

Investing In Future – Community Involvement Far Beyond the Classroom Walls

Through the Humqadam-School Construction and Rehabilitation Programme (SCRP), UK aid is helping young girls from Punjab go to school and advance their education.

Badokay Cheema is a small village in the industrial district of Sialkot in densely populated Punjab. Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Badokay Cheema serves as one of few educational platform for girls in Sialkot. As is often the case, years of neglect, had made the school's main building unsafe for use. For the safety of the students and teachers, many classes were held outside in the open, irrespective of the climatic conditions. This affected their health; resulting in increased dropout rates and decreased attendance.

Humqadam-SCRP adopted this school in 2016 and provided eight new classrooms and eight toilets.



GGHSS Badokay Cheema. Photo: Humqadam

“The girls were eager to pursue studies even if it was outside and the weather was harsh, although it was affecting their studies and health. Thanks to the funding from the UK government we now have improved school facilities”- Mr. Nasir Hafeez Cheema, CCSI member.

Humqadam-SCRP's intervention at the school encouraged the local community to invest in the success of their children. Parents, teachers and other community members identified the needs of the school and made it their priority to address them. They contributed PKR 400,000 (~GBP 2,800) to construct a pavement linking the new building with the main gate, to raise the boundary wall, and to install a water filtration plant with the school council being the benefactor of filtration plant room. Garden plants were also donated for school beautification.

GGHS Badokay Cheema has also been chosen for Humqadam's student led Better Environment School Team (BEST) initiative to promote water, sanitation, hygiene and environment-friendly activities at the school. Together the students and the school community offer the best alternative to ensure the sustainability of the educational environment, and Humqadam is ensuring they are empowered to do so.

Humqadam SCRP is largest UK Aid's infrastructure programme in the world. 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.