OUTLOOK

RDF Executive Director Highlights Key EMO Challenges at Provincial Consultation on Education Partnerships



On 8 October 2026, RDF Executive Director Mr. Masood Ahmed Mahesar participated in a high-level provincial consultation chaired by Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah to discuss the proposed Education Management Organization (EMO) partnership for 1,133 public schools across Sindh. During the consultation, Mr. Mahesar emphasized that successful public-private partnerships require not only effective school management and improved learning outcomes but also timely financial disbursements, transparent accountability mechanisms, and a supportive operational framework. He highlighted key challenges faced by EMO partners, particularly delays in payments, the need to strengthen the accountability and oversight mechanisms of the PPP Node Unit, and the substantial amounts retained as bid security, which place additional financial pressure on implementing organizations. The Minister acknowledged the importance of the concerns and recommendations raised, affirming that they were pertinent and would be considered in the deliberations on the proposed partnership framework. The discussion also reinforced the need to move beyond infrastructure and access towards effective teaching, institutional accountability, and measurable improvements in educational quality and student achievement across the province.

RDF–BCI Celebrates World Cotton Day with a Focus on Sustainable Agriculture



On 7 October 2026, RDF's Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) Project, in collaboration with the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Sakrand, celebrated World Cotton Day at CCRI Sakrand. The event was chaired by Mr. Ghulam Qadir Chandio, MPA Sakrand, and attended by Ms. Aisha Memon, RDF–BCI Project Manager; Ms. Rehana Anjum, Director CCRI; senior scientists; agricultural experts; lead and women farmers; field facilitators; and representatives of agricultural input companies. Participants highlighted cotton's importance to rural livelihoods, employment, the textile industry, and the national economy. Discussions emphasized sustainable cotton production, climate-resilient farming, integrated pest management, efficient water use, soil health, and women's participation in the cotton value chain. CCRI experts also shared research findings on improved cotton varieties and innovative technologies to enhance crop productivity and quality.

Promoting Fair Labour Practices and Child Protection in Cotton-Farming Communities





During the week, BCI team conducted awareness and training sessions in Khairo Kaloi, Duthro Sharif, and Local Group Muhammad Juman Zardari in Tando Adam, as well as Moosa Khaskeli in Sakrand, to promote workers' rights, fair employment conditions, and the protection of children and young workers. Farmers and workers were sensitized to the importance of understanding and freely agreeing to employment terms before commencing work, including any changes in working conditions and overtime arrangements. The sessions also emphasized age-appropriate duties, proper supervision, and safeguards against hazardous child labour, in line with Better Cotton standards, ILO Conventions 138 and 182, and national child labour regulations

Advancing Sustainable Agriculture Through Climate-Smart Demonstrations

On 7 October, RDF–BCI highlighted farmer Khamiso's successful adoption of laser land levelling in Village Jumo Khan Bhambhro, which reportedly improved water-use efficiency by 25–30% and increased cotton yield by 10–15%. Field visits across project villages also reviewed plantation, drainage, smokeless stove, and Napier grass demonstrations, alongside farmer engagement on Better Cotton practices and livelihood development.



Strengthening Livelihood Opportunities Through Livestock Sector Partnerships





On 5 October, the BCI core team met with the Director of the Poultry Department to coordinate technical support for an upcoming poultry distribution activity. A Veterinary Officer inspected the birds at the supplier's farm and confirmed that they were healthy and suitable for distribution. The Director also provided vitamins as a preventive measure to support poultry health. In parallel, RDF–BCI engaged with the Livestock Department on opportunities to strengthen livestock-based livelihoods for project beneficiaries. On 5 October, Dr. Abdul Latif Keerio briefed the team on the Artificial Insemination (AI) programme and recommended selecting educated young farmers with at least a matriculation qualification for a three-month training course. Further discussions on 6 October with Duty Director Dr. Dost Akbar Mari explored potential departmental support for introducing artificial insemination services to BCI farmers, with Dr. Noorul Amin contributing to the technical discussion.

