Kahaani aa rahee hai!

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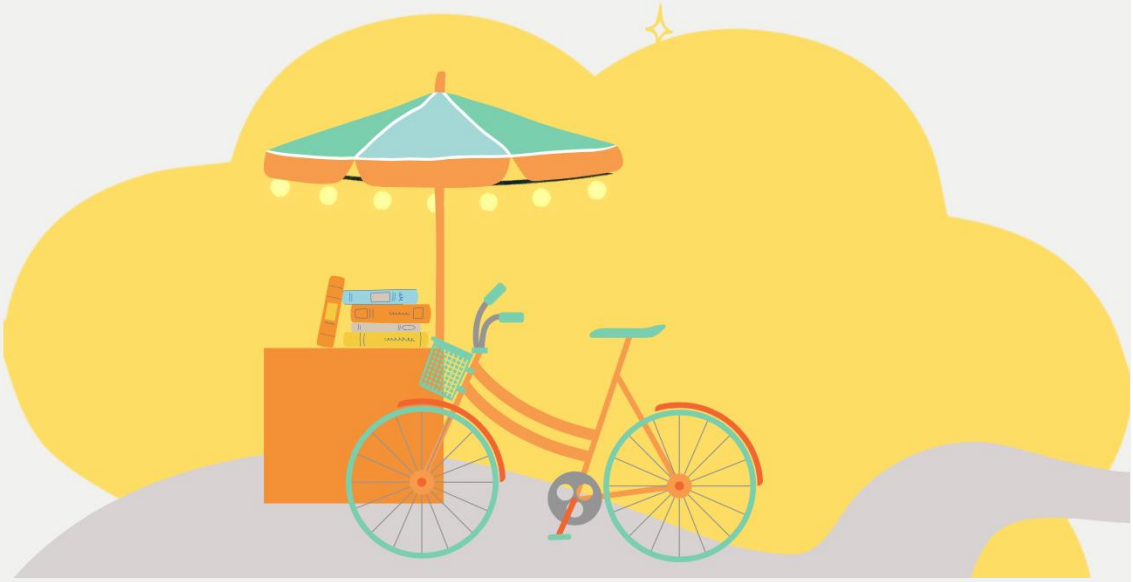
Launching "Kahaani Sawaari": Bringing Joyful Stories to Outdoor Community Spaces

Dear friends & supporters of GoRead.pk,

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health. It's been a few months since our last update and we are thrilled to be sharing all of the exciting things we've been up to.

On September 20th and October 4th, 2021, we launched our Kahaani Sawaari Pilot Project in Karachi's communities of Lyari and Shah Faisal Colony — with the support & collaboration of Engro Foundation, Kiran Foundation & RLCC. With revamped ice cream cycles, community GoReaders and our favorite stories to light up the streets of Karachi, the Kahaani Sawaari project enables us to bring joyful story read aloud sessions to children outdoors.

We're reading to children in alleyways, plots, parks, spaces outside homes, churches, community centers, et cetera — weaving through the communities point by point for 2 weeks at a time.



Though this program was formed primarily in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (which caused us to pause our volunteer programs in classrooms), we've found that the mobility of our cycles and their presence outdoors enables us to rapidly, yet thoroughly, read to large numbers of children on the streets, who may not be in school, and often spend their time involving themselves in unhealthy behaviors.

In just one day, 2 readers are able to read to over 160 children.

After many months of ideation, field work and meticulous planning, seeing this project come to life has truly been magical. **Please see some photos below** and **check out our instagram page** for more footage (tap "Kahaani Sawaari" on the highlights bar!)

Just like ice cream bikes have theme songs, we created our own song, "Kahaani aa Rahee hai", written by renowned poetess Zehra Nigah, performed & composed by Nazia Zuberi Hassan and with music by Alex Shabaz (We have a music video coming soon)! It's been beautiful to watch children's faces light up as they sing along while the bike arrives in their community.

We are currently amidst our 3 month pilot program, which will be complete by mid-December 2021. We are very excited to expand and scale this work to reach even more children in even more communities in the new year.

A huge thanks to our many partners for helping us make this possible, including Engro Foundation, Kiran Foundation, RLCC and all of you!

Support the Kahaani Sawaari Project

Other Updates:

- **We'll be restarting the volunteer read aloud program by early 2022** — if you're in Karachi and feel called to join this movement on ground and read to children, please fill out the survey form with your details!

- **10 new books (5 titles in English & Urdu) are in process and getting ready for publishing.** A huge thanks to our community of donors for funding over 70% of their fruition!

- **We traveled to Gilgit, Baltistan in early June to read stories to children and train teachers** on effective story reading with the Aga Khan Foundation and Pakistan Learning Festival.
    - We read to over 100 children and trained about 90 teachers in Hunza, Ghizer, and Gilgit.

- **We launched the GoRead.pk blog** on Medium

- **A new title** "The Defeat of the Coronasaurs"/"Coronasaurs kee Haar" was published with the sponsorship of Chughtai Labs, who have made the book free for all children in Pakistan.

- **Our latest title**, "Noori", has been published in English and Urdu and is up for sale on our website and at Tali and Koel, Karachi

Feeling called to continue supporting our movement?

Donate Now!