Teach For Pakistan scaling up a cohort to grow a critical mass of leadership

Snapshot
Teach For Pakistan (TFP) secured funding from Pakistan’s Federal government and the UK’s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Together, these grants give TFP a degree of financial stability over the next three years to work towards long-term impact at scale.

Context
Throughout Pakistan, 22 per cent and 33 per cent of school-aged boys and girls in Pakistan are out-of-school, and 7 per cent of 10-year old children are unable to read and understand a short and age-appropriate text. Teach For Pakistan was piloted in Karachi and Lahore from 2011 to 2015. In its fifth year as an independent organization, TFP has 183 alumni and 155 first and second-year fellows teaching in rural outskirts of Islamabad.

Choice
TFP dedicated time and capacity to engage stakeholders, collaborate closely with internal and external teams and was willing to learn and build expertise. Thereby TFP built strong relationships with major donors around their goals for education. The core value proposition that has resonated is the provision of high quality teachers in under-resourced public schools, and the TFP model’s potential to inform government’s teacher recruitment, development and management policies and systems.

In 2021, supported by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training of Pakistan (FDE), TFP partnered with the FCDO, UK’s government agency in charge of foreign affairs and international aid, and the Data and Research in Education program for three years. The FDE contract supports 150 Fellows be hired and placed in FDE schools for two-year Fellowships. The FCDO grant supports the expansion of the program by sharing the cost of the Fellows recruited for the FDE over the same period of time, as well as contributing the partial cost of expansion to a new site in 2024.

Collective leadership
TFP is growing collective leadership through scale and impact. Through the multilateral funding, TFP can study and potentially scale up its model for recruitment, development, and management of teachers and education leaders and gather evidence that can inform education reforms in Pakistan.

Community impact
Scaling and growth are essential to product impact at the system level as more TFP fellows can teach in public high-need schools in multiple regions. The funding partnership also contributes to shifting the mindsets of the main stakeholders in the public sector, which can impact thousands of students. TFP has scaled by more than 180% compared to its incoming cohort size in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Further resources
- Preparing Bilateral/Multilateral Grant Proposals
- The story of a Teach For Pakistan Fellow (recruitment video)
- Community Partnership Project launched in 2022 by fellows
- Teach For Pakistan History