



Education Reform in Pakistan

This Time It's Going To Be Different

Sir Michael Barber
Co-chair, Pakistan Education Task Force
4 November 2010
Brookings Institution

Two possible futures await

Productive Pakistan

340 million people

- Well educated
- Low unemployment
- Booming economy
- Model Islamic state
- A world leader

OR

Destructive Pakistan

340 million people

- Poorly educated
- High unemployment
- Shrinking economy
- Failing Islamic state
- Burden on the world

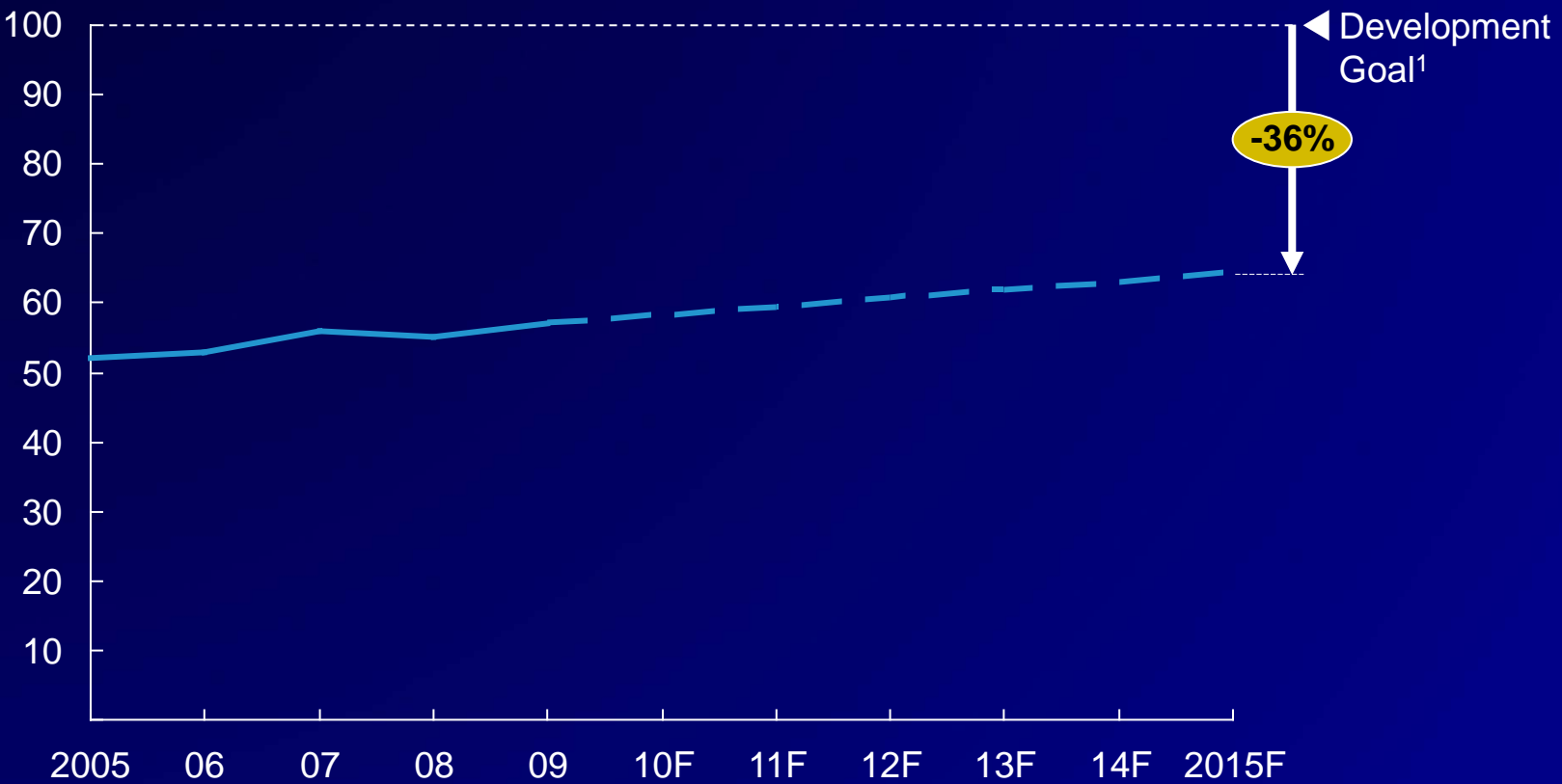
**“Education is a matter
of life and death for
Pakistan”**

