

Humqadam-SCRP is striving for a more resilient ecosystem in Punjab Province

UK Aid through Humqadam - School Construction and Rehabilitation Programme (SCRP) is taking pre-emptive measures to ensure environmental sustainability by planting saplings in public schools of Punjab province.

Kasur is one of the districts in Punjab facing severe environmental issues including risks associated with smog. Innovative measures to protect the natural environment in Humqadam-SCRP assisted schools send a strong signal that school infrastructure improvement should have a long-lasting impact on environmental sustainability as well.

Located in a remote village of Kasur District, Punjab Province, Government High School (GHS) Hunjrai Kalan was in dire need of repair. Humqadam-SCRP adopted the school in January 2018 and is constructing 16 new classrooms and four toilet facilities. As part of Humqadam-SCRP's mandate to plant 10 trees against one cut down tree, Humqadam-SCRP established a Community Committee for School Infrastructure (CCSI) and encouraged young students and local community members to step forward to transform their school into a healthy learning environment. With renewed sense of ownership, students and teachers at GHS Hunjrai Kalan are tackling environmental issues with beauty and innovation by planting more than 600 saplings.



Left: Students actively participating in planting saplings in their school.

Middle: Sight of plantation at GHS Hunjrai Kalan, Kasur, Punjab.

Right: School Principal supporting environment friendly initiatives.

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“Students are the change agents and environmental leaders. Their active engagement in planting saplings will ensure protection of both school environment and natural resources for environmental sustainability” said School Principal, Mr. Babar Ali, showing his appreciation for the students' efforts to contribute to a better environment and quality education.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Muhammad Qasim, a grade 8 student at GHS Hunjrai Kalan.

“The new school building makes a big difference and looks really nice. It has increased our resolve to keep our school neat and clean, and work on its beautification. We will take care of the planted saplings as it is our collective responsibility to protect the school environment”.

Humqadam-SCRP is largest the UK Aid infrastructure programme in the world, with significant contribution by the Australian Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. Humqadam-SCRP aims to improve infrastructure in government schools in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan, and as of Sep 2018 Humqadam has constructed **2051** new classrooms in Punjab and KP and rehabilitated **1405** classrooms in **614** schools. The programme is a part of the £420.5 million [Punjab Education Support Programme \(PESP\) II](#) and the £283.2 million [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector Programme \(KESP\)](#), large and ambitious programmes which represent a collaborative effort between DFID, Australian Government (contribution in KP province only), and the provincial governments to result in more children in school and better learning outcomes.