Background and Introduction

The latest ASER data from 2015 present a stark challenge of learning and access. According to the ASER Pakistan 2015 national rural results, 19% of the children were found to be out of school. 13% children have never been enrolled in a school and 6% have dropped out of school. The challenge becomes even starker as we look at the learning trends. 51 percent of grade 5 students could not read English sentence proficiently (a competency of grade 2 level) and 50 percent of grade 5 students were unable to solve questions involving two digit division.

Against this context, accelerated learning programs are emerging as a popular innovation worldwide to build basic reading and mathematical literacy amongst the out of school children (OOSC).

Learning for Access (L4A), supported by Dubai Cares Phase III in Pakistan, is a component which helps put out of school children into school and provides intensive bursts of remedial education in reading and mathematics through learning camps called “Chalo Parho Barho (CPB)” to out of school children and primary school children (grades 3–5) who are behind in basic literacy and numeracy skills.
Core Areas
- To provide accelerated learning (Chalo Parho Barho) to 4,000 OOSC age 06-12 years
- To mainstream 2,800 (70%) of Out of School Children (Drop out/Never Enrolled)
- To improve learning levels of 3,000 in-school children (grade 3-5) at risk of dropping out
- To improve school learning environment in 100 target schools
- Capacity building of 300 teachers of target schools
- Capacity building of 38 District Government Officials / Department of Education etc

Strand-I: Enrollment and mainstreaming of out of school children

- Identifying out of school children aged 6-12 years for the literacy/numeracy CPB camp (8-10 weeks) in the selected school or in a community space
- Identifying in-school primary school/section children (grades 3–5) who are behind in basic literacy and numeracy skills to be supported by the literacy/numeracy camps
- Grouping of children by ability rather than by age and grade, and use of CPB’s rigorously evaluated methodology, “Teaching at the Right Level” (TaRL), and pedagogy, “Combined Activities for Maximized Learning” (CAMaL)
- Hiring and training of teachers in CAMaL methodology to understand and provide for special classes for the accelerated learning strand
- Tracking progress of each child through baseline, midline and endline assessment held every 15 days
- Mainstreaming out of school children in regular schools

Achievements

- 100 Non-formal centers have been established with provision of teaching learning materials
- 2,946 Out of school children have been provided with accelerated learning
- 2,769 In-school children at risk have been provided with accelerated learning
- 100 Para teachers have been hired to support non-formal centres in schools
- 277 Govt. teachers have been trained on accelerated learning methodology
- 15 District govt. officials trained on accelerated learning to make intervention sustainable

Strand-II: School improvement and enrichment to ensure retention of children

- Provision of minor repair & maintenance of selected school
- Capacity building of head teachers/teachers to make the intervention sustainable
- Strengthening SMC/SC/PTSMC ensuring parental engagement
- Provision of teaching learning materials (TLMs) inclusive of four kits (health kit, science kit, reading kit and sports kit)
- School enrichment component (Girls/Boys Clubs, Reading Club, Summer Leadership Camp etc) to regularly engage children across classrooms in various extra-curricular activities