

## Schools becoming Safe Educational Haven For Children In Most Remote Settings Of Punjab Province

UK aid through Humqadam School Construction and Rehabilitation Programme (SCRCP) is constantly striving to ensure safe and secure learning environments to the school going children by providing new classrooms and toilets in Punjab Province, Pakistan.

Government Primary School (GPS) Kartal, Sabz Pir, Pasrur, is located in Sialkot district of Punjab province. More than 60 students were cramped up in a single untidy room with no boundary wall, which depicted a scene of dungeon. Students were sent back home during rain and in extreme hot weather as the school stood close to the firing range of Pakistan-India border. A huge setback which resulted in parents pulling out their children from school. Due to low attendance and high dropout rates, the district education department decided to consolidate this school with close by primary school. Two community members started home tuitions for dropped out school children on voluntary basis.

Before the consolidation order for GPS Kartal was passed, it was nominated to receive infrastructure support from Humqadam-SCRCP. Since the new order was not communicated with the relevant authorities, Humqadam-SCRCP ran through technical and baseline surveys and determined the need of the school.



(Left): New school's building of GPS Kartal provisioned by Humqadam-SCRP;  
(Right): Old School's Building.

In March 2016, the school was adopted by Humqadam-SCRCP and it was provisioned with three new classrooms and for the first time a toilet block with two cubicles. With provision of quality infrastructure, the school was handed over to the community in October 2017. After the school gained the status of regular and independent, District education department also appointed a new teacher for GPS Kartal. With the school's new building, local community is convinced to send their children to safe and secure learning environment, enrolment is also increasing. Since handing over 67 enrolments have been confirmed.



*“It was unsafe to send small children to school, there was no boundary wall no toilet and just a small room. Humqadam-SCRCP has given a new By providing heavenly school for our children which meets all their needs. We are very much relaxed with the new building and joyful as this is a great step for better future of our children”,* remarked Mr. Raffique, Community Elder from Kartal, Sialkot

Humqadam-SCRCP is largest the UK Aid infrastructure programme in the world, with significant contribution by the Australian Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Humqadam-SCRCP aims to improve infrastructure in government schools in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces of Pakistan, and as of March 2018 Humqadam has constructed **2051** new classrooms in Punjab and KP and rehabilitated **1639** classrooms in **587** schools. The 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.