



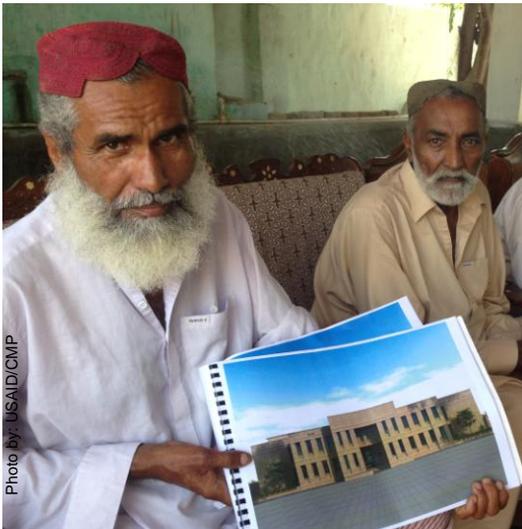
USAID
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PAKISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

FROM CLOSED SCHOOL TO MODEL SCHOOL

In support of the Sindh Basic Education Program's (SBEP's) investment in the future of education in the Sindh Province, the Sindh Community Mobilization Program (CMP) works to engage communities. Through this engagement, communities become more involved in their children's schools, ultimately guaranteeing their children's future.



“Our closed school will open. We will have a new school building like a palace. And female teachers will teach our girls. Effective performance of the school will be ensured with our help. Demotivated village girls are very excited. So are we. A heartfelt gratitude to USAID and SBEP.”

Community elders, Abdur Rehman Chawro and Mushtaq Ahmed.

The Ali Mohammad Chawro Government Girls' Primary School (GGPS) is one of many schools that has suffered as a result of poorly functional administrative, management, educational, and community support systems within the school. As a result, teacher absenteeism, lack of community ownership, and inefficient management become the rule, rather than the exception. In these poorly functional schools, resources are wasted, with teaching and non-teaching staff getting salaries despite their lack of attendance, and SMCs receiving funds that are later misappropriated. Children, often girls, are ultimately the ones to suffer, as they are deprived from a sound education.

In the case of the Ali Mohammad Chawro GGPS, this sole village girl's school, established in 1992, was unfortunately closed down in 2002 as a result of poorly functioning systems. Parents and other community members acted on this closure by lodging complaints to different government arms in an effort to hold leaders and others accountable. Yet, these efforts were unsuccessful in resolving the school's systematic challenges or its closure. Also, some villagers even received serious threats. The villagers gave up on their efforts. Parents were forced to make tough decisions about their daughters' education, based on their families' realities. Some sent their daughters to a girls' school in the Larkana District, about 14 km from their village. Others enrolled their daughters in the boys' school located in the same village. (This school, which initially did not have a building, was relocated to the closed school's building.) Unfortunately, most girls were not enrolled in any school and did not receive an education due to their families' economic situation and cultural stigma.

The lack of a focused, mobilized strategy for advocating for these children and their education resulted in the closure of this school and many girls not being enrolled. With the selection of the Ali Mohammad Chawro GGPS for SBEP's new “state of art” construction effort, CMP has begun to engage and facilitate coordination among the school management committee (SMC), the government, and other stakeholders, guaranteeing these children's basic right to education. Additionally, these model schools will feature classrooms, library, science and computer labs, clinic, water supply and treatment, onsite waste water disposal, playground, multipurpose hall, and furniture and equipment. Trained SMC members, mobilized community and enthusiastic parents are extending their cooperation in this development initiative, which they consider as ray of hope for their girls' development. At the end, the children will be provided much more than just an education. They will be ensured a future.