

## UK-Aid Programme in Pakistan helping communities to re-gain ownership of schools

Through the Humqadam-School Construction and Rehabilitation Programme (SCRP), a community school in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province which fell to corruption and criminal activities is now being transformed into joyful learning environment.

Muskaan is an 8-year old student at her community school, Government Girls Primary School (GGPS) Wazir Bagh No. 2, Peshawar. She was on the verge of quitting school due to the notoriety and disrepair of school.

GGPS Wazir Bagh No. 2 in Peshawar with a student population of 400 was recently constructed in 2014. However, due to blatant corruption on the part of the contractor, the school construction was very poor and the infrastructure started to fall apart within a year of construction.



Students of GGPS Wazir Bagh No. 2 used to go to a school which was dangerous and unsafe.

Muskaan recalled, ***“My school gained a bad reputation due to the poor security and misuse after dark. My parents were considering pulling me out of the school all together.”***

In addition to the poor state of the school, one of the major problems for the school was security. The lack of a proper main gate, often saw trespassers using the school after hours for illicit activities. GGPS Wazir Bagh No. 2 became a den by the local drug addicts and gamblers in the evening. This gave the girls’ school an unsavoury reputation and many parents pulled their children out of school.

Thanks to assistance from UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), the urgent needs of GGPS Wazir Bagh No. 2 were addressed. UK Aid has provided the school with two new classrooms, rehabilitation of existing four classrooms and furnished the school with a new gate. These much needed provisions have breathed a new life into the school.



Muskaan and her friends now feel safe in their new school which is safe and secure.

Muskaan feels that her school is completely new. Now, she happily comes to school every day without any fear or worry. She remarked, ***“I tell my parents that our school has completely changed. The toilets are new, the windows and gate have been fixed. All of my friends are now excited for school.”***

The new school has been acknowledged by the community as a necessary and a positive improvement for the area’s development and girls’ education. Shiraz Begum, Head Teacher, said, ***“Now that the school’s pressing security and infrastructure issues have been addressed, the parents are more than happy to enrol their daughters.”***

Humqadam-SCRIP is the largest UK Aid infrastructure programme in the world. With an aim to improve infrastructure in government schools in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan. This programme is a part of the £420 million [Punjab Education Support Programme \(PESP\) II](#) and the £283 million [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector Programme \(KESP\)](#), large and ambitious programmes which represent a collaborative effort between UK Aid, Australian Government, and the provincial governments to result in more children in school and better learning outcomes.