WHERE WE STAND TODAY

DIL strives to make a positive impact on the lives of our students, equipping them with the skills they will need to chart the future of their country. We are thankful to you, our gracious donors, for investing in our schools and making a real difference in our students' chances of making their mark in the world, which rest entirely on the strength of their education. In this spirit, 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 an ongoing pandemic.

Despite the desolation wrought by the coronavirus, we have ensured that children continue to receive a quality education, emphasizing five key areas:

1. The adoption of 33 government schools as well as the planned adoption of 41 more such schools
2. The continued development of DIL’s signature Technology Enabled Academic Learning (TEAL) program
3. The continuation of the Targeted Instruction Program (TIP) in partnership with the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) to remedy student loss of learning
4. Honing students’ reading and writing skills through a reading enrichment program called Students as Authors
5. Continuing to educate out-of-school young girls by expanding the Teach and Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Help (TEACH) program in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Balochistan Education Foundation, and the Tameer-e-Khalaq Foundation.
The TEAL program represents the pinnacle of all of DIL’s successes in EdTech interventions over the past twenty years, using videos on LCDs to fortify core subject instruction in English, Urdu, math, and science. After inaugurating the program in Grade 6, we continue to expand TEAL, cascading it to Grades 7 and 8. In March 2022, TEAL was nominated for a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) prize in their media category based on the program’s contribution to information exchange and knowledge creation. TEAL is now being used in 11 Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) schools and has been enlarged to include an additional 35 schools, raising student access to technology to 78%. In light of the increasing diversification of TEAL learning content, we continue to conduct both subject-focused orientations and online assessments for 259 middle grade teachers, at once cultivating greater comfort in classroom use and highlighting the program’s unique methodological approach.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ADOPTION

DIL continues to liaise with Pakistan’s Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) Sindh, and the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) as we adopt more government schools in Punjab, Sindh, and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Specifically, we have adopted 33 government schools (30 FDE schools, 2 SELD schools, and 1 SEF school), with 41 more such schools in the pipeline. This translates to adding twice the number of students to our current enrollment in the long term. Elevating the quality of government schooling has entailed the following:
• Providing per-child subsidies for nearly 10,000 students
• Capacity-building among instructors in ECE, primary grade education, and middle grade education
• Deploying TEAL in select schools
• Implementing DIL’s Read to Grow, Read to Know (RGRK) program, which enhances reading development and comprehension in English, a skill essential to academic success.

STUDENTS AS AUTHORS

Building on our 21-Day Reading Challenge in 2021, DIL commenced the Students as Authors project, which gives students an authentic writing opportunity with the aim of adding local language children’s stories to our digital library while celebrating students’ culture and identity. Participating students are coached through several drafts, a process that not only sharpens their adeptness at creating plot, setting, and characters with motives, but equally enhances their grammar and vocabulary skills.

TEACHING PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

Targeted Instruction Program (TIP)

Grappling with the loss of learning caused by prolonged school closure, DIL is still working alongside the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) to implement a remedial teaching program that offers targeted support to students. As pandemic- and climate-related school closures have become more unpredictable, we have further developed curricular materials designed to help teachers enact the TIP program effectively, including lesson plans for small children from KG to Grade 3, training manuals, and training workshops for master trainers, who are extending TIP to DIL and non-DIL NGO schools in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh.
Beginning last year and until March 2022, DIL remained part of a consortium led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and composed of downstream partners in the Balochistan Education Foundation and the Tameer-e-Khalq Foundation. Together, we continued to implement a girls’ education program called TEACH, which was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK under the UN’s Leave no Girl Behind initiative. Given school closures, TEACH was using radio- and home-based lessons to educate nearly 35,000 out-of-school girls between the ages of 10 and 19 living in the oft-neglected province of Balochistan. The goal of this project was to enable these girls to integrate into formal schools, and thence acquire basic literacy, arithmetic, and market-oriented employability skills that maximize their opportunities for a future livelihood. What is more, DIL produced specialized learning packages for TEACH facilitators as well as training in GESI and disability inclusion.

Coding with Technoknowledge (TK)

Learning coding and creative technologies at an early age is a critical part of a student’s twenty-first century skill palette. DIL maintains 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 have delivered training courses to IT teachers in the town of Orangi in Karachi, underscoring the importance of STEM-based block programming and the use of open-source applications.