Mohammed Ali Jinnah, 1947
Founder of Pakistan

Pakistan's education system is failing

Primary school enrolment

Net enrolment rate (children aged 5-9 excluding Katchi)



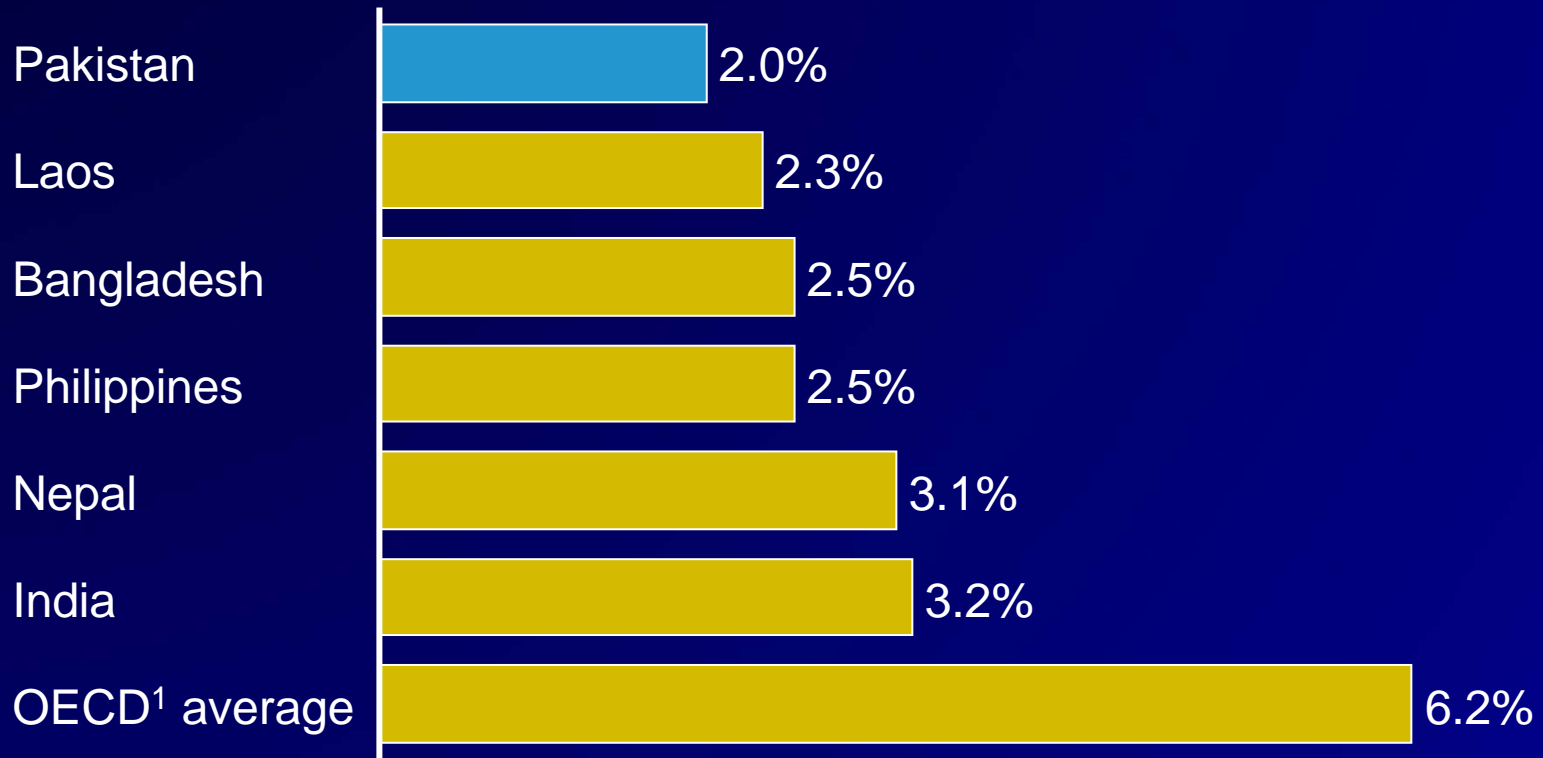
¹ Millennium Development Goal – 100% universal net primary enrolment by 2015

