

P r e f a c e

The Education Sector Reforms – Action Plan 2001-2005 takes its raison-de-etre from the education policies perused since inception of Pakistan and is aimed at to address the delivery gap in the education sector and develop human resources prerequisite for progress and prosperity in the country. It is spread across all sub-sectors of education, from early childhood to the tertiary level. There is ample global evidence that whilst strategic priorities may shift from one sub-sector to another, the overall approach should be holistic, sector-wide and integrated within the macro framework.

ESR Action Plan 2001-2005 is embedded within all macro level initiatives, encompassing the dimensions of policy, institutional and financing arrangements and ownership by all partners. The linkage of education with poverty reduction is powerful. The Delivery Gap is the central challenge of ESR.

ESR reflects common areas of education, where systematic attention is long overdue. These are: rehabilitation of physical facilities; support to multiple delivery systems; such as formal and non-formal; literacy; teacher training at all levels; assessment and exam reform; professional development of field managers; linking education to skills; research and research incentives; effective decentralization of services; institutional strengthening; embracing systemic dimensions. All thrust areas are supported by vigorous Innovative Programs. These are mobilized from within the education sector as well as the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and facilitated by the Ministries of Finance; Planning; Health; Women's Development, Social Welfare and Special Education; Science and Technology; Religious Affairs; Labour and the National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB).

ESR has been devised indigenously. It is a home-grown initiative and a basis for several nation-wide programs within the context of devolution. Resources for ESR were allocated in the enhanced Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for social sectors in the financial year 2001-02. These were supplemented by Provincial allocations under the Annual Development Programme (ADP). The government is committed to provide adequate funds for its implementation during the remaining plan period.

ESR recognizes that the goals of access, equity, efficiency and quality can only be achieved by giving due support and space to civil society and private sector. Public-private partnership is therefore seen, both as a thrust area and an underpinning for the entire ESR.

ESR is a target oriented and output based Action Plan with measurable outcomes defined by each Province according to their own baselines. These outcomes will be monitored by specialist teams of Interim –Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) and the Education For All National Plan of Action. Both EFA and I-PRSP are reflected in the ESR – Action Plan.

Finally, ESR is an evolving program. It will be revised periodically to reflect changes and new realities at the local and national levels. Already in its implementation phase, ESR is a catalyst to rethink education as a pivotal capability for human development, and to rethink planning, financing and performance in rapidly changing contexts. The implementation of Action Plan has been extended from year 2001-04 to year 2001-05 to accommodate two President's programs viz establishment of polytechnics at Tehsil level and mainstreaming of madarassahs and its contents have been revised in the light of comments received from all stake holders and the lessons learnt during financial year 2001-2002

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