

What is Learning Poverty?

3 out of 4 Pakistani children under **10** are unable to read and understand an age-appropriate paragraph — a phenomenon that has been termed **Learning Poverty**.



Girls face greater challenges in their access to, and retention in, schools.

Many more girls (**12 million**) than boys (**8 million**) are not in school.

Key challenges that affect enrolment, attendance, retention, and learning include:

-  **Long distances** to school, especially at post-primary levels
-  **Overcrowded classrooms** even when schools are accessible
-  **Lack of adequate, functional toilets**



School closures during the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 floods have deepened the learning crisis.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools nationwide were closed for **18 months**, leading to significant dropouts and loss.

In 2022, **17,000** schools were damaged by the floods, impacting over **2.6 million** children who were out of school for seven weeks on average.

- !** Many children who dropped out as a result of these closures have yet to return to school, and may never do so.



WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO END LEARNING POVERTY?



Expand access to schooling, especially for girls.



Amplify the education budget and maximize spending efficiency.



Establish a mandatory daily literacy or reading lesson in all public schools, nationwide.



Publish quality education data to drive improvements in governance and outcomes.



Recognize the reality of multigrade teaching and provide support to teachers.



Ensure that teachers are well trained and **quality teachers** are equitably assigned to schools.