Note: 2010 – 2015 are 'business as usual' forecasts based on 2005-09 data

SOURCE: Federal Bureau of Statistics – PSLM Reports 2005-2009

Pakistan spends less on education than most other countries in the region

Public education expenditure as percent of national GDP



¹ Group of 30 developed countries

SOURCE: World Bank Edstats 2009-10

The quality of teaching is poor

Typical observations

- Learning is by rote, with little interaction
 - Textbooks are available but teachers rely on them too much
 - Teachers' knowledge is poor, especially in English
 - Children are not engaged or paying attention
 - Teachers do not spend enough time teaching
-



In the midst of despair, there are wonderful teachers and programs



Despair

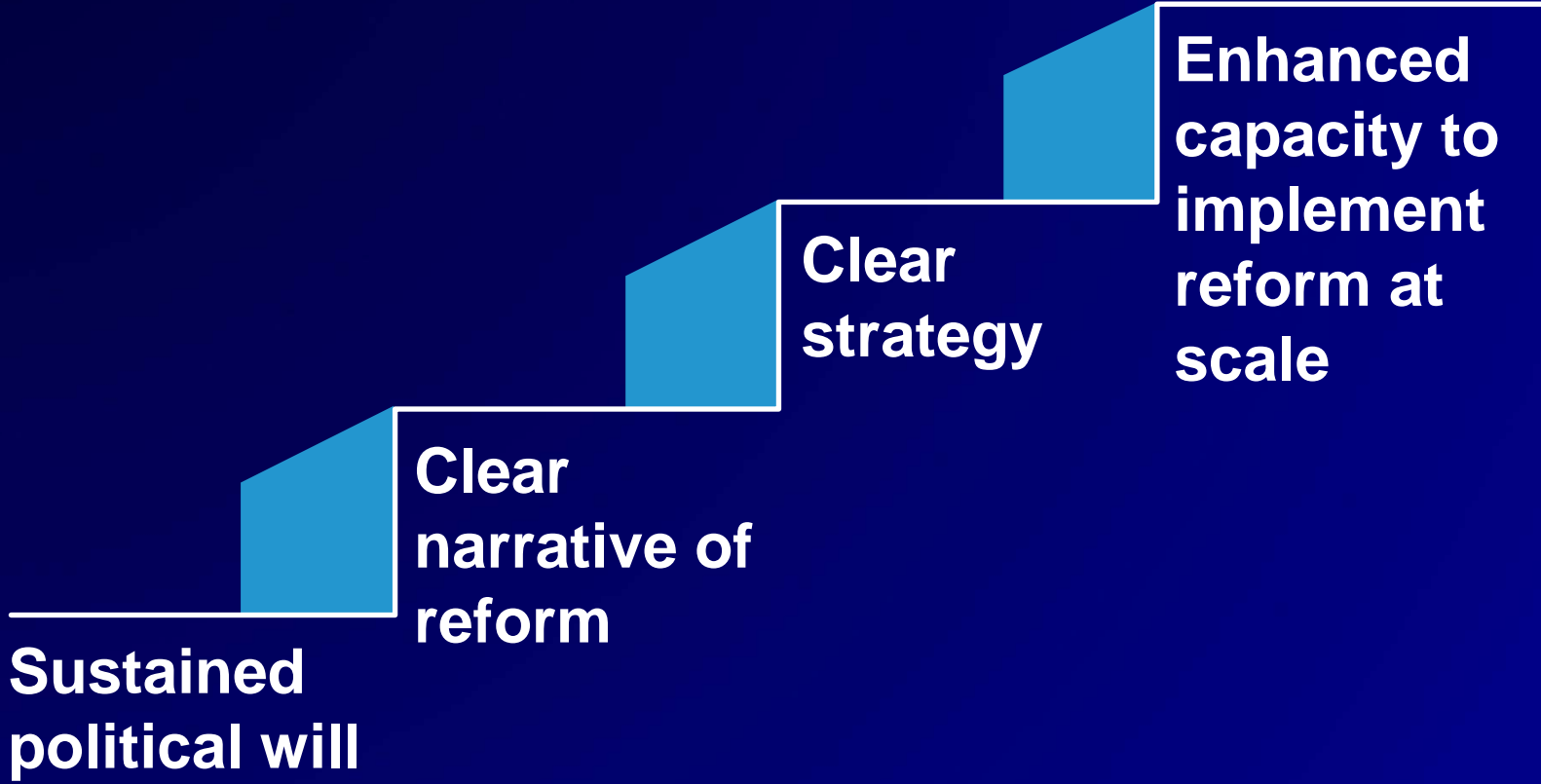


Hope

Today an opportunity exists to seize the moment

- The floods have receded
 - Leaders recognise that sustained development requires improvement of basic services – particularly education
 - Foreign donors are supportive
 - Many people and organisations in Pakistan demonstrate everyday that success is possible
-

It is time to rise to the challenge



Sustained political will

- A guiding coalition
 - Prioritisation
 - Persistence
 - Investment
 - Time and attention
-

Clear narrative

- Universal education
 - Economic progress
 - Social cohesion
 - National identity
-

Clear Strategy: National Education Policy Scorecard

(Ratings at June 30th 2010)

		Punjab	Sindh	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Balochistan
Standards	▪ Curriculum standards for student learning and progress				
	▪ Standards for school performance				
	▪ Standards for school district performance				
