

A voice for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups

HOPE BEYOND FRONTIERS

This issue of our newsletter is exclusively focused on Pakistan.

Spring 2021

Organizational Profile:



Hope Beyond Frontiers (HBF) is a newly established global non-profit organization based in California. HBF is governed by a U.S. based board of directors and is registered in the state of California as a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are fully exempt from federal tax.

HBF is founded by Augustine Gill, a seasoned international development professional with over 30 years' experience of working in South Asia, Africa, Europe, former Soviet Union countries and the United States.

HBF was officially launched in the Spring of 2021 in the United States and around the world with particular focus on its work in Pakistan.

Mission: Our mission is to transform the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities to access social justice.

Vision: Our vision is to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups around the world facing inequalities, oppression, insecurity and living in extreme poverty as a result of natural and man-made calamities. To realize this vision, we will provide a voice to claim their right to equal opportunities to health care, education, and economic empowerment to fight off poverty and low self-esteem.

We believe that strengthening of civil society organizations to advocate for access to social justice is the key to bring lasting change in peoples' lives.

Our Approach: We work with the neediest in their struggle to address root causes of extreme poverty, inequalities, insecurities, and oppression, regardless of ethnic, political or faith affiliation.

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Mission

Our mission is to transform the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities to access social justice.

In collaboration with the civil society organizations and the Governments/ local authorities we respond to disasters and work for long-term development of the communities in thematic areas of: a) Health Care (blindness and vision impairment); b) Education; c) Economic Empowerment; and d) Advocacy.

Our Values: HBF values are the foundation of its work to fulfill its mission. Following values determine future progression of the organization and its leadership role and terms of engagement with local partners:

a) Dignity of Humanity: HBF works irrespective of class, gender, religion, and ethnicity to take care of women, men,

**Let your hopes,
not your hurts,
shape your future.**

Robert H. Schuller



<http://www.hopebeyondfrontiers.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/hopefrontier>



children, and young people who experience poverty, oppression, and exclusion from the society.

b) Compassion: HBF works to transform hatred and intolerance in the society and express solidarity to serve vulnerable and marginalized communities, irrespective of geographic, cultural, ethnic, and religious lines of division.

c) Inclusive society: HBF struggle against all forms of discrimination to promote inclusive society so that every individual has a voice and due respect. HBF collaborates with people and organizations that work for common solutions to social challenges across geographical, cultural, political, and religious boundaries.

d) Social Justice: HBF works for full and equal participation of minority groups in the society to receive their fair share in available resources and opportunities to meet their needs, and to ensure that they are psychologically and physically safe and secure.

e) Protection of Environment: HBF challenge those who misuse and damage environment and actively engage individuals to act as responsible stewards to protect the nature.

Potential for Growth Opportunities in Pakistan

- Pakistan is geographically and culturally diverse country. It is blessed with plains, deserts, coastline, some highest mountains in the world. With abundance of natural resources (minerals, gas, oil) it has 6th largest copper reserves in the world. It is famous for its great traditional food and offers huge tourism development opportunities.
- With a population of 207.7 million in 2017, it is the 5th largest population in the world. Currently 64% of the population is younger than 30 years and 29%

of people are between 15 and 29 years of age according to UNDP. Educated class has the potential to teach science, computer technology, economic development and there is no shortage of hard working people who are capable of achieving “anything” once provided with the right opportunities and environment. There is also huge talent and potential to excel in sports as Pakistan had remained past world champion for sports such as squash, cricket, field hockey, and snooker.

- Pakistan also has a strategic importance to offer regional economic development opportunities to neighboring countries, such as Afghanistan, Iran, China, and India. Its vibrant armed forces provide strong security protection from internal and external threats and is part of the UN peace missions.
- Over the past several years, situation of women in Pakistan has improved on various fronts, such as access to health, education, participation in economy and politics and progress made on institutional and legislative fronts.
- Government’s policy of Clean Green Pakistan provides opportunities to civil society organizations, faith actors, political leaders and Government to work together on awareness-raising and mobilization of communities on climate change issues.

Development Challenges faced by Pakistan

- Experimentation of different forms of democracy has created political instability, poor governance, and lack of rule of law in the country. The issues of poverty, unemployment, social and cultural fragmentation, unequal distribution of wealth,



illiteracy, and youth bulge due to over-population undercuts economic growth. As a result, budgetary allocations for health, education, development, and welfare of poor segments of the society remains on low priority.

- Pakistan is ranked 151 out of 153 countries according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2020. In terms of gender disparities in three areas, Pakistan is ranked 150th in the domain of economic participation and opportunity, 143rd in education, 149th in health and survival and 93rd in political empowerment.
- On Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan is ranked 7th most vulnerable country to climate change. In recent years, Pakistan has witnessed a large increase in climate change-induced natural disasters and is categorized among the countries to address climate change. Pakistan is ranked 3rd among countries facing acute water shortage and without the required interventions by 2025 it may face severe water shortages. Already weak Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and infrastructures are further deteriorating for not being climate and health resilient and sustainable. Limited access to WASH services particularly affects health of women, and girls disproportionately, which leads towards increased disease prevalence, low food intake, malnourishment in children and women, loss of means of livelihoods and no skills or capacity to cope with disasters. Climate adaptability, resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans are often gender blind. Being primary managers of household resources, women need knowledge and understanding to adapt to changing environmental and social conditions.
- Out of the 207.7 million (now close to 222 million) total population of Pakistan in 2017, an estimated 21.78 million were affected from blindness and vision impairment (all-age crude prevalence 10.48%; 57% female). The age-

standardized prevalence was 15.38%.

- The recent data released by Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) shows that abuse of blasphemy laws has increased exponentially in Pakistan. From 1987 to December 2020, at least 1,855 persons have been alleged under the offences related to religion, mostly under Sections 295 B, C to 298 C, of the Pakistan Penal Code known as blasphemy laws. The highest number of accused (200), were reported in the year 2020. 75% of accused were Muslims, while the largest number of victims (70%) belonged to the Shia sect, during this year. The others were Ahmadi 20%, Sunni 5%, and Christian 3.5%, Hindu 1% and religion of 0.5% was not confirmed.
- The recent COVID-19 pandemic has further increased risks to health, livelihoods and gender based violence incidences, especially for vulnerable minority women.



2021 Plans – Invitation to partner with us!

The first year will be focused on building partnerships as well as fundraising for future activities. We invite overseas Pakistanis, international donors and NGOs, faith-based organizations and government institutions, corporate partners and community groups, to partner with us to maximize our impact. We are looking for voluntary talent, institutional partnerships, monetary and in-kind support to implement future programs. Please contact us at info@hopebeyondfrontiers.org to discuss partnership and collaboration ideas.

Hope Beyond Frontiers is created to provide a voice to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups around the world. Please visit our website at www.hopebeyondfrontiers.org for further information.

*Hope Beyond Frontiers is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.
All donations are exempt from federal tax. Our EIN number is 85-3189527.
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