
ANNUAL REPORT

2019



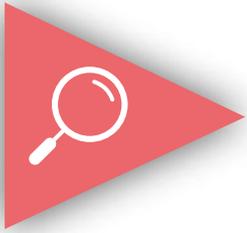


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FOREWORD BY THE FOUNDER/CEO

Mr. Fsaht Ul-Hassan
Founder-CEO

“ I am pleased to introduce the 2019 Annual Report of Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) which illustrates the organizational activities and commitment to advance the meaningful participation of young people at all policy levels in Pakistan and internationally. As an organization, Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) has always pushed the boundaries of how we think, deliver, invest, and manage to make the organization more inclusive and responsive to young people and their needs. In everything we do, we acknowledge that success is founded on the basis of partnership. Therefore, YAN is included into LSBE Working Group initiated by Punjab School Education Department (SED), we strongly believe that this partnership with Punjab School Education Department will prove fruitful and sustainable grounds for the inclusion of Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) into the mainstream curriculum. Ultimately, all our work is directed towards changing lives and helping young people regardless of their socio-economic status, ethnic identity, gender identity and expression, marital status, religion, marginalized community, political affiliation, or physical location to achieve their full potential. We are extensively taking effective measures to increase their meaningful participation at national and international platforms. This year’s report provides examples that demonstrate YAN’s impacts as we are proud to ensure maximum engagement of young people in the process of LSBE inclusion into mainstream curriculum through the “Young Omang Project”. We shared the youth perspective on Family Planning in the Country Engagement Working Group (CEWG) meeting. Moreover, we have built up the capacities of young people through two national level training on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). All of our efforts require increased and renewed investments and a strong commitment to ensure meaningful engagement of young people. Youth Advocacy Network is present, along with its partners, in its role as catalyst, supporter and leader for the world inclusive of young people. ”



ABOUT YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK (YAN)

YAN was formed by a group of aspiring young individuals in January 2005. YAN's main objective is to advocate and ensure the meaningful partnership of youth in all national and international policies/programs related to Sustainable Development Goals. For that, YAN imparts advocacy trainings to empower the young people to advocate for their rights in communities. YAN is providing young people a safe progressive and dynamic forum for dialogue discussions and cooperation on Sustainable Development Goals, Human Rights focusing Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Gender Equality, Civic Education, Peace and Intercultural Harmony in Pakistan.

VISION:

Young people participate fully and are represented at policy level, in all youth and adolescents related policies and programs in Pakistan.

MISSION:

To improve the quality of life of young people and adolescents by campaigning for the protection and promotion of sustainable development goals through advocacy; to reduce high risks behaviors in youth/adolescents by behavioral interventions and organize young people into groups, building their capacity so that they can play their role as agents of change in their communities.

THEMATIC AREAS:

- ▶ SDG 03: Ensure Healthy Lives
- ▶ SDG 04: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education
- ▶ SDG 05: Achieve Gender Equality
- ▶ SDG 08: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ▶ SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities
- ▶ SDG 13: Combat Climate Change
- ▶ SDG 16: Promote Peace, Access to Justice and Inclusive Institutions

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING:

26th July, 2019

Lahore, Pakistan

The Annual Governing Board Meeting was held to welcome and introduce new members which were also informed regarding their roles as Governing Board Members. Moreover, the strategic framework for the next five years of YAN was also shared with all members for their feedback.

Governing Board Members:

- ▶ Ms. Hafsa Mehmood, Chairperson
- ▶ Mr. Fahad Riaz, Co-Chairperson
- ▶ Ms. Mujhgan Nazish, General Secretary
- ▶ Mr. Asim Nawaz Abbasi, Finance Secretary
- ▶ Mr. Danish Tariq, Governing Board Member
- ▶ Ms. Hamyl Anjum, Governing Board Member
- ▶ Ms. Laiba Zainab, Governing Board Member

YAN Team:

- ▶ Mr. Fsahat Ul-Hassan, Founder-CEO
- ▶ Ms. Mommnah Asad, Communication & Research Officer
- ▶ Mr. Muhammad Tahir, Admin Officer
- ▶ Mr. Imran, Finance Officer



YOUNG OMANG PAKISTAN 2019

February

06-02-2019: Lobbying meeting with Mr. Usman Dar (Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs) in which we took him on board for supporting the inclusion of LSBE into the mainstream curriculum.

March

05-03-2019: Lobbying Meeting with Members of Punjab Assembly (MPAs) in which young MPAs were sensitized on the importance of LSBE and shared their commitment to table resolutions and questions on its inclusion into mainstream curriculum in the Punjab Assembly.

April

25-04-2019: Orientation Session with the Teachers' Associations of Punjab in which they were invited to share their concerns regarding LSBE to be addressed appropriately. Moreover, they signed the Letter of Support with YAN to ensure the successful inclusion and implementation of LSBE into mainstream curriculum.



June

26-06-2019: Sensitization Session with the Parliamentarians where we discussed the progress of integration of LSBE into curriculum. All of them committed to personally follow up on the process and to share their concerns in the Punjab Assembly sessions.

July

16-07-2019: Consultative Meeting on the integration of LSBE in Curriculum in which the Members of Punjab Assembly (MPAs), CSOs representatives, PCTB representatives, teachers and School Education