

# Plan Pakistan



## Country strategic plan summary for 2006 - 2010

*This document describes how Plan Pakistan and its partners will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2006 to 2010.*

### The country strategic plan

In developing our country strategic plan, emphasis and importance were placed on incorporating the ideas and opinions of children, other key stakeholders such as families, communities, civil society organisations, government bodies as well as Plan field staff. Plan Pakistan has prioritised issues based on best practices, evaluations and assessments. This strategy is also the result of participation, cooperation and partnership which will help ensure community ownership and commitment towards further achievements.

### About Pakistan

Pakistan has four provinces with a population of around 16 million with around 48 percent female. More than half of the total population is under 18 years of age and about 24 percent live below the poverty line. The major source of livelihood is agriculture and main crops are wheat, rice, cotton and maize.

The devastating earthquake on October 8, 2005 in northeastern Pakistan created yet another challenge as reconstruction and rehabilitation of the basic infrastructure, livelihoods and social services added to the country's development burden.

### Plan Pakistan's programme and approach

Plan started working in Pakistan in 1997 and has four programme areas in the districts of Chakwal and Vehari in Punjab, Mansehra in the northwest Frontier Province and in the squatter settlements of Islamabad. A fifth programme area is the earthquake affected Siran Valley, also in Mansehra. Plan works in partnership first and foremost with communities and community-based organisations but also with government departments, agencies, international and local non-government organisations. Plan Pakistan tries to reach as many children as possible with programmes on safe motherhood and child survival, access to quality education, water and sanitation, community capacity-building, income-generation and advocacy for child rights including birth registration.



**Fetching water is a daily and time-consuming chore, especially for women and girls**

### Key issues affecting children in Pakistan

The major issues affecting children in Pakistan are:



**Accessibility to medical facilities is critical for the survival of children in Pakistan**

- Lack of awareness about hygiene and healthy life practices.
- Restricted access to quality education, especially for girls.
- Limited livelihood opportunities for poor and vulnerable households.
- Lack of respect for and protection of the rights of children and women.

Pakistan has ratified the convention on the rights of the child and a national commission for child welfare and development has been established. A national policy and action plan for children are also in place. Civil society is gaining strength with the emergence of a growing number of Pakistani community-based organisations. In general, Pakistani society has a very positive attitude towards children, though there are still incidences of neglect, abuse and exploitation.

## How will Plan Pakistan address these issues?

The following four programmes are being implemented in all areas covered by Plan in Pakistan and a fifth programme on earthquake relief and rehabilitation continues in the Siran Valley of Mansehra.

**1. Protecting and promoting the health of girls and boys** – we involve the communities in analysing health-related issues and identifying resources for the following:

- improvement of healthcare and environment;
- improving the knowledge and skills of women on how to maintain their own health;
- improving healthcare services in the area for children from birth to adolescence;
- raising awareness of adolescents about reproductive health issues; and
- promoting positive behaviors related to water, sanitation and other environmental health issues.

**2. Supporting community learning** by improving access to quality education through a school improvement programme that includes:

- promoting the active involvement of children and adults;
- promoting active and committed school leadership, teaching practices which are child-friendly and participatory;
- upgrading educational facilities such as school infrastructures, equipments and teaching materials; and
- early childhood care and development facilities.



**Access to a quality education is now available to these girls who previously could not attend school due to local traditional beliefs that girls should not be educated**

Plan Pakistan had supported the training of a group of teachers on effective teaching practices, and Amir Ali, one of the teachers, commented: *“I was reluctant to attend this course because I thought, we already knew it all, so why do we need to learn all over again?! Then, I attended the course and realized that it was useful. Now, I am practicing what I have learnt in my classroom”*

**3. Strengthening household livelihood security** by providing micro finance and livelihood services that include vocational and technical skills training for women and men, providing small farmers with training and equipment for agriculture and animal raising, and informing families and communities about other livelihood opportunities.

**4. Promoting child rights and gender equity** by raising the awareness of public and local governments on children’s rights and birth registration, advocating the participation of children in community development activities, and provision of health, education and protection services for street children, children working in dangerous occupations and children with disabilities.

**5. Supporting community learning in earthquake affected areas** include re-constructing primary schools within the area, supporting the training of teachers, promoting the active involvement of parents in the management of their schools, and providing psycho-social and health services for children and adults who are coping with the trauma of the earthquake.

Plan Pakistan’s [programme approach of child centered community development](#) facilitates and engages poor children and their families in implementing the programmes mentioned above towards fulfilling children’s rights to [survival](#), [development](#), [protection](#) and [participation](#). To help ensure the sustainability of development efforts, Plan Pakistan will support the development and participation of community-based organisations including youth, children and women’s groups. As [Khurshid](#), a youth leader from Vehari commented:

*“If we get opportunities to raise our voices through forums we can effectively contribute to the welfare of our society.”*