Strengthening Farmer Data Accuracy and Project Accountability

On 8 October, Producer Unit Manager visited Local Group Sahib Khan Jalalani in Sakrand to verify farmer records through direct engagement with beneficiaries. The verification covered farmers' names, CNIC details, mobile numbers, and cultivated acreage to ensure the accuracy and reliability of project records. This field-based exercise strengthens beneficiary data quality, supports credible reporting and monitoring, and reinforces accountability in RDF–BCI programme implementation



Project : **Better Cotton Initiative** | Funded by: **BCI Growth and Innovation Foundation**

RDF Strengthens School WASH Awareness and Community-Level Follow-Up in Sanghar



On 5 October 2026, RDF's Social Mobilization team in Sanghar, working under the CR-WASH project, conducted follow-up visits to strengthen school hygiene awareness and monitor community interventions. The team organized an interactive question-and-answer activity with members of the School WASH Club and awarded prizes to high-performing students. It also reviewed the functionality of the solar water scheme in Faqeer Muhammad Laghari and discussed strengthening the community committee for maintenance, timely repairs, and savings. Follow-up visits addressed sanitation activities in Taj Muhammad Mari and confirmed improved teacher attendance at a previously affected school with support from the Village Development Committee (VDC). Water samples were also collected from Qazi Ghulam Muhammad Qureshi for testing through PCRWR.

RDF Monitors Water Infrastructure and Rainwater Harvesting Initiatives

On 8 October 2026, RDF teams under the CR-WASH and CES projects conducted field monitoring in Sanghar and Umerkot to review ongoing water and sanitation interventions. In Sanghar, the team inspected handpump boring work and checked construction materials against required quality specifications. In Umerkot, a meeting was held with Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Mr. Javed Dahri to coordinate the planned Duty Bearers Training for the following week. The team also visited an ongoing rainwater harvesting tank in Nabisar Thar to review construction progress. These activities support infrastructure quality, stakeholder coordination, and improved access to water resources.



RDF Monitors Culvert Construction, Plantations, and Water Infrastructure in Sanghar



On 9 October 2026, RDF's CR-WASH and CES teams conducted field visits across District Sanghar to monitor infrastructure and environmental activities. At Village Koro Khaskheli, the team monitored culvert top-slab construction and checked measurements against the approved design. The second round of earthing-up was completed across 12 acres of Huree plantation, where crop growth was found satisfactory. The team also inspected tree plantation sites in Faqir Muhammad Mahar and Khoro Khaskheli and assessed borehole locations for planned handpump installations in Faqir Muhammad Mahar and Kaoro Khaskheli. These monitoring activities help maintain construction quality and support sustainable community infrastructure.

Community Participation Supports Inclusive Sanitation and Clean-Energy Initiatives in Kunri

On 9 October 2026, the RDF team in Kunri, under the CES project, met with the Village Development Committee in Otaq Manzoor Noon to identify beneficiaries for proposed latrine construction. Through community consultation, eight beneficiaries were identified for PAT latrines and two for inclusive latrines. The team also followed up on tree plantation activities and inspected fuel-efficient stove pipes provided to community members a few days earlier. Women had installed the pipes and were using the improved stoves, demonstrating early adoption of the intervention. The activities reflect RDF's focus on community participation, inclusive sanitation, and practical environmental improvements.



Community Care Supports Healthy Growth of Hurri Plantation in Umerkot



On 10 October 2026, RDF's CR-WASH and CES team reviewed the Hurri plantation established three months earlier in Village Ramoon Kachi, District Umerkot. The plantation showed encouraging germination, with healthy plants and positive growth. Community members watered the plants during the visit, demonstrating their continued involvement in maintaining the plantation. The progress highlights the value of community stewardship and regular care in supporting plantation survival and environmental sustainability.

Project : **Climate Resilient WASH in Sanghar and Umerkot** | Funded by: **Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)**

RDF Strengthens Community Facilitators' Reporting and Planning Skills in Khipro



On 5 October 2026, RDF's KNH SHA team in Khipro conducted its bi-weekly meeting with Community Facilitators (CFs), focusing on strengthening reporting practices and individual performance review. Participants analyzed their own Self-Help Group (SHG) reports, identified areas for improvement, and reflected on ways to strengthen planning and reporting quality. The session provided a learning-oriented platform for Community Facilitators to build their capacity, improve accountability, and enhance their effectiveness as social agents of change.

Project: **SHA Zero Phase in Khipro** | Funded by: **Kindernotehilfe (KNH)**

Green Skills Project Partners with Trade Testing Board for National Skills Certification



On 6 October 2026, the Research and Development Foundation (RDF) Green Skills Project team met with Mr. Alamgeer Memon, Controller Examinations, Trade Testing Board (TTB), Karachi, to discuss Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) assessment and certification for skilled youth across Sujawal, Badin, Jamshoro, Thatta, and Hyderabad. The meeting concluded with an agreement for TTB to assess and certify eligible candidates in a range of trades, including solar PV technology, HVACR, electrical work, tailoring, beautician services, culinary skills, welding, motorcycle mechanics, electric vehicle technology, mobile repairing, plumbing, and other technical trades. Planned for completion within one month, the initiative will enable eligible youth to gain nationally recognized certification based on their existing skills and experience, strengthening their employability and access to better livelihood opportunities.

