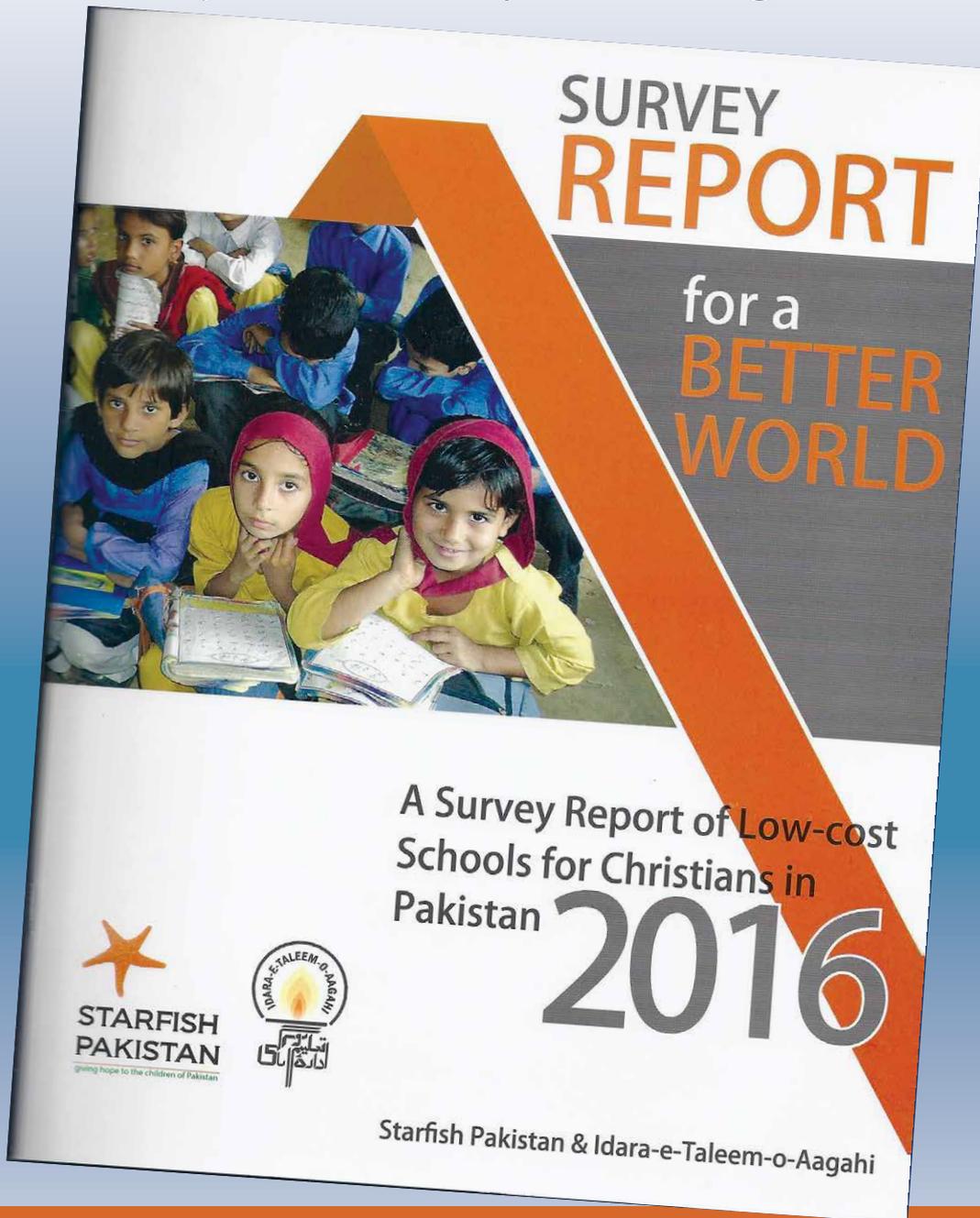




**STARFISH  
ASIA**

giving hope to the children of Pakistan

*The Facts, the Challenge and the  
Opportunity to transform a generation*



**Results summary of a survey of low-cost schools  
for Pakistan's Christian children**



Commissioned by Starfish Pakistan, supported by Starfish Asia,  
with data analysed and presented by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi



# Why we did a Survey

Starfish Asia and its partner, Starfish Pakistan, have been serving the Christians of Pakistan since 2003. Believing that good education is a vital key to survival and success for people trapped in poverty, we have focused on supporting schools for deprived Christians. We now support 35 schools with more than 7,000 children.

