

Schools are made Inclusive and Accessible for Mobility impaired Students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

UK aid and Australian Government through the Humqadam School Construction and Rehabilitation Programme (SCRP) is re-writing a positive narrative on education with inclusive and more accessible schools' structures for young boys in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistan.

With estimated 27 million PWDs in Pakistan, over 1.4 million children with disabilities are left out of the school system. Born with paralyzed legs to a poor family in the Peshawar District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, a 12-year old boy, Rooh ul Amin now attends Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Musa Zai. For him, obtaining a primary school education has been quite a challenge. But his determination to become literate and his unyielding spirit, have enabled him to make it this far. Previously, his school in Peshawar had an old building, which was not adapted for use to anyone with mobility impairment.

Humqadam-SCRP adopted the Government Higher Secondary School Musa Zai in 2015 and provided six new classrooms and 10 toilets. The new building block is designed with consideration to make it inclusive and accessible especially for mobility impaired students and teachers. Ramps for wheelchairs and a special toilet for PWDs have been constructed for easy access to the building.



(L) Rooh UI Amin feels accepted after the infrastructure provisions by Humqadam-SCRP
(R) GHS Higher Secondary School Musa Zai is one of the few schools facilitating mobility for easier access.

“Regardless of my disability, I made it to high school with support of my family and friends. I couldn’t move to the classroom on my own. Sometimes, I was embarrassed to go the toilet as I had to request someone to support me there. I was considering quitting studies as I was dependent on others; I felt that I was a burden on my school mates. The new building is so good, I can move to my classroom without anyone’s support, even the toilet is in my access. I am thankful to Humqadam for considering my needs”, said Rooh UI Amin, a grade 7 student.

Rooh UI Amin is excited to continue with his education and is even contemplating higher education. He wishes to become a professional in the healthcare sector to help others like himself. GHSS Musa Zai is one of the 167 completed schools in KP province which are now fully functional to provide safe and accessible infrastructure with generous finding from UK aid and Australian Government through Humqadam SCRП.

Humqadam SCRП is largest the UK Aid infrastructure programme in the world, with significant contribution by Australian Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Humqadam aims to improve infrastructure in government schools in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan, and as of June 2017 Humqadam has constructed **1,151** new classrooms and rehabilitated **881** classrooms in **392** schools. 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 DFID, Australian Government (contribution in KP province only), and the provincial governments to result in more children in school and better learning outcomes.