



CREATIVE

Project Overview



# Pakistan Reading Project

## Quick Facts

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Nearly half of fifth graders cannot read simple text in their local language, according to the 2013 Annual Status of Education Report Survey.

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The project boosts outcomes by improving classroom environments, changing national-level policies, and generating community-based support.

3

All regional governments where the project works approved, for the first time, an allocated block of reading time in the school day.

Too many students in Pakistan read far below expectations—in part because many teachers were never trained to teach reading.

Nearly half of fifth graders cannot read simple, second grade level text in their local language, according to the 2013 Annual Status of Education Report Survey. But a solution is taking hold. The USAID-funded and International Rescue Committee-led Pakistan Reading Project is boosting early grade reading outcomes for 1.3 million first and second grade students by improving classroom learning environments, changing national-level policies, and generating community-based support for reading.

Creative Associates International is leading the project in Sindh Province, incorporating a gender-sensitive approach in all project activities, supporting the development of policies that support reading programs, building pre-service training curricula for the teaching of reading—a first for the country—and forging public-private partnerships for greatest impact and sustainability.

## Changes for new and experienced teachers

Creative worked closely with Pakistan's Higher Education Commission and teacher education institutions to incorporate reading instruction courses into Associate's Degree in Education and Bachelor's Degree in Education Honors programs. Teachers learned modern techniques that had children "sky writing," tapping and clapping as they learned to break down words, and read

aloud from extra large books. These courses, initially planned for four Teacher Training Institutes, were of so much interest that they were expanded to eight. And to increase access, Creative also awarded more than 3,161 merit-based USAID scholarships to students in 111 Teacher Training Institutes in Sindh, Punjab and FATA.

For public primary school teachers in Sindh, Creative offers in-depth and intensive face-to-face training, school support visits and comprehensive supplemental materials like scripted lesson plans, workbooks and flash cards. The project also formed Teacher Inquiry Groups (TIGs) that bring educators together to learn from each other's experiences teaching reading—one of the keys to successfully raising teachers to a new standard of reading instruction.

Creative leverages the private sector in Pakistan to augment the impact and

sustainability of the project, and four companies have already signed Memorandums of Understanding that provide printing services, computer equipment, power, school supplies, IT training and more.

## Crafting sustainable strategies for better reading

Creative builds government capacity at the provincial and regional levels to develop and implement Reading Improvement Strategies and introduce better frameworks and strategies for assessing reading outcomes. Three provinces have drafted Reading Improvement Strategy outlines, and the governments of all Pakistan Reading Project intervention regions or provinces have approved, for the first time, an allocated block of time in the school day for reading.

The project is working with the Ministry of Education to establish the National Reading Forum, providing a platform to generate collective discussion and dialogue on the integration of project initiatives into the public education system.

Creative weaves a gendered approach into understanding challenges, training educators, and improving children's reading. Gender and conflict sensitivity training and manuals for all staff undergird the program's comprehensive gender strategy, which includes specially designed brochures and posters on girl-friendly approaches to education.



# 1.3 Million

first and second grade students will benefit from improved reading outcomes.



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