But we still had many questions — and few answers.



- How many Christians have no school to go to?
- What sort of schools welcome Christian children?
- Where are these schools — and who is running them?
- What sort of teaching do they provide?

We set out to find answers which would not only help us to do something, but also inform the world and the church about the scale of the opportunity to transform a generation of Christian children.

## Many questions, few answers

The Survey began in January 2016. Working closely with Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, a local organisation with years of experience in education and survey data, we launched our Survey in 23 districts of Punjab province and Karachi City. Survey teams came from Sanjha, a local Christian association with a network of contacts throughout the country.

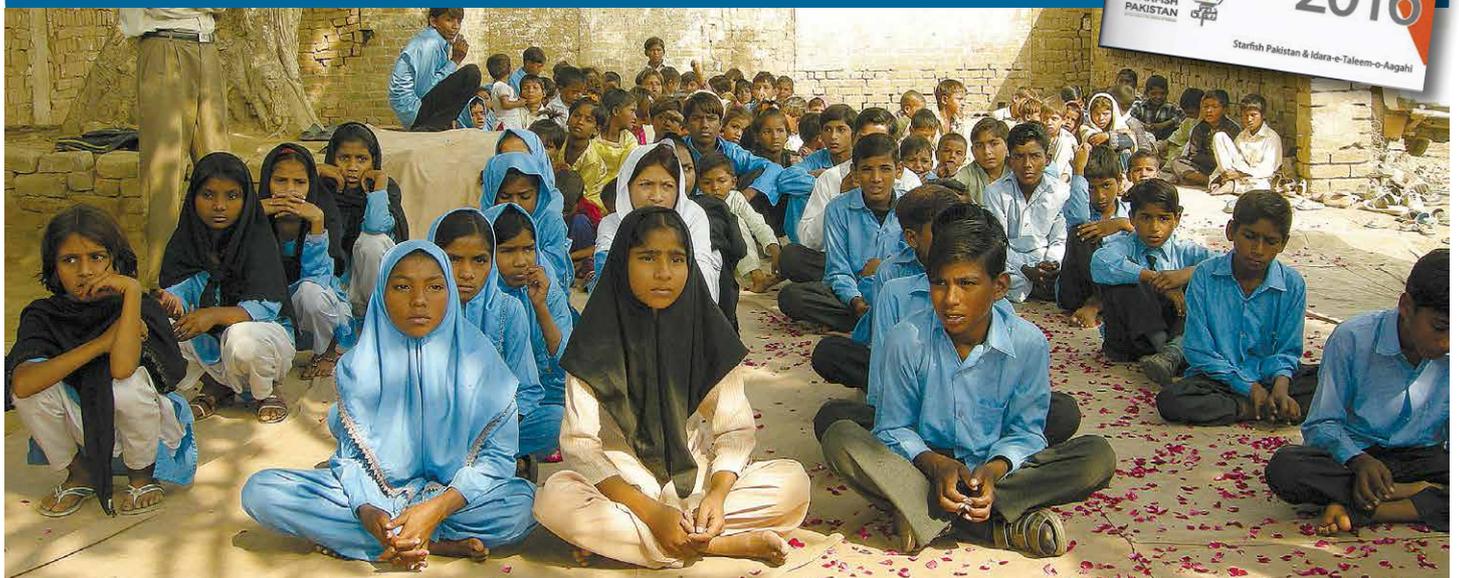
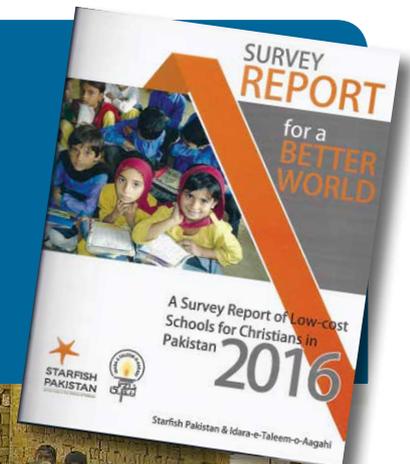
Strict criteria were set of the kind of schools to be surveyed:

