



The importance of efficient and effective means of communicating information has been the bedrock of the adoption of new technologies by businesses, and governments the world over. In response to the information revolution, World Bank President, James Wolfensohn conceived of an independent organization that would facilitate the leveraging of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to serve development outcomes. In 2001, the Global Development Gateway (DG) Foundation was formally launched in Washington DC, with several countries as founding members, including Pakistan.

What is the Pakistan Development Gateway Foundation?

The Global DG Foundation manages a web portal that serves as a global resource on information related to development. In addition, it has helped establish separate Country Gateway portals in 58 countries, including Pakistan. The team that designed the Pakistan Country Gateway portal has now been awarded an implementation grant for the establishment of an independent organization that will enable the adoption of ICTs to facilitate economic, social and human development in Pakistan. The Pakistan Development Gateway Foundation (PDGF) is a unique idea, primarily because, although it is a civil society organization, it seeks, from the outset, to be a fully independent and self-sustaining entity.

What will the PDGF do?

The Foundation will manage information, resources, knowledge and community relations through the Pakistan Country Gateway – a web portal that will serve as a clearinghouse mechanism for development in Pakistan. The organization will be initially funded through a grant from the Global DG Foundation. The PDGF will also conceptualize, plan and implement revenue-generating services that are centred on the application of ICTs to development scenarios in economic, social and human development scenarios. These might include:

- Working with partners in government to develop technology-centric solutions to human resource, information, and financial management challenges
- Working with civil society partners (NGOs, donors, CBOs) to mainstream technology into core functional areas, and streamline operational overheads, and reduce recurring costs
- Working with business and industry to support innovation in technology – in the pursuit of commercially viable information and communication technology solutions

In addition to the PCG web portal and revenue generating services, the PDGF will work with its partners, in and outside government, on programmes and projects that have a direct bearing on development outcomes. The primary benefit that the PDGF offers to its partners is the organization's access to resources, both human and financial, and its unique approach to solving development problems – the effective use of technology as an enabler of existing process and systems.

Establishment and Governance

The Foundation will be managed by a small core team of professionals, lead by a Chief Executive chosen by its Board of Governors. The Foundation's Board will include leaders from the business world, civil society and public sector. The incorporation of the Foundation and the establishment of its Board are critical to the future success of the organization. Therefore, a Working Committee of potential Board members, as well as well-wishers of the Foundation has been convened. This Working Committee will identify potential Board members, invite them to join the Board, and facilitate the incorporation of the Foundation. Incorporation is expected to be completed by November 2004.



What is the Pakistan Country Gateway?

The Pakistan Country Gateway (PCG) is a web-portal designed to serve as the epicenter of knowledge and information related to Pakistan and its development. The PCG has been built using the same open source software that is being used by Country Gateways throughout the world, under the auspices of the Development Gateway Foundation. It is managed and governed by the Pakistan Development Gateway Foundation (PDGF). The PDGF is an independent, not-for-profit multi-stakeholder, partnership-based initiative for broad-based, sustainable and equitable development. Through the establishment and growth of the PCG, the Foundation seeks to facilitate the socio-economic uplift of society with innovative and supportive application of information & communication technologies (ICTs) for improvements in service delivery, better functioning of markets, and efficient and effective systems of governance.

Purpose

The Pakistan Country Gateway exists to facilitate the sharing and exchange of knowledge through the application of ICTs in the establishment, enhancement and sustainability of tools that facilitate the conduct of more efficient and more effective government and business, thereby catalyzing social and human development, alleviating poverty and improving distributive justice in Pakistan.

The PCG can be viewed from three perspectives

- From technical perspective – as a web portal;
- From an operational perspective – as a program to catalyze the country's development by means of information and communication technologies;
- from an institutional perspective – as an organization, i.e. the Pakistan Development Gateway Foundation.

