DIL focuses on making a positive impact on our students, equipping them with the skills they will need to build a new and better world. We are indebted to you, our generous donors, for investing in our schools and making a real difference in our students' future prospects, which depend entirely on the quality of their education. To that end, we would like to share with you the specific ways in which DIL has been improving the education we provide children across Pakistan and the fruits of these efforts, particularly in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, which shut down schools in Pakistan periodically throughout 2021.

In spite of the ravages of Covid-19, we have ensured that Pakistani children continue to receive a strong education, laying emphasis on five areas:

(1) The continued adoption of government schools
(2) The continued enhancement of DIL’s signature Technology Enabled Academic Learning (TEAL) program
(3) A new strategy to remedy loss of learning called the Targeted Instruction Program (TIP) in partnership with the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP)
(4) A new project to teach students coding, creative computing, and problem-solving starting in Grade 1 in partnership with Technoknowledge
(5) A new strategy to educate out-of-school young girls called Teach and Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Help (TEACH) in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Balochistan Education Foundation, and the Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation.
The TEAL program represents the acme of all of DIL’s successes in EdTech interventions over the past two decades, using videos on LCDs to strengthen core subject instruction in English, Urdu, math, and science. After launching the program in Grade 6, we have continued to expand TEAL, extending it to Grades 7 and 8, and bringing it to 11 Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) schools as well as 41 of our own schools. Given the increasing sophistication of TEAL learning content, we conducted subject-focused orientations for 259 middle grade teachers, enabling greater comfort in using the technology in the classroom and expounding the program’s unique methodological approach. We also created WhatsApp groups designed at once to facilitate feedback from teachers concerning TEAL use and to furnish technical and pedagogical support as necessary.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The pandemic put pressure on DIL to divide students at schools into two equal groups and have them attend on alternate days, a policy that made library periods irregular. To redress this, we introduced the 21-Day Reading Challenge to help students cultivate a love and habit of reading for themselves on a daily basis. Research suggests a clear relationship between time spent reading and general academic achievement. By taking 20 minutes out of their day for recreational reading, students have been able to improve their vocabulary, comprehension, and overall language development in English and Urdu.
Targeted Instruction Program (TIP)

Anticipating the significant loss of learning owing to repeated school closures throughout 2021, DIL worked in conjunction with the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) to develop a remedial teaching program that offers targeted support to students. We gave teachers curricular materials designed to help teachers implement the TIP program effectively, such as lesson plans for small children from KG to Grade 3, training manuals for teacher training, and training workshops for master trainers, who are on course to cascade TIP to 6,000 teachers in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Teach and Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Help (TEACH)

DIL is part of a consortium led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and including as downstream partners the Balochistan Education Foundation and the Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation. We are jointly implementing a girls’ education program called TEACH, which is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK under the UN’s Leave No Girl Behind initiative. TEACH is helping nearly 35,000 out-of-school girls between the ages of 10 and 19 living in the province of Balochistan. The aim of this project is to enable these girls to integrate into formal schools, and thence acquire basic literacy, numeracy, and practical skills that will maximize their opportunities for a future livelihood. In Q3, DIL worked with the consortium to produce specialized learning packages and audio lessons for TEACH facilitators.
Learning coding and creative technologies, even as early as 5 years of age, is a vital part of a student's twenty-first century skill set. DIL has forged a partnership with Technoknowledge, an organization that prepares young children to become the problem-solvers, creators, and collaborators of tomorrow. With the help of TK, we piloted a five-day training course to IT teachers in the town of Orangi in Karachi, stressing the importance of STEM-based block programming and the use of open-source applications. Because of its success, the program shall be rolled out to all public and private DIL schools in the next academic year.

**Technoknowledge (TK)**

DIL recently adopted 5 government schools in partnership with the District Education Authority in Lahore. We also continue to liaise with Pakistan’s Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) as we adopt more government schools in the Islamabad Central Territory (ICT) region. Currently, we are operating 18 government schools, where we are improving the quality of education through various interventions.

These include (a) capacity-building for instructors in ECE, primary grade education, and middle grade education that is anchored in a student-centered pedagogy, (b) deploying TEAL in select schools, and (c) introducing DIL’s Read to Grow, Read to Know (RGRK) program, which enhances English reading comprehension, a skill requisite to academic success in Pakistan.