- ◆ Schools that were open and accessible to the Christian minority, with a Christian Principal, a majority of Christian staff and some Bible or Christian teaching.
- ◆ Schools that were free or charged a minimal fee, which enabled the poorest children to attend.

## The full Survey report

To request a copy of the 28-page Survey Report, send your full address to:  
Starfish Asia, 32 Beck Lane, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4RE (UK)  
or email: [mike@starfishasia.com](mailto:mike@starfishasia.com)

The report can also be downloaded from:  
<http://starfishasia.com/2016/for-a-better-world/>



*We set out to find answers which would inform the world and the church about the opportunity to transform a generation of Christian children*

# What the Survey said

*Surveyed:*

604 schools  
85,000 children  
4200 teachers

## *Many courageous Christians are working to help their communities.*

- ◆ Nearly all the 604 schools surveyed were co-educational. More girls were enrolled than boys (52% to 48%).
- ◆ 85,135 students were taught by 4218 teachers.

## *School facilities are basic.*

- ◆ 13% of schools had no toilets for children. Around half had no separate facilities for staff.
- ◆ Two-thirds of the High Schools (67%) had no science lab.
- ◆ A quarter of Primary and Middle schools lacked useable drinking water.
- ◆ Over half of grade 2 and 4 classes were taught together with another class.
- ◆ A quarter of class 8 students did not have a chair to sit on.

## *There are few learning resources.*

- ◆ 15% of students were without notebooks and writing implements in class 8.
- ◆ A quarter of the Class 2 students (24%) had no textbooks.
- ◆ 1 in 10 High Schools did not even have a blackboard in the classroom.
- ◆ Internet access was available in 23% of High Schools and under 2% of Primaries.

## *Teachers are dedicated, but poorly paid and lacking qualifications.*

- ◆ Teacher attendance was 97% on the day of the survey
- ◆ Teacher salaries ranged from £15 to £54 (US\$20 - \$70 / S\$30 - \$100) per month — compared to Pakistan's national minimum wage, £ 108 (US\$134 / S190), and the international poverty line, £46 (US\$57 / S\$80).
- ◆ A quarter of the teachers had not reached Intermediate (UK A-level) in their own schooling.
- ◆ 4 out of 5 teachers had no teaching qualification of any kind.

## *Students come from poor families and attendance is low.*

- ◆ 45% of the class 2 students were not wearing shoes.
- ◆ Student attendance was just 52% on the day of the survey.

## *These schools are Christian but not exclusively so.*

- ◆ 12% of the students came from Muslim or other communities.
- ◆ All Head Teachers were Christian (a condition for inclusion in the survey) as well as 86% of other teachers.
- ◆ A third of the schools had a formal church association.
- ◆ 95% of schools incorporated Bible teaching in their curriculum. (NB. to comply with the law in Pakistan, all Secondary Schools have to include Islam in their curriculum.)

## *Schools are run on totally inadequate budgets.*

- ◆ A fifth of schools charged less than 80 pence (US \$1 / S\$1.50) per student per month.
- ◆ Though no data was given on the actual amount of fee income collected by schools, the average amount charged monthly by each of the 249 Primary Schools was just £140 (US\$175 / S\$250).
- ◆ Nearly two thirds of the schools (64%) relied solely on fees for their income.

# What is our response?

The Christian Schools Survey was not an academic exercise to increase our knowledge. We believe it is a *call to action* — first for us in Starfish Asia and then for the Church and concerned people both in Pakistan and worldwide.

## Teacher Training

4,000 Christian teachers need more and better training if they are to inspire and equip their students. We are preparing an Urdu Christian magazine for 4,000 teachers.

- ◆ 3-day workshop for 30 teachers: £600 (US\$750 / S\$1,000)
- ◆ 1 issue of Christian Teachers magazine: £770 (US\$1,000 / S\$1,400)

## Electricity back-up system

500 schools have no access to fans or lights when the power is cut (for hours at a time in Pakistan). We want to help them all.

- ◆ Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS): £450 (US\$560 / S\$800)
- ◆ Solar panels for a small school: approx. £4,000 (US\$5,000 / S\$7,000)

## School textbooks

It is hard to imagine that schools without text books can be really effective, yet the Survey reveals that 24% of the children in Class 2 had no books. Provision of a basic set of text books to as many schools as possible is a priority.

- ◆ Textbooks for one year (English, Urdu, Maths, Science and Social Studies) for 100 children: £400 (US\$500 / S\$800)

## Class 1-5 Bible Curriculum books

Starfish Asia has produced a set of Urdu books, with teacher manuals, to teach the Bible and Christian truths to classes 1 to 5. We wish to make these available free to every Christian school.

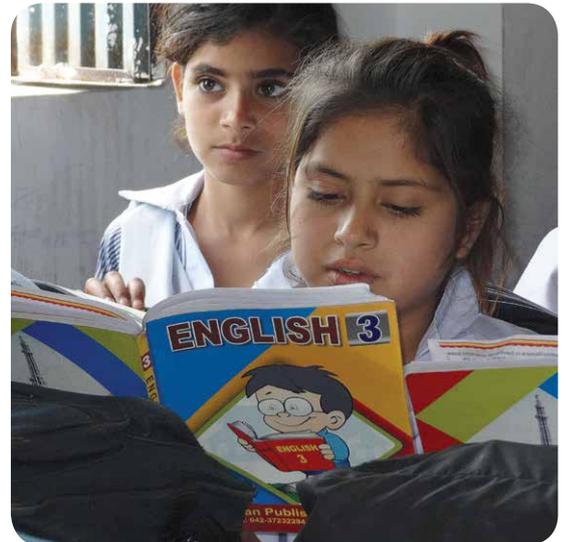
- ◆ 100 books @ 60 pence each = £60 (US\$75 / S\$100)
- ◆ 1000 books = £600 (US\$750 / S\$1,000)

## What the schools said

An informal telephone survey asked why many of the schools were started.

Here are some of the answers:

- ◆ "Due to poverty our children are going to waste. We started a school to educate them."
- ◆ "Christian students faced difficulties getting admission into Muslim schools."
- ◆ "A Christian school was demanded by our community, where children could have a Christian education."
- ◆ "There was no school in our area. God gave me a vision to start a school for my community."
- ◆ "Reducing religious discrimination is only possible by education."



[www.facebook.com/starfishasia](http://www.facebook.com/starfishasia)

## Tell us you care!

- Yes, please send me a copy of the *Christian Schools Survey*.
- I enclose a gift of £ / \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Starfish Asia.
- Please use my gift for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Starfish Asia (UK)

Registered UK Charity No. 1099672, in Scotland OSCR No. SC046364

32 Beck Lane, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4RE

Email: [mike@starfishasia.com](mailto:mike@starfishasia.com)

147/3 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5HQ

Email: [ian@starfishasia.com](mailto:ian@starfishasia.com)

#### Starfish Asia (USA)

3230 Seagraves Mill Road, Hull, GA. 30646, USA

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#### Starfish Asia (Singapore) Ltd.

887C Woodlands Dr. 50, #12-611, Singapore 733887

Email: [geraldine@starfishasia.com](mailto:geraldine@starfishasia.com)