**Inspire II [Pakistan]**

**Problem Statement**

Pakistan has the second highest number of out-of-school children globally, two-thirds of whom are girls. Almost 50% of women over age 10 have never attended school, and only one in two can read and write. Social stigma can keep girls from actively seeking out education where it means using unsafe transportation or studying alongside boys and men. For those young girls with the desire to pursue their education, budgetary constraints, the lack of proper school infrastructure, and a shortage of qualified, female school teachers further stymie efforts. The problem does not end here, the bulk of these students, especially girls who dropped out during or after completion of primary school, have limited pathways for economic inclusion in society leading to a difficult future.

**Our Solution**

INSPIRE II provides access to middle-school levels of education through an accelerated learning program (ALP) in existing government primary schools in Pakistan. Through an 18-month

intervention (reduced from the typical 3 years of Grade 6-8 instruction) students who had dropped out following completion of primary school are targeted. ALP graduates who qualify will be enrolled in technical and vocational trainings offered by public or private sector providers who will also ensure job placement. CARE has already identified private sector partners interested in providing technical and vocational training and placement to ALP beneficiaries

**Progress**

Through an 18-month intervention (reduced from the typical 3 years of Grade 6-8 instruction) 1,000 students, who had dropped out following completion of primary school were reached; 880 girls graduated from the ALP pilot. Moreover, the project also provided vocational skills and entrepreneurship development to 300 young men and women, opening up access to economic opportunities within the communities. As a result, almost 80% of these students are now employed or self-employed.

**Looking Forward**

INSPIRE II plans to extend and integrate technology into at least 30 ALP schools. CARE will partner with national start-ups already applying AI and technology-based content solutions to modularize and adapt the ALP curriculum for a combination of self-study tutorials. Devices will be provided to each student following an intake test with the appropriate level of curricula included (to ensure focus and progress, contents will be updated periodically as students meet achievement milestones.

When more girls are provided with quality education, and know their rights, they will collectively be able to affect positive change. These empowered young women will be better equipped to ask for their rights to education, health and economic and political opportunity. It is likely that the ALP graduates will be well respected in society, given their economic independence; just one extra year of secondary education can increase a woman's income as much as 25% a year. In turn, this will positively change Pakistan’s social and economic milieu in coming years.