Equity and Inclusion

Setting the scene
New layers of marginalisation and deepening inequalities

- Gender
- Ability/disability
- Location
- Language
- Wealth
- Caste/race
The pandemic’s differential impact on the poorest

Enrollment rates for age groups by income quartile, before school closures (March 2020) and after (Dec-Feb 2022)

Source: https://www.cgdev.org/blog/covid-19-school-closures-hit-poorest-hardest-pakistan
Learning progression: a mixed story

Pakistan: ASER 2019

- Can read at least sentences in Urdu/Sindhi/Pashto: 46% (Male) vs 38% (Female)
- Can read at least words in English: 48% (Male) vs 39% (Female)
- Can do at least subtraction in arithmetic: 43% (Male) vs 36% (Female)

Pakistan: ASER 2021

- Can read at least sentences in Urdu/Sindhi/Pashto: 48% (Male) vs 45% (Female)
- Can read at least words in English: 51% (Male) vs 49% (Female)
- Can do at least subtraction in arithmetic: 38% (Male) vs 36% (Female)
Gender gap: the global and national picture

Global

• Global Gender Gap is 68.1% reduced in 2022 across 145 country sample.

• Progress towards closing the gender gap has stalled in most countries.

• Secondary education enrolment, 16 countries reported gaps larger than 10 percentage points – Pakistan is one of them.
Global gender gap index: regional picture

- Pakistan ranks 8\textsuperscript{th} out of 9 South Asian countries.
Critical questions

• **Do we focus on learning or access? Both?**
  - Access and quality are not, however, inevitable trade-offs. They need to be addressed simultaneously to improve opportunities of those most in danger of being left behind.
  - Learning is not only about reading and writing. In taking account of children from diverse backgrounds, new approaches to measuring the benefits of education (e.g. boosting children’s sense of inclusion, self-efficacy and self-esteem).

• **Tracking low levels of learning or targeting specific population groups?** Tackling structural barriers to discrimination.

• **Focus on individual sources of disadvantage or multiple?** E.g. we know that gender and poverty intersect to create double disadvantage. Disability is a particular source of disadvantage.