



PwC response to Parliamentary IDC inquiry on aid to Pakistan – Girls’ Education Challenge programme

The Girls’ Education Challenge (GEC) was launched by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in 2012 as a 12 year commitment to reach the most marginalised girls in the world and is the largest global fund dedicated to girls’ education. The UK is committed to ensuring millions of girls in some of the poorest countries, including girls who have disabilities or are at risk of being left behind, receive a quality education. The GEC aims to transform the lives of over one million of the world’s most marginalised girls through quality education and learning. Access to a good quality education and learning opportunities will empower these girls to secure a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

The first phase of the GEC (2012 - 2017) provided quality education for over a million marginalised girls.

The GEC is now in its second phase (2017-2025), with up to 41 projects in 17 countries. The second phase is enabling existing GEC beneficiary girls to complete primary school, transition to secondary education, and progress on to technical vocational training or employment. Within the second phase, a second cohort of girls are also being supported through the Leave No Girl Behind funding window, which consists of interventions for highly marginalised, adolescent girls who are out of school - either because they have never attended school or have dropped out without gaining a basic education.

These projects were selected through an open, robust and transparent competitive process. They were assessed for their ability to implement innovative, effective and sustainable ways to increase girls’ enrolment in, and completion of, school, and to provide them with a good quality education.

The Girls’ Education Challenge is managed on behalf of the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) by the Fund Manager, led by PwC and Cambridge Education, with Social Development Direct, Nathan Associates and Shan Globe as subcontractors.

For more information please see: <https://girlseducationchallenge.org/countries/country/pakistan>

The GEC has funded two projects in Pakistan, one of which is outlined below.

Project:	Teach and Educate Adolescent Girls with Community Help (TEACH)
Implementing Partners:	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Aims:	IRC’s TEACH Project will support up to 35,000 out-of-school girls in Pakistan’s Balochistan Province. Depending on age, the girls will enrol in one of two pathways: an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and transition to formal or non-formal education for younger girls; or a more employment skills-based approach for the older girls. The older girls would then transition into vocational training, employment or self-employment. The project also intends to address harmful social norms and the barriers faced by girls in accessing education with the engagement of girls in all activities at family, community,



	school and system levels.
Project Duration:	Start: 1 February 2019 End: 31 January 2022
Funding to date:	£3,486,192 (Up to April 2021)
How much funding will it end up receiving overall?	IRC's contracted budget at February 2019 - £9,143,108 Budget reduction notified 24 June 2021 - £1,359,768 IRC's contracted budget reduction notified 24 June 2021 - £7,783,340. The contract has not yet been updated.
When was the contract awarded?	February 2019
When and how were you informed the programme had to be ended?	Not applicable - the project is ongoing. The Fund Manager received formal notification of the GEC budget cuts on 22 June and notified IRC of the budget reduction on their GEC project on 24 June 2021.
Were any of the desired outcomes achieved before closure?	No definitive assessment of the outcomes will be completed prior to 2022. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation activity is undertaken by the project team and contracted evaluation providers. A March 2021 briefing overview report is available on the GEC website here : https://girlseducationchallenge.org/media/tqqlr3bw/gec_country_briefing_pakistan_march-21_final.pdf
What was/will be the impact of the cancellation of the	Not applicable - the project is ongoing. In terms of the impact of the budget reduction to the implementing organisation, the IDC would need to discuss this with IRC.



programmes on your company?	
What was/will be the impact of the cancellation on the women and girls (or intended recipients) that the programme was targeting?	Not applicable - the project is ongoing. Regarding the impact of the budget reduction, we notified the project of this on 24 June 2021 and we have not yet had time to fully assess the impact of this to the project.

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