Project : **Skill Up Plus |** Funded by: **Welthungerhilfe (WHH)**

World Teachers' Day Celebrated at GPS Lakho Bhanbhro






On 5 October 2026, Government Primary School Lakho Bhanbhro in District Thatta celebrated World Teachers' Day under the project "Improving Quality of Education in Village Lakho Bhanbhro." Students, teachers, and school management participated in a cake-cutting ceremony to acknowledge the dedication and contributions of teaching staff. The celebration provided an opportunity to appreciate teachers' role in supporting children's learning and strengthening the quality of education in the community.

JICA Girls' Schools Celebrate World Teachers' Day Across Six Schools






On 5 October 2026, all six government girls' schools under the JICA Girls' Schools Package-II EMO Programme celebrated World Teachers' Day through cake-cutting ceremonies and appreciation activities. The celebrations took place at GGES Arif Kaka in Hyderabad, GGES Bhirya Village in Jamshoro, GGES Bachal Pitafi and GGES Shahnawaz Muhajir in Tando Allahyar, and GGES Chak No. 05 and GGES Molvi Ali Muhammad Maheri in Badin. Students, School Coordinators, and school management joined in recognizing the dedication and contributions of teachers. The celebrations reinforced the importance of educators in nurturing students and advancing quality education across the six schools.

Independent Evaluation Team Completes Quarter-3 Verification Across JICA Girls' Schools





From 7 to 9 October 2026, Mr. Ali Raza, representative of the Independent Evaluator (REACH), conducted Quarter-3 performance verification across all six schools under the JICA Girls' Schools Package-II EMO Programme in Badin, Tando Allahyar, Jamshoro, and Hyderabad. Accompanied by Mr. Ghulam Sarwar Mallah, Education Expert, and Ms. Afshan Channa, Compliance Manager, the evaluator visited GGES Chak No. 05, GGES Molvi Ali Muhammad Maheri, GGES Bachal Pitafi, GGES Shahnawaz Muhajir, GGES Bhirya Village, and GGES Arif Kaka. The team reviewed progress against key performance indicators (KPIs), examined school records and supporting evidence, and consulted School Coordinators and teaching staff to validate reported progress. The successful completion of verification across all six schools marked an important milestone in systematic performance monitoring, strengthening documentation standards, transparency, and accountability within the program.

CPD Phase 3 Strengthens English Language Teaching Across JICA Girls' Schools

On 10 October 2026, Day 1 of Phase 3 of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for English Language Teaching was successfully conducted at GGES Bhirya Village, GGES Bachal Pitafi, and GGES Chak No. 5 under the JICA Girls' Schools Package-II. Delivered according to schedule, the training supports teachers in strengthening their instructional practices and improving English language learning. The initiative reflects the programme's continued commitment to professional development and improved classroom teaching across participating schools.



Project: **EMO JICA Girls' Schools** | Funded by: **PPP Node, Sindh Education Department**

People's School Dhoronaro Celebrates World Teachers' Day






On 5 October 2026, People's School Dhoronaro, managed by RDF, celebrated Teachers' Day to recognize the dedication and contributions of its teaching faculty. Students expressed their appreciation by presenting handmade cards to their teachers, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony that brought the school community together. The celebration highlighted the strong bond between teachers and students and acknowledged the vital role educators play in shaping knowledge, character, and future generations.

SEF Monitoring Visit Records 86.85% Student Headcount at Dhoronaro



On 8 October 2026, the Sindh Education Foundation's Monitoring and Evaluation team visited People's School Dhoronaro, managed by RDF, as part of its regular RSSV monitoring process. The team observed classroom activities, interacted with students, reviewed school facilities and academic practices, and conducted a student headcount. The visit recorded an 86.85% student headcount, providing an important snapshot of student presence and engagement at the school.

RDF Participates in District-Level STREAM Competition Planning

On 8 October 2026, representatives of People's School Dhoronaro participated in a planning meeting at the SEF District Office in Umerkot concerning upcoming district-level STREAM competitions. Chaired by the SEF Regional Head, Mirpurkhas, the meeting brought together representatives of partner schools to discuss coordination, organization, and opportunities for meaningful student participation. The exchange of ideas and recommendations supported preparations for competitions designed to encourage students' engagement in science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, and mathematics.