From all three perspectives, the ultimate goal of its activities is to positively effect the outcome of development initiatives across the spectrum of Pakistan's socio-economic profile. The PCG sees itself as a stakeholder in any and every development activity in the country, therefore it naturally places a critical importance in partnerships and relationships across functional and operational areas with the private, public and civil society sectors in Pakistan.

Partnerships

Although the PCG will generate original content on specific issues, one of the core functions of the portal is to ensure that disparate information is collated and available at one single location. Given the diverse range of information sources, the PCG will leverage formally defined structures for cooperation with agencies, organizations and institutions across the entire spectrum of Pakistani society, to be established by the PDGF. Specifically, partnerships will support outputs and outcomes through the sharing and provision of content, technical expertise and financial backing. In addition to these three specific functions, it is likely that some partner organizations will share a broader, all-encompassing relationship with the PDGF and the PCG, such partnerships will be referred to as Strategic Alliances. Additionally, the Foundation will forge three other types of relationships: Content Partnerships, Technology Partnerships and Financial Partnerships – each defined by the functional elements that are incorporated in the exchange between the Foundation and the partner.

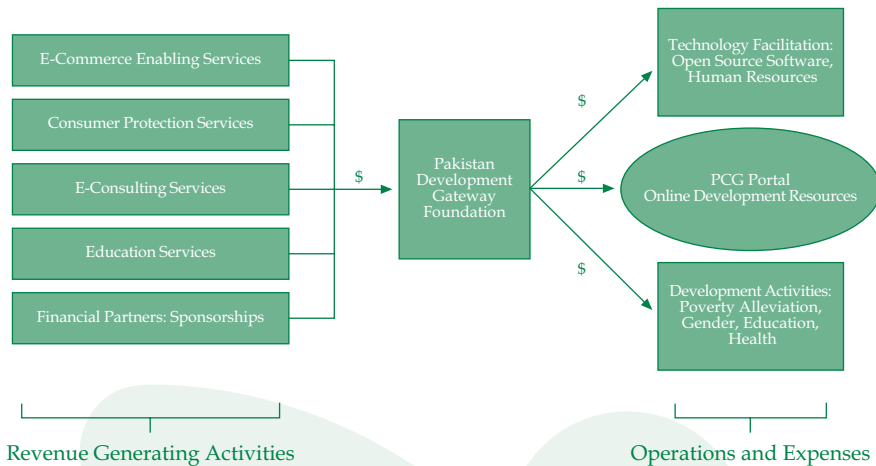


How will the Foundation Sustain Itself?

The Pakistan Development Gateway Foundation (PDGF) is an independent, not-for-profit multi-stakeholder, partnership-based initiative for broad-based, sustainable and equitable development. The Foundation seeks to facilitate the socio-economic uplift of society with innovative and supportive application of information & communication technologies (ICTs) for improvements in service delivery, better functioning of markets, and efficient and effective systems of governance. The PDGF is a unique idea, primarily because, although it is a civil society organization, it seeks, from the outset, to be a fully independent and self-sustaining entity.

How will the PDGF work?

The PDGF will generate resources through leveraging its human capital, as well as its linkages with the Global DG Foundation, to create and sustain business initiatives that introduce and universalize technologies like smart card electronic transactions for citizen services. Royalties or income from the PDGF's stake in such initiatives will then help finance the maintenance of the Pakistan Country Gateway portal, as well as other activities for the promotion of efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in civil society in Pakistan.



The Pakistan Development Gateway Business Model

The Role of Partners

The diverse expertise and experience of Pakistan's government, civil society and business organizations is an asset that the PDGF believes can be utilized in a more effective way. Therefore, the PDGF will seek to leverage the tools offered by the information revolution to enhance development outcomes within existing processes and systems in Pakistan's economic, social and human development arenas. By enabling its partner organizations to conduct their business more efficiently, effectively and transparently, PDGF will become an indispensable member of civil society in Pakistan. The synergies resulting from its partnerships will further buttress the organization's sustainability.