Monitoring	▪ Provincial assessments of students in primary school				
	▪ Provincial assessments of students in secondary school				
	▪ Objective monitoring of school performance				
	▪ Objective monitoring of school district performance				
	▪ Management and publishing of performance data				
Empowerment	▪ Clear expectations for parents of schools				
	▪ Accessible means for parents to give feedback on schools				
Teaching	▪ Provision of all students with textbooks				
	▪ Implementation of the 2006 curriculum				
	▪ Provision of all teachers with good teacher guides				
	▪ Provision of good training for every teacher				
	▪ Merit-based selection of teachers				
Public-Private Partnership	▪ 10% of education budget to low-cost non-government schools				
	▪ 1% of education budget to NGO support of government schools				
Capacity	▪ Capacity development of school heads				
	▪ Capacity development for district education managers				
	▪ Capacity development for provincial leaders				
Facilities	▪ Provision of basic facilities in every school				

Two major developments are planned for 2011

-
- An education fund for urban Sindh
 - A major public advocacy campaign
-

Capacity to implement

- Targets and plans
 - Routine monitoring
 - Capacity at every level
 - Transparency
-

Basic management is too often absent

- **Basic performance management** does not happen
 - **Political appointments** too often drive the bureaucracy
 - **Teacher absenteeism** is still high, and current measures are unlikely to bring further improvements
 - **Teaching quality** is still low and current training is ineffective
 - **Facilities are not functional** despite the availability of funds in many schools
-