People's School Dhoronaro Recognizes Teachers' Contributions with Certificates





On 9 October 2026, People's School Dhoronaro, managed by RDF, organized a certificate distribution ceremony to appreciate the dedication and valuable services of its teaching faculty on the occasion of Teachers' Day. District Education Officer Mr. Mir Hassan Arisar attended the event and distributed certificates to the teachers in recognition of their contributions to education and the community. A lunch was also arranged for faculty members and distinguished guests, making the occasion a meaningful expression of appreciation and professional recognition.

Student Council Oath-Taking Ceremony Promotes Leadership and Responsibility

On 9 October 2026, People's School Dhoronaro held an oath-taking ceremony to formally induct its newly elected Head Boy, Head Girl, and Prefects. District Education Officer, Umerkot, Mr. Mir Hassan Arisar, attended the ceremony and presented sashes to the elected representatives. The student leaders pledged to uphold discipline, act with honesty, and fulfil their responsibilities with dedication. The initiative promotes student participation, leadership, accountability, and positive role modelling within the school community.



Grade 9 Students Explore Marine Life Through Starfish Specimen Study





On 9 October 2026, Grade 9 Biology students at the Comrade Omoon Mal Musafar Campus of People's School Dhoronaro examined a preserved starfish specimen during a laboratory activity. They observed its distinctive structural features, including its star-shaped body, arms, tube feet, and spiny skin, while learning about its habitat, feeding habits, movement, water vascular system, and ability to regenerate lost arms. The practical session strengthened students' observation skills, deepened their understanding of marine life, and connected theoretical knowledge with hands-on scientific learning.

SEF Monitoring Visit Records Student Headcount at People's School Mirpur Bathoro

On 5 October 2026, Mr. Tauseef Ahmed and Mr. Shah Muhammad Shah, representatives of the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), District Office Sujawal, visited People's School Mirpur Bathoro as part of the regular RSSV monitoring process. The team observed classroom activities, interacted with students, and conducted a student headcount, recording an overall figure of 89.25%. The visit supported routine monitoring of school attendance and provided an opportunity to review student engagement and classroom practices.



People's School Mirpur Bathoro Celebrates World Teachers' Day







On 5 October 2026, People's School Mirpur Bathoro celebrated World Teachers' Day by recognizing the dedication and valuable contributions of its teaching staff. The occasion highlighted how teachers inspire students, nurture their abilities, and help them grow into confident and responsible individuals. The celebration reaffirmed the school's appreciation for the educators whose everyday efforts make learning meaningful and contribute to students' futures.

Grade 9 Students Explore Plant Cells Through Practical Biology





On 6 October 2026, Grade 9 students at People's School Mirpur Bathoro participated in a hands-on Biology activity focused on observing plant cells under a microscope. Students learned how to operate the microscope and identify basic plant-cell structures through direct observation. By connecting classroom concepts with practical experimentation, the activity strengthened scientific observation, laboratory skills, and students' understanding of biological structures.

Grade 5 Students Discover the Science of Air Resistance

On 6 October 2026, Grade 5 Yellow students at People's School Mirpur Bathoro explored the concept of air resistance through a visual demonstration and a practical experiment using a book and an A4-size sheet of paper. Students actively participated in the activity and observed how air resistance affects the movement of objects. This interactive approach made a scientific concept easier to understand while encouraging curiosity, observation, and experiential learning.



A Stronger School Library Inspires Independent Learning



On 7 October 2026, People's School Mirpur Bathoro highlighted its commitment to building a strong reading culture by encouraging students to explore a diverse collection of library books, including fiction, biographies, novels, dramas, and storybooks. By promoting reading beyond the classroom, the school aims to develop confident readers, thoughtful learners, and independent thinkers. The initiative supports vocabulary development, critical thinking, imagination, and a lifelong interest in learning.

Grade 3 Students Build Vocabulary Through Phonics Word Families

On 7 October 2026, Grade 3 students at People's School Mirpur Bathoro participated in an interactive vocabulary-building activity using Phonics Word Family Cards. The hands-on exercise helped students recognize word patterns, improve pronunciation, strengthen word recognition, and develop reading fluency. By making language learning engaging and participatory, the activity supported foundational literacy and helped young learners build confidence in reading.



Personal Hygiene Session Promotes Girls' Health, Dignity, and Confidence







On 9 October 2026, People's School Mirpur Bathoro in District Sujawal conducted a personal hygiene awareness session for girls, focusing on personal cleanliness, healthy hygiene practices, and the appropriate use of dignity kits available at school. The session aimed to equip students with practical knowledge while encouraging them to seek support in a safe and respectful environment. By promoting health, dignity, and confidence, the initiative reinforced the school's commitment to girls' well-being and their continued participation in education.

