



UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME—PAKISTAN

Pakistan Education Atlas 2013

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency. On average, WFP reaches more than 90 million people with food assistance in 80 countries each year.

In Pakistan, WFP has been present since 1968, and works in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, aligns its strategies with national priorities addressing food security and nutrition.

WFP's programme of work aiming to assist 8.3 million people between 2013 and 2015 seeks, amongst others, to improve economic opportunities and promote social inclusion in FATA, boost community resilience in disaster-prone areas, and address nutrition and education in the country.



Education is a critical determinant of household livelihood and food security. An educated family has a better chance of securing access to food, and educating girls in particular, is of utmost priority as we all know by now the multiple, positive impacts educating girls has on improving their – and their future sons and daughters - nutritional and food security status, and by extension that of their families and the larger society they inhabit.

Despite efforts, Pakistan has been slow to close the gap on targets for key educational indicators. According to the Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR) for 2013-14, Pakistan is globally ranked very low with almost seven million primary aged children out of school. Among the millennium development Goals, the education targets fare the poorest, despite some improvements between 2004 and 2008, which represents some 30 percent of the country's population experiencing extreme educational poverty, defined as less than two years of education in a lifetime. With an adult literacy rate at only 57 percent, almost one-half of the country's adult population is unable to read or write. The percentage of the population that has ever attended school is higher for urban areas (73 percent) than rural (50 percent). While net primary enrolment rates (NER) have increased, almost 7 million primary age children are still out-of-school, a disproportionate number of which are girls.

The Government of Pakistan is prioritizing education sector improvements and recognizes the work and resources required to see genuine achievements in education, including incentivizing every child to attend school and investing a more substantial proportion of GDP, shifting up from 2 percent in 2011 to close to 4 percent.

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP), responding to hunger worldwide, attributes the highest priority to working together with national governments to address food insecurity. It is against this backdrop that WFP Pakistan is immensely pleased to be working with the Government of Pakistan to support improvements in educational planning and management. This initiative strives to ensure the availability of valid, reliable, comprehensive and up to date educational data which is an essential pre-requisite for effective planning, monitoring, evaluation and decision making for the education system in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Education Atlas, an initiative which began in 2010, is the outcome of a close collaboration between the Academy of Educational Planning and Management (AEPAM), the Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education (MET&SHE) and the ONE UN Joint Programme of Work. The Atlas is a unique tool, which allows users to access decentralized information on educational planning indicators and focus education interventions across the country in areas identified by through emerging social patterns in respect to population and geographic data. The third version the Atlas (launched in March 2014) has the following three components which are designed to assist in formulating targeted and need based education policies in Pakistan:

- Development & publication of the Pakistan Education Atlas
- Development of the Web-based interactive version
- Capacity Building of relevant government staff to maximize the utility of the tool

This education tool enables stakeholders, particularly policy makers, to improve the collective understanding of the education situation in the country and correct and optimize resource allocation. The Atlas has become a well-known and often utilized reference tool among public and development sector stakeholders and it is the only national publication providing education indicators for all sectors alongside their geographic distribution at tehsil level. The online version increases the accessibility of information, opening it up to a wider audience and providing a more dynamic representation with visuals and new indicators that illustrate progress in education reform over time