Resource allocation is wasteful



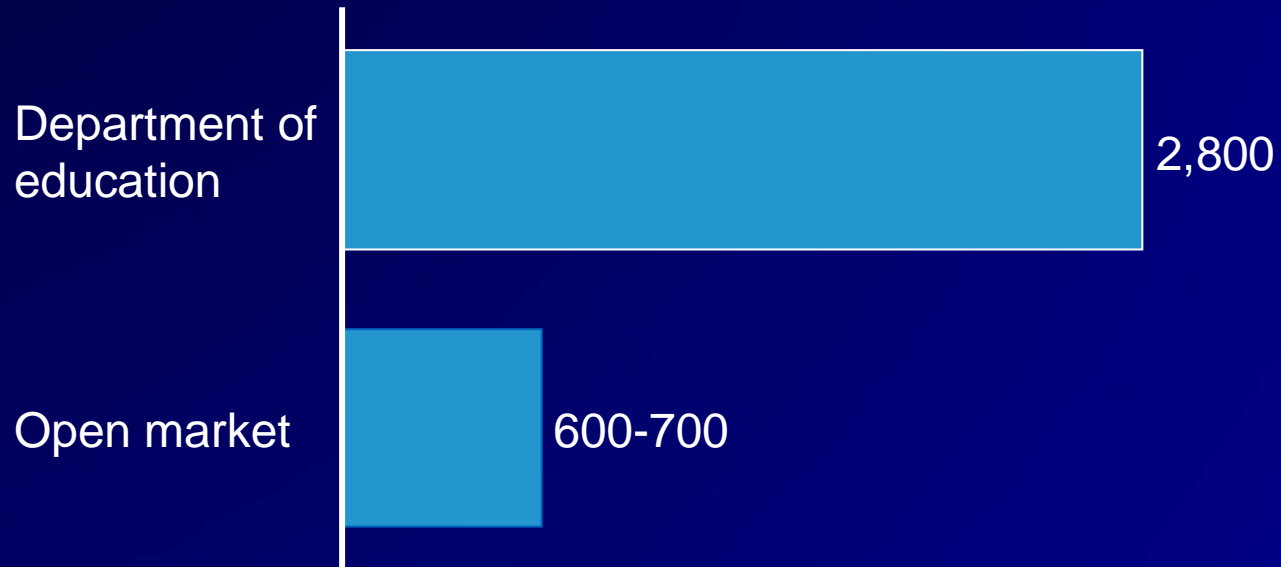
Children without facilities



Facilities without children

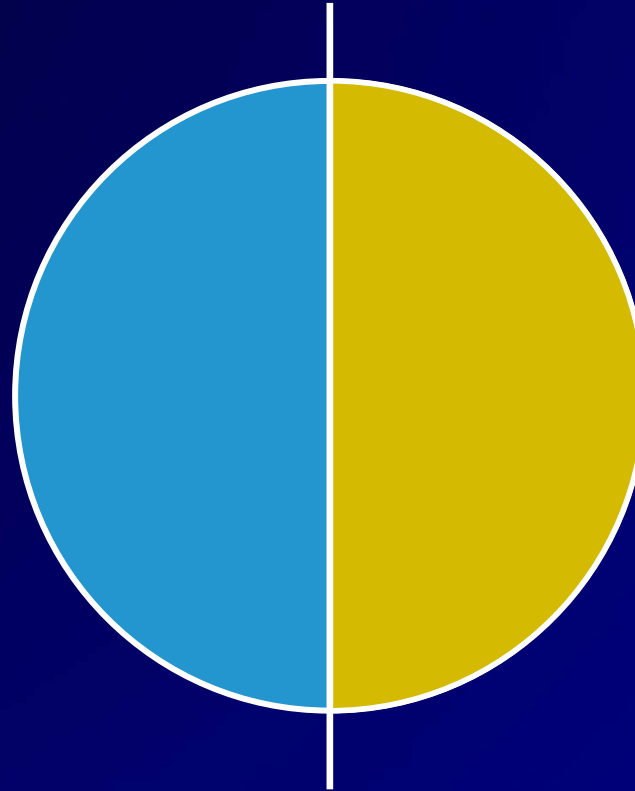
Provinces (and donors) don't get value for money

Cost of a chair Rs.



Pakistan's education strategy needs to be based on the double compact

Pakistan
Government
compact with the
**international
community**



Pakistan
Government
compact with the
**people of
Pakistan**

A shift of mindset

From

“We tried to do better but everything turned out as usual...”

To

“This time its going to be different...”