**A green leaf logo on a black background

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To help tackle Pakistan's current energy crisis, TCF is working towards solar powering 105 schools which have limited access to electricity to ensure uninterrupted learning.

**Revamping Libraries across the TCF Network**

**To foster a love for reading and develop a culture of reading at all TCF schools, TCF is working towards solar revamping 1,192 libraries with updated booklists, shelves and a new library policy.**

**About The Citizens Foundation**

With 1,921 schools serving 286,000 students across Pakistan, The Economist has called TCF “[perhaps the largest network of independently run schools in the world](https://www.economist.com/briefing/2018/01/04/pakistan-is-home-to-the-most-frenetic-education-reforms-in-the-world).” TCF builds and operates schools in Pakistan’s most underserved urban slums and rural areas where access to quality education is limited or non-existent. TCF schools are not ‘poor schools for poor children". They are modern, purpose-built schools complete with playgrounds, libraries, and science labs.

TCF’s vision is to create agents of positive change: well-rounded, motivated, and capable individuals who will not only be able to steer themselves and their families out of poverty but also seek to improve the future of their communities and society at large.

**Context**

In Pakistan, library periods are seen as a free period when children can play or teachers can use to teach other subjects. Books – even those provided by donors like USAID – can be found locked behind glass so that children cannot steal or damage the books. Students are not trusted to take them home. It is also a challenge to find books that young readers would enjoy written in the local languages that they understand. In many countries, there is a dearth of local language picture books that help cultivate a joy of reading in the youngest children.

**Project Need**

TCF has nearly 1,200 libraries in its schools across Pakistan. We recently conducted 27 focus group discussions with 177 students, teachers, principals, parents, and alumni.

* 32% of student participants said they had no opportunity to visit the library during the school week.
* Amongst teachers, only 22% of participants said that their schools utilized libraries at the scheduled time or during story-time for students, the remaining 78% of participants stated that libraries were either used as AV rooms, staff rooms or working rooms during their free time.

In addition, teachers and students lamented the absence of diverse reading materials in nearby bookstores, which predominantly offer course-related books.

TCF is endeavoring to transform the use of its libraries, demonstrating what is possible in libraries in government schools across Pakistan.

**The TCF Libraries Program**

We aim to:

* **Actively lend books to students and their parents.** TCF will involve parents in the lending program so that they can help students return books on time. In case a book is damaged, the librarian or staff member in charge of the library will work together with the student to repair it.
* **Roll out a new library period where students engage in self-directed exploration.** TCF primary schools has transitioned to a student-led model for learning. During the library period, students might:
  + read on their own or with a teacher,
  + have story-time where the teacher or student reads aloud,
  + learn to find books with a teachers’ help,
  + discuss books they are reading,
  + or do creative activities such as drawing or writing and creating books.

TCF will train teachers to support and facilitate these activities without forcing students to do a certain activity.

* **Stock libraries with joyful, interesting, and age-appropriate books with an emphasis on local language materials which are hard to find especially for the early years.** To instill a love of reading, we must stock libraries with books that interest children.
* **Re-design the library space.** There will be three zones: one of reading, a second for discussions or storytime, and a third for arts and crafts related to books. Moreover, where library space is not available, we will procure and provide bookshelves.

We believe that libraries are key to transform students’ academic outcomes, socio-emotional skills, and even life outcomes. The project demonstrates how joyful, student-directed learning can strengthen literacy and learning in a country where over half of third graders cannot read.

The program will directly impact 286,000 students and 14,000 school faculty members across the TCF network.

**Project Deliverables:**

To contribute significantly to the overarching goal of library transformation and to foster a love for reading, the TCF Libraries Project will focus on the following deliverables:

**1. New Book List for Primary and Secondary Schools:**

* A meticulously curated booklist designed to cater to the unique needs and interests of students in different age brackets.
* A diverse range of genres, spanning from educational support materials to engaging leisure reading.
* An impressive expansion of the number of available titles, growing from around 140 to 250 in primary schools and from around 150 to over 300 in secondary schools.
* An enriched collection, featuring hundreds of general knowledge books, captivating storybooks, regional language and bilingual editions, and translations of classic literature.
* A commitment to extending library resources to teachers and community members, with the addition of books across various genres, including General Knowledge, Poetry, Reference, Skills, and Storybooks.

**2. New Library Policy:**

* The development of a new library policy to help school leaders understand how to make libraries more reader-friendly
* A robust reinforcement of library policies through training
* Ensuring that students have uninterrupted access to the library throughout the school day.
* Empowerment for students to issue a maximum of 2 books for a period of one week, a practice not currently in place.
* The introduction of multiple zones within libraries, including quiet, sharing, and activity zones, to cater to varied reading preferences and activities.
* A concerted effort to instill a sense of ownership among students, encouraging their active involvement in maintaining the cleanliness of the library and participating in book repair activities.
* Implementation of comprehensive library orientation activities for students.
* An innovative approach that extends library privileges to teachers and parents.
* Development of associated training and information modules to support these new policies and initiatives.

**3. Investing in Library Equipment/Furniture:**

* Designation of a dedicated classroom for library shelf placement in schools without existing library rooms, with careful adjustment of timetables to accommodate library use.
* Procurement of suitable shelves to enhance the functionality of schools where there are no libraries.

**4. Replenishment Process Development:**

* Establishment of a systematic replenishment process, in collaboration with the supply chain, to ensure that library books are regularly refreshed and replaced consistently and promptly.

The project will be rolled out in a phased manner over the next 2 academic years as determined by operational need. The funding for this project will be allocated based on where libraries are required the most. TCF's Operations team will prepare area-wise lists of schools where a revamp of libraries is required on a need basis. Development of library policies and replenishment processes will further streamline the process of rollout and provision of library books across TCF’s network.

**Current Funding Requirements**

* The cost of replenishing and revamping one library is estimated at **$2,000/-**
* Currently, TCF aims to revamp a total of 1,192 libraries across its network.
* The total funding requirement to revamp 1,192 libraries is **$2.3 million**.
* Funding is being requested for the libraries program in **packets of $100,000** which will cover 50 libraries.