



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

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Education



USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA) is a 5-year, US \$19-million partnership between the governments of the United States and Pakistan and select higher education institutions (HEIs) of Pakistan. Working closely with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, HESSA aims to strengthen the country's higher education system to enhance graduate employability while fostering improved workforce development.

HESSA focuses on capacity building of partner HEIs and engaging a wide array of stakeholders to introduce relevant and sustainable policy reforms, conduct extended trainings and international study tours, develop university strategic plans and inclusive financial aid systems, and foster strategic partnerships and academia-industry linkages. HESSA has rolled-out its programmatic interventions through three broad, interrelated components.

ADVANCING LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Interventions and activities under this component strengthen capacities of HEI leaders for strategic planning and transformative organizational leadership, support collaboration between HEC and HEIs to revise policy frameworks and improve their implementation and broaden academia-industry linkages. The three focal areas include:

1. Strengthening Strategic Planning Capacities of HEI Leaders
2. Strengthening Capacities of HEC and HEI Leadership and Governance
3. Improving HEI Resource Mobilization through Private Sector Engagement

IMPROVING RELEVANCE, QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Activities under this component focus on strengthening academic departments, quality enhancement cells, faculty, and offices for research, innovation, and commercialization. Efforts are made to strengthen faculty development programs, promote market-driven curriculum, and applied research. This component provides training to support institutional development comprising three focal areas:

1. Adapt Curriculum to Address Employability Learning Outcomes
2. Improve Teaching of Soft Skills
3. Introduce Innovation Management Connecting HEIs to the Private Sector

ENHANCING SUPPORT SERVICES ACROSS THE STUDENT LIFE CYCLE

Activities under this component seek to improve the soft skills development of students for better employability, improve student access to financial aid and scholarships and other on campus engagement services, and enhance networks and community engagement with student development activities. The six thematic intervention areas include:

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Financial Aid | 4. Alumni Development & Engagement |
| 2. Career Readiness | 5. Student Microenterprise Development |
| 3. Student Leadership & Programming | 6. Mental Health & Psychosocial Support |

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (UNTIL MAY 2023)

- **16** HEIs onboarded and receiving capacity development support
- **324** (154 women) individuals affiliated with HEIs received capacity development support in the form of in-person training workshops, online trainings, international study tours, and individual coaching and mentoring sessions. Participants include:
 - **16** Vice-Chancellors (4 women)
 - **29** Deans (3 women)
 - **47** Department Chairs (17 women)
 - **61** Faculty (27 women)
 - **60** Women Leaders
 - **121** Student Support Personnel (51 women)
- **Baseline** studies completed and **MEL** system established

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

1. Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), Lahore, Punjab
2. University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore, Punjab
3. National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), Islamabad, ICT
4. University of Peshawar (UoP), Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
5. Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, Sindh
6. Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Quetta, Balochistan
7. Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU), Quetta, Balochistan
8. Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit, GB
9. Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, Punjab
10. Abdul Wali Khan University (AWKU), Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
11. Peoples University of Medical and Health Sciences for Women (PUMHS), Nawabshah, Sindh
12. Women University Swabi (WUS), Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
13. Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, Sindh
14. University of Swat (UoS), Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
15. National University of Technology (NUTECH), Islamabad, ICT
16. Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST), Mirpur, AJK

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