

## *Press Release*

### **100,000 out of school children in Pakistan the target of UNESCO-Education Above All Foundation initiative**

Islamabad, 21 September – The Education Above All Foundation (EAA), through its programme Educate A Child (EAC), and UNESCO have partnered on a programme to benefit 100,000 out-of-school children in Pakistan.

Through our partnership with EAA Foundation, the project will support the expansion of UNESCO’s on-going cooperation with the Government of Pakistan on girls’ education and focus on 14 remote districts with low primary school enrolment rates. Through advocacy and school improvement interventions, the project will work closely with parents, teachers and communities to enrol children, prevent dropout and improve learning.

“This project will act on all fronts to advance inclusive, quality education in Pakistan, especially for girls,” said Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO. “With the EAA Foundation, initiated by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, we share the conviction that this is the only path to fight poverty and build lasting peace.”

Project activities include capacity building of school management committees and district education officials, including for the establishment of vital facilities such as compound walls and toilets, which have a positive impact on school attendance. It will also support teachers in improving their teaching and management skills in multi-grade classrooms.

In implementing this joint project, which will invest \$12.8m, the [UNESCO Office in Pakistan](#) will continue to work closely with provincial and local education authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations with long records of accomplishment in the targeted districts.

The announcement of the initiative came during the week of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York, where the EAA Foundation representatives are part of the Education 2030 Steering Committee on Sustainable Development Goal 4.

The EAA Foundation has provided longstanding support to UNESCO to enhance access to quality, inclusive education for the most marginalized and to protect education in insecure environments and conflict zones, notably in Iraq, where this partnership has ensured projects on curriculum development, teacher training, literacy and higher education.

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