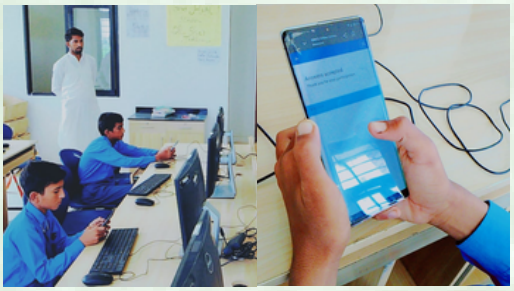
Project: **People's School** Funded by: **Sindh Education Foundation**

RDF Schools Honour Teachers for Their Dedication and Service



On 5 October 2026, all EMO schools managed by RDF in District Jacobabad celebrated World Teachers' Day to recognize the dedication, commitment, and valuable contributions of their teaching staff. Students and school teams came together to express gratitude to the educators who nurture young minds, inspire learning, and help shape future generations. The celebrations highlighted the vital role of teachers in improving educational quality and creating meaningful learning experiences for students.

Jacobabad students Completes International Mathematics Challenge Assessment



From 5 October to 9 October 2026, the shortlisted students from EMO Schools managed by RDF, successfully completed and submitted their assessments for the International Mathematics Challenge. Participation in this international academic opportunity encourages students to strengthen logical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while building confidence in their abilities. RDF appreciates the organizers for providing this learning opportunity and wishes the participating students success in the results.

Young Learners Explore Family Bonds Through a Creative ECCE Activity



On 6 October 2026, early childhood learners at GHSS Sardar Sohrab Khan Sarki, managed by RDF, participated in a colourful "My Family's Fingerprint Tree" activity. Using their fingerprints to represent family members, children explored the values of love, unity, and togetherness while developing creativity, colour recognition, fine motor skills, and hand-eye coordination. The activity demonstrated how engaging, hands-on learning can help young children understand meaningful concepts while nurturing their early developmental skills.

Acting Like Robots: Learning Through Fun and Movement



On 08 October 2026, At GBHS Adam Khan Panhwar, managed by RDF, Miss Faryal engaged Class 7 students in an interactive learning activity under Unit 4, Acting Like Robots. Students enthusiastically acted like robots, following step-by-step instructions to perform everyday tasks such as washing dishes, flying a kite, polishing shoes, playing cricket, and using a mobile phone. The activity made learning enjoyable while helping students understand the importance of clear instructions, sequencing, and following directions through practical, hands-on experiences.

Raising Awareness About the Harmful Effects of Cigarette Smoking



On 09 October 2026, at GHS Budhani, managed by RDF, Class VIII students conducted a practical experiment under the guidance of Teacher Nasir Hussain Solangi to understand the harmful effects of cigarette smoking on the lungs. Using a lung model, students observed the brown tar residue deposited on cotton exposed to cigarette smoke, demonstrating how harmful substances in smoke can accumulate in the respiratory system. The hands-on activity helped students understand the risks associated with smoking, including lung damage, breathing difficulties, and serious diseases such as lung cancer. It also highlighted the importance of making informed health choices and promoting awareness about the dangers of tobacco use.

Learning Filtration Through Hands-On Science





On 09 October 2026, at GHSS Sardar Sohrab Khan Sarki, managed by RDF, Grade 6 students participated in an engaging hands-on science activity on Filtration, guided by Miss Ruqia Sarki (EST). Through a simple practical demonstration, students explored how filtration separates insoluble substances from water and observed how filter paper traps solid particles, such as sand. The activity strengthened students' understanding of scientific concepts through experiential learning and connected classroom knowledge with real-life applications, particularly the importance of filtration in water purification.

RDF School Marks International Day of the Girl Child with a Message of Empowerment







On 09 October 2026, Government High School Adam Khan Panhwar, managed by RDF, observed the International Day of the Girl Child through activities highlighting girls' rights, education, empowerment, and equal opportunities. Students delivered speeches emphasizing the importance of girls' education and confidence, while early childhood learners displayed dream cards expressing their ambitions and future aspirations. The celebration encouraged girls to recognize their potential, believe in their abilities, and pursue their goals, reinforcing RDF's commitment to an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Project: **EMO Schools in Jacobabad** | Funded by: **PPP Node, Sindh Education Department**