



## AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

29 July 2016

### Press Release

### **Supporting basic education reform**

Australian High Commissioner Margaret Adamson, Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan Mr Mir Ghazanfar, and Education Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Sanai launched the Gilgit-Baltistan Education Strategy (2015-2030) at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference yesterday.

The Education Strategy was revised as part of the Australian Government funded AUD 12.46 million Gilgit-Baltistan Education Development and Improvement Program (EDIP) 2010-2015, delivered through the Aga Khan Foundation.

High Commissioner Adamson said the Australian Government was pleased to assist in improving the accessibility and quality of education in the most remote and marginalised communities of Gilgit-Baltistan.

“Education helps individuals, families, communities and nations achieve their aspirations and realise their full potential. Education can also be a powerful tool to reduce the effects of disadvantage and accelerate economic growth. Australia is proud to support Pakistan on a path to building high-performing and inclusive education systems,” Ms Adamson said.

“Providing equal opportunity for girls and boys to access quality education is critical,” she said.

Australia has demonstrated global leadership on education equality, particularly for girls and children with disabilities. The High Commissioner said in her speech that she was pleased the Gilgit-Baltistan Education Strategy has a strong focus on promoting gender equity in education.

The Australian Government through its aid program has undertaken substantial investment in strengthening basic education in Pakistan. Over the last decade, Australia has invested AUD 128 million in strengthening education systems in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, as well as supporting education sector reform at the national level. Australia’s education assistance focuses on promoting equality, improving quality of education and strengthening education systems.

Australia is currently supporting the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s education reform agenda through the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Sector Program (KESP), in partnership with DFID.

As part of her visit to Gilgit-Baltistan, Ms Adamson also visited three schools that were supported through EDIP, as well as a teacher training facility. Over 100 schools across Gilgit-Baltistan were supported as part of EDIP, including through improved infrastructure, increased enrolment and teacher training.

Contact: Media Officer on 051 8355422