


# Protection and Educational Facilities for Displaced and Street Children

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



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## The Context

Pakistan has suffered recurring natural disasters, political turmoil and security issues, which has forced people to move out to safer and secured areas, thus giving rise to a large number of Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDPs). However, it is estimated that only about five percent of them live in camps, whereas rest of the displaced population has been living in either spontaneous camps or with host communities. A large number of this vulnerable population has found refuge in peri-urban (slum) areas of bigger cities, including the capital city Islamabad. It is estimated that 70% of the displaced population comprises women and children. This has added more pressure on the poor population currently residing in these areas, as they now have to share limited resources and scarcely available job opportunities. Among issues like poverty, health and limited access to basic facilities, these dislocated families face safety concerns. Children, women and girls experience greater vulnerability than men e.g. while searching for earning opportunities. The absence of education, skills and understanding of cultural norms in their adopted new home further adds to their vulnerability.

## The Objectives

The SDC is supporting the Mashal Trust, a local NGO, to provide protection to displaced and street children currently living in the peri-urban areas of Islamabad. The school provides free education, protective space and appropriate counselling on culture, social and legal matters.

The project envisages the provision of quality education for marginalized children with a holistic approach based on the Montessori education model. Often not being registered with the National

Database Registration Authority (NADRA), these children are excluded from access to government schools. Through Swiss financial support, the Mashal Trust facilitates these children in the registration process. The schools run by the Mashal Trust follow the same curriculum that is followed in the government schools, therefore the children are equipped with the same knowledge and education that can help them get into the state education system after registration.

The Swiss financial support will cover the Mashal School's operational costs for 18 months, assuring continuous education for vulnerable children and capacity building for women and girls who are taught skills such as sewing and embroidery

<b>Total Budget:</b>	USD 150,000
<b>Time Frame:</b>	18 months
<b>Dates:</b>	Dec 2016 to May 2018
<b>Partner:</b>	The Mashal Trust

This contribution is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4, which prompts governments to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and Goal 10 which asks them to reduce inequality within and among countries.

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## Further information

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