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# USAID Sindh Reading Program

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## Materials Development Workshop

December 21 – 27, 2015

Hyderabad, Sindh



## BACKGROUND OF THE WORKSHOP



USAID Sindh Reading Program (SRP) is providing a set of scripted lesson plans, levelled readers and read-alouds to its targeted schools to ensure that children successfully learn to read in Grades 1 and 2. SRP's approach centers on strengthening teachers' instructional techniques for early grade reading, building on a growing body of research about professional and vocational development. The program targets the core reading skills (phonological awareness (including phonemic awareness), alphabetic awareness, concepts of print, oral language, vocabulary and comprehension). To this end different inputs like scripted lessons plans are created in line with a descriptive scope and sequence. These child-centered and activity driven lesson plans are based on corroborating read alouds and levelled readers that are customized for reading both in the classroom and at home. The lesson plans are specifically structured to ensure that all children spend as much 'time on task' practicing reading and that struggling readers are quickly identified and provided with additional supports such as targeted instruction and additional

### Rationale and Purpose of the Workshop

Based on the feedback and directives from USAID to provide support to teachers and students for a full academic year, SRP organized a weeklong Material Development Workshop in Hyderabad from December 21-27, 2015.

The purpose of the workshop was to review and expand the existing Scope and Sequence (S&S), and develop additional Teaching and Learning Materials (TLMs) in light of the revised S&S.

This workshop also ensured that read alouds, levelled readers and lesson plans are in alignment with Reading Standard Performance (RSP) approaches. Initially, it was done by engaging selected experts but it proved as a time consuming exercise.

The workshop was envisaged to help in producing draft of required materials, which will be further refined by a group of select experts in follow up working sessions.



Large participation of female teachers in the workshop ensured that our materials are not only conducive to age and grade, but are also gender-appropriate.

## The Workshop Participants

The participants of this workshop were a great mix of subject experts, seasonal linguists and students of B. Ed (H). These students served on the groups as assistants and apprentices, who showed keen interest in the process of materials development.

Other participants included representatives from the Bureau of Curriculum, Directorate of School Education, Directorate Elementary Colleges, B.Ed. students of Elementary College and freelance writers, composers and illustrators.

A total of 40 participants attended the workshop.



And we also had a very young participant at the workshop, Mohamded Ahmed, to oversee how we crafted his future through books and lesson plans.

## The Workshop Processes

The inaugural day of the workshop was chaired by Mr. Mushtaque Shahani, Director Bureau of Curriculum. He spoke on the education sector reforms in Sindh under the 18th Amendment and role of SRP in helping Government of Sindh for improvement in quality education.

The opening session was followed by in-depth presentations by SRP's Component Leads on:

1. SRP and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study research findings on the Importance of Reading
2. Reading Standard Framework
3. SRP's approach in the development of TLMs, Scope and Sequence Framework and guidelines for writing lesson plans, levelled readers and read-alouds

The first day of the workshop focused on the enhancement of participants' understanding of SRP's philosophy of creating a reading culture both inside and outside of the schools.

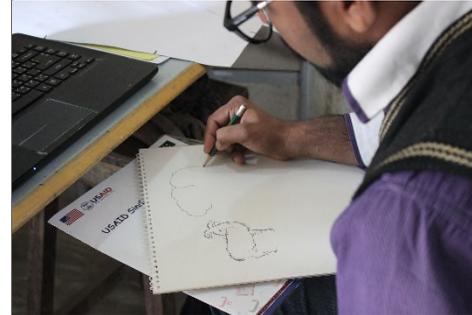
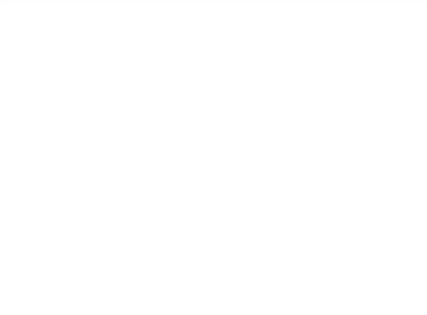
The participants were divided into two language groups and were provided with draft documents for review, which included Grade 1 and 2 text books, analysis of high frequency words in text books, existing SRP scripted lesson plans, levelled readers, read-alouds, text books, dictionaries and templates/formats for the development of scope and sequence.

Lesson plan developers were further divided in grade-wise groups and pairs. Story writers worked in a separate group on the available children story books, reading standard framework, grade-1 and 2 text books, analysis of high frequency words in text books, read aloud planners, week wise letters, words and sight words to be cover in each story.

The workshop concluded everyday with interactive recap sessions, with participants sharing their reflections, queries and suggestions. Facilitators also held daily debriefings on the overall assessment of the workshop's outcomes and administrative adjustments.



# Live Illustration of Levelled Readers



## Key Outcomes of the Workshop

The key outcomes of the workshop are as follows:

Outcomes	Remaining work
<b>Urdu Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scope and Sequence Grade-1 completed and Grade-2 sequence completed 100% and scope completed 50%.</li><li>• 62 Lesson Plans of Grade-1 and 40 Lesson Plans of Grade-2 were drafted and composed.</li><li>• 14 Levelled Reader were drafted.</li></ul>	Grade-2: Scope 50%. 60 Lesson plans of grade-1 and 80 grade-2
<b>Sindhi Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scope and Sequence Grade-1 completed and Grade-2 sequence completed 100% and scope completed 50%.</li><li>• 86 Lesson Plans of Grade-1 and 46 Lesson Plans of Grade-2 were drafted and composed.</li><li>• 14 Levelled Reader were drafted.</li><li>• 24 Read Alouds were drafted</li></ul>	Grade-2: Scope 50%. 30 Lesson plans of grade-1 and 75 grade-2

## Way Forward

- Organize an in-house review of developed materials from 4th to 8th January 2016
- Selected workshop participants will be engaged for the finalization of developed materials from 11th to 13th January 2016.
- Materials Review Committee meeting will be convened from 16th to 18th January for review and approval.
- Remaining materials will be developed, finalized and reviewed during February-March 2016.