



## LEAPS, a youth-led early childhood care and education intervention in Sindh, Pakistan



High quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) is the foundation of a child's education journey: every stage of education that follows depends upon children's learning experiences in the earliest years. Though access to high quality education is essential for young children, it is estimated that:

- In Pakistan, national enrolment in ECCE is low and shows a decline since 2018: among 3–5-year-olds, just **19%** are enrolled in ECCE (Source: PSLM 2002 – 2020).
- Inequalities in access to ECCE persist across multiple groups, including by wealth, urban/rural areas, gender, and disability status. Enrolment outcomes vary by province (Source: PSLM 2002 – 2020).



Picture 1: LEAPS children engaging in creative arts activity

In addition to support for young children, there is also a need for simultaneous investments in training and employment opportunities for youth. This is of particular importance in a country like Pakistan because:

- **64%** of the population is under the age of **29** years (United Nations Development Program Pakistan, 2017).
- Disparities are greater for youth in rural communities and female youth (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2020; World Bank, 2020).

## The LEAPS Programme: Implemented by NCHD