



United Nations
اقوام متحدہ



Pakistan now has more young people than it has ever had. If young Pakistanis are prepared for the transition to adulthood, the potential for progress is **unlimited**



ENGAGEMENT

DID YOU KNOW?



PAKISTAN RANKS 92 OF 102 countries on Deloitte's Youth Progress Index



26% of 18 to 25-year-olds vote



NO FORMAL MECHANISM exists for engaging young people in policy-making



SOCIAL MEDIA is a key channel for young people to voice opinions

WHAT INVESTMENTS DO WE NEED?

Civic participation is a basic right. Through active participation and engagement, young people are empowered to play a vital role in their own development as well as the development of their communities. In Pakistan, there is clear a need to:



ENHANCE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION and include their voices in policies and initiatives at all levels. This is essential given the size and growth of the young population.



END EXCLUSION AND INEQUALITIES. Pakistan ranks low on the Youth Progress Index because of exclusion, limited personal freedom and limited internet access. The cost of exclusion is substantial. For example, occupational segregation leads to a significant loss of productivity.



CLOSE THE GENDER GAP in civic participation and engagement. The 12.5 per cent gender gap in voter turnout in Lahore – Pakistan's second largest city – reflects this gap, as does women's lower internet access (12 per cent) compared to men's (21 per cent).



PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES for young people's engagement, including through co-creation and ICT-based portals for two-way communication with the public sector.

WHAT RETURNS CAN WE EXPECT?



IMMENSE GAINS are expected if Pakistan ensures young people's engagement, participation and inclusion. There is enormous value in prioritizing engagement – as a matter of well-being, shared prosperity and social justice.



DEMOCRACY WILL BE STRENGTHENED if young people's participation is supported, including through campaigns that encourage young people to vote and through two-way communication platforms with all tiers of government.



TECHNOLOGIES CAN ADVANCE young people's employment, entrepreneurship and engagement – and with them, sustainable development – if investments are made to enable young people to access technologies, build up their ICT skills, and bridge the digital gender gap.



GAINS FOR GENDER EQUALITY could be secured if support is provided to young women's groups who advocate for women's rights, empowerment and gender equality.

INTRODUCING GENERATION UNLIMITED

Generation Unlimited is a new global partnership that can support Pakistan to meet the urgent need for education, training and employment opportunities for young people. GenU's ultimate goal is to create an ecosystem surrounding young people's progress, to innovate better than ever before, and to ensure that all young people have the abilities and opportunities to realize their potential.

