

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. Since 2013, the Sindh Province education sector has received more than \$700 million in external assistance from multilateral and bilateral development partners. The major education sector supporters have been the European Union, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank. Development partner support has comprised loans, grants, and technical assistance. The assistance has supported initiatives in the School Education and Literacy Department’s Sindh Education Sector Plan (SESP), 2014–2018, including increasing access, improving governance, expanding public–private partnerships, and improving girls’ education at the primary school level. A follow-up strategy, the SESP 2019–2023 is being prepared. Comparatively little development partner assistance has supported secondary education.

2. Key recent and ongoing projects and programs supported by development partner programs are the European Union’s Sindh Education Sector Support Program (2012–2017) and Development Through Enhanced Education Program (2019–2023), JICA’s Upgrading Primary Girls’ Schools to Elementary Schools in Southern Rural Sindh Project (2014–2016) and Upgrading Primary Girls’ Schools to Elementary Schools in Northern Rural Sindh Project (2016–2018), USAID’s Sindh Basic Education Program (2011–2018), and the World Bank’s Second Sindh Education Sector Project (2013–2018) and Global Partnership for Education Project (2015–2017). A summary of recent development partner support is provided in the table. USAID and the World Bank are the largest development partners. The World Bank is also implementing a technical and vocational education and training project.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Pre-primary, Primary, and Secondary Education			
Asian Development Bank	Education Sector Assessment	2016–2018	0.225
World Bank	Second Sindh Education Sector Project	2013–2018	400.0
World Bank	Global Partnership for Education Project	2015–2017	66.0
European Union	Sindh Education Sector Support Program	2012–2017	42.0
European Union	Development Through Enhanced Education Program	2019–2023	55.2
USAID	Sindh Basic Education Program	2011–2018	155.0
JICA	Upgrading Primary Girls’ Schools to Elementary Schools in Southern Rural Sindh Project	2014–2016	7.5
JICA	Upgrading Primary Girls’ Schools to Elementary Schools in Northern Rural Sindh Project	2016–2018	8.6
TVET			
World Bank	Sindh Skills Development Project	2011–2018	21.0

JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency, TVET = technical and vocational education and training, USAID = United States Agency for International Development.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

3. The Sindh Local Education Group (LEG), which is made up of development partners and key School Education and Literacy Department stakeholders, provides a useful avenue for the coordination of development partner activities in Sindh. The LEG includes representation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, the European Union, JICA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), USAID, and the World Bank. There has been close coordination with development partners throughout the project preparation period. During project implementation, ADB missions, staff, and the project implementation unit will continue to coordinate closely with development partners through the LEG. In addition, ADB missions and staff will brief development partners, as required, on project progress and key project developments and issues.

4. The SESP, 2014–2018, which was developed with education sector stakeholders, sets out the sector priorities of the Government of Sindh (GOS), as well as indicators and a roadmap for achieving targets. As such, the document provides a focused vehicle for development coordination between the GOS and sector stakeholders and among sector stakeholders, including development partners and nongovernment organizations (NGOs). An updated SESP, 2019–2023 is being prepared. NGOs are active in the education sector in Sindh and the other provinces of Pakistan, including in sector monitoring, policy advocacy, and the finance and provision of education services. Several NGOs deliver services for the GOS, for example, operating schools under Sindh Education Foundation programs and the education management organizations (EMO) model.

C. Achievements and Issues

5. Several promising school sector reforms were instituted in Sindh under the umbrella of the SESP, 2014–2018, supported by the GOS and bilateral and multilateral development partners. These include school consolidation and upgrading, scaling up of public–private partnership schools via the Sindh Education Foundation and under the EMO model, merit-based hiring and biometric monitoring of teachers, better use of standardized achievement test assessment data, and development of more reliable information systems.

6. Given the progress under the SESP, 2014–2018, the time is opportune for ADB to support the Sindh education sector. ADB's assistance under the Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project will extend and complement that of other development partners such as the European Union, USAID, and the World Bank. This is particularly true given ADB's focus on secondary education, which receives considerably less development partner assistance than primary education. The project will position ADB as the preeminent development partner supporter of secondary education in Sindh. The assistance to the education sector is supported by ADB's country partnership strategy for Pakistan, 2015–2019 and ADB's country operations business plan for Pakistan, 2019–2021. The project supports several strategies in the SESP, 2014–2018, including broadening access to secondary education, strengthening teacher quality, and improving the secondary education examination system.

D. Summary and Recommendations

7. The assistance being provided under the project is timely and will add much-needed resources to the secondary education sector in Sindh. The project has emerged from extensive discussions with the GOS that took place as part of the education sector assessment undertaken under an ADB small-scale technical assistance project.