 only 39% of children went to primary school and recent research indicates that this figure has actually decreased. Of the girls that do manage to get to school, over half drop out before finishing their primary education. Only a quarter of women in Pakistan are literate. VSO is supporting the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (www.un.org/millenniumgoals), a commitment made by the government of Pakistan, with the aim of 100% of children completing their primary education by 2015. We work in 2 provinces where we feel we can have more of an impact, the Punjab and North Western Frontier Province.

Who are the key beneficiaries and partners?

District education officers, lead teacher educators, cluster teacher trainers, teachers, school management committees and children. We work with NGOs and the government at the provincial and district level. These NGOs include www.carepakistan.org, www.dsd.mm.com.pk, www.aie.edu.pk, www.kef.org.pk, www.nef.org.pk, www.nrsprg.pk

What are the key objectives of the programme?

- To make provision for teachers (especially female teachers) to more effectively meet pupils' (especially girls') right to quality education.
- To support heads and school management committees to more effectively lead and manage their schools.
- To enhance the capacity of in-service teacher trainers in teaching resource centres and teaching support centres to more effectively meet the needs of teachers, heads and school management committees.
- To help district and middle-level education managers in selected areas to more effectively lead and manage departments and schools in their areas.

Current Programme Activities

Currently the programme is going through a period of re-development which will dramatically increase the range of activities.

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

- Volunteers work as Primary Teacher Trainers, Maths, Science and English subject advisers, Education Management Advisers, Staff Development Advisers, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisers, Parent-Teacher Liaison Officers

Workshops, training & conferences

- Partnership development workshops

Providing grants and/or equipment for partners

- Small grants for partners and volunteers

What makes VSO's work in this programme area so special?

VSO is the only international organisation in the education sector in Pakistan that works through volunteers. Our model emphasizes follow up and support as being integral to any training or development programme, whether it is for teachers or educational managers,

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maximizing the potential for sustainability. VSOP's partnerships in education have been built up through over 20 years of experience in Pakistan and we have a particularly strong reputation in the field of primary teacher training. This has given a platform for our current emphasis on the different aspects of 'quality education' and how to achieve this for everyone.