

**Intervention by APF @ UN Program**

**Presented at SDGs COMING TO LIFE:**

**Envisioning a common and resilient future September 23rd, 2016**

**9:30am-11am, UN Headquarters Conference Room 2 New York, New York**

Greetings.

I represent **Family Education Services Foundation**, an educational NGO based in Pakistan that enables disadvantaged members of community to gain competency and self-sufficiency, empowering them to reach their full potential through innovative training programs and development tools; and the **American Pakistan Foundation**, an organization dedicated to building lasting ties between the people of the United States and Pakistan dedicated to catalyzed development in Pakistan.

In the context of civil society engagement, there have been numerous meetings, policy dialogues, workshops and national forums with the Government of Pakistan at the provincial and federal levels; with ministries and departments of Education, Special Education, Women Development and Social Welfare Department, National Skills Development Council and the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority. In addition, civil society national media press conferences and media campaigns have taken place throughout Pakistan to create awareness, sensitizing and encouraging the government, public and private sector to engage and support the SDGs in their own capacity.

**However, we stress** that avenues of support are often lacking, and building capacity in specific areas of development solutions are needed to improve the impact and performance of the existing NGOs.

**We emphasize** that in Pakistan most national and provincial policies and action plans are curated in silos, void of financial resource streams, timelines and strong political will towards implementation. Likewise, civil society organization stakeholders are most often not sufficiently engaged in the process.

**Although we applaud** the Planning Commission's engagement of provincial and development departments to serve as nodes leading to the formation of special units or SDG centers, as previously mentioned in our written statements and oral interventions at the UN, successful implementation of SDGs in Pakistan relies on governance and oversight, engagement of stakeholders, goal and indicator settings, implementation mechanisms, coordination, developing budgets and finally, allocating resources.

**We strongly recommend** that greater help and support from multi-stakeholders is necessary for a more available and effective stream of resources, system of disbursement and the establishment of verification. Experience dictates that unallocated budgets get "rolled over" into new budgets, again often without allocation. And adding to the equation, with refugee and migrants' challenges of over four decades, Pakistan in crisis and or post-crisis situations, must rely on national policy dialogues which welcome a broad range of stakeholders.

**In envisioning a common and resilient future, we believe** it is necessary to understand that new models of private-public partnerships such as Family Educational Services Foundation has cultivated over the past many years both with Government and the private sector in Pakistan must be encouraged on more levels and further developed.

**We urge** multi-stakeholders, including policymakers, to begin proactive engagement in Pakistan between the private sector, research universities, think-tanks, civil society organizations and professional associations.

**In closing we believe** that meaningful participation of major groups and other stakeholders is essential in ensuring robust and participatory people-centered sustainable development solutions that take root in local ownership.

We must create an enabling environment for all. Thank you for your attention.

Ameena Mohyuddin Zia,  
FESF UN Representative &  
ECOSOC APF UN Chair

## Background

*Family Education Services Foundation (FESF) (<http://www.fesf.org.pk>) is in Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations in accordance to Article 71 of the UN Charter (ECOSOC resolution 1996/31)*

*The American Pakistan Foundation (APF) (<http://www.americanpakistan.org>) is accredited with the Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organization (DPI/NGO) Relations Status at the United Nations.*

In formulating this Intervention, FESF & APF reached out to its CSO network on the ground in Pakistan for their perspective on envisioning a common and resilient future for development in Pakistan in the context of SDGs COMING TO LIFE.

The following CSOs in Pakistan are engaged in stakeholder partnerships and have embraced goal specific SDGs within their development frameworks:

#1. **Iqra Fund** (<http://www.iqrafund.org>) is committed to serving girls in remote regions faced with economic, social, and political barriers to education.

- **Global Goal(s):** SDG 4, Providing sustainable educational model to ensure self-reliance
- **Stakeholder Framework:** Community leaders, tribal elders, and partners with the Village Education Committees, the mothers of the communities in the form of Mother Support Groups
- **Development Partnerships:** Collaborates with local government, community, business and other NGOs that facilitate development work in education.
  - Agha Khan Foundation – to ensure equal representation in communities
  - Baltistan Wildlife and Development Conservation Organization (BWDCO) - not only ensures the wellbeing and sustainability of the wildlife in the region, but also works to involve and educate the community in the process
  - The British Council – on teacher training programs
  - The Coca Cola Foundation; the Japanese Embassy; and the UK Department for International Development (Dfid) – to develop infrastructure where there are no school buildings available, and to provide access to education in neighboring communities that

request assistance where there is a pressing need and absolutely no schools or safe spaces for children available

#2. **Family Education Services Foundation (FESF)** (<http://www.fesf.org.pk>) is active in Pakistan since 1984 and dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all members of the community, especially those who are disadvantaged. FESF invests in educational development and provides innovating training programs, developable tools and services to enable recipients to gain competency and self-sufficiency, empowering them to reach their full potential.

- **Global Goal(s):** SDG4, Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all; SDG 5, Achieving gender equality and empowerment for women; SDG 10, Reducing inequality within and among countries.
- **Stakeholder Framework:** National and International meetings, policy dialogues, workshops and forums, partners with Government of Pakistan at the provincial and federal levels with the ministries and departments of Education, Special Education, Women Development and Social Welfare Department, National Skills Development Council, Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority.
  - WHO Pakistan workshop on Priority Assistive Products List (APL) to assist Member States
  - WHO Pakistan Consultative Workshop on Development of Provincial Disability Strategy in line with UNCRPD, SDGs and legislation
  - Chaired an event during the UN's 54th Commission on Social Development at the UN Headquarters in NYC, "Rethinking Social Development in Pakistan Through Partnerships"
  - ILO Global Business and Disability Network Policy Brief
  - International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)
  - Attended 70th Session of Conference of State Parties on the Rights of Persons with Disability held at the UN Headquarters in NYC.

**Development Partnerships:** Collaborates with local government, community, business and other NGOs that facilitate development work in development.

- Written and delivered policy briefs at the UN, in Pakistan, and created awareness at national and international conferences and meetings in Pakistan, the US, Canada, UK, UAE and Turkey:

- Created the innovative Pakistan Sign Language (PSL) Digital Educational Resources and made it available as an open source online at <http://psl.org.pk> as well as distributed free of cost 20,000 PSL books and DVDs in over 200 schools & institutions in 65 cities across Pakistan.
- Created an inclusive workplace by partnering with a number of companies to hire Deaf employees. In the last four years, over 500 deaf were hired in various multinational companies and Small Medium Enterprises.
  - Alfalah Bank; Allied Caterpillar; Continental Biscuits; DHL; Engro; KFC; Pizza Hut; Sheraton Hotels; Shell; UBL Bank, etc.

#3 **CIRCLE** (<http://circlewomen.org>) aims to build, support and develop the entrepreneurship and leadership capacity of women and youth in Pakistan and regionally.

- **Global Goal(s):** SDG 4, Providing quality education through youth fellowships; SDG 5, Promoting gender equality through advocacy work, fellowships for youth, public partnerships (#ELEVATE campaign), and the upcoming women in employment initiative (focusing on digital literacy for women); SDG 8, Providing decent work and economic growth through partnerships with leading corporates in Pakistan by advocating for increasing women's employment and broad participation; SDG 17, Building partnerships with local and international corporates, civil society organizations and public sector to make progress on specific SDGs.
- **Stakeholder Framework:** Collaboration with #ElevatePak campaign, launched in Karachi on International Women's Day, facilitates inclusion of women on high-impact panels, key discussion forums and committees; encourages leaders from corporate, government and social sectors to join the movement by pledging panels of three or more must include at least one-woman panelist resulting in a more inclusive, diverse and enriching engagement.
- **Development Partnerships:** Collaborates with corporate, government, civil society organizations and private sector.
  - Telenor, Mitsubishi, The Coca Cola Company, Bayer, Aman

Foundation, Gul Ahmed Ideas and AbacusConsulting have partnered in the #Elevate campaign, a home grown movement inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Parity and the UN Women's Planet 50-50 Step it Up.

- In the coming months, expected to expand into the Middle East, North Africa and South East Asia as ten CEO's from corporate, social and government sector come together to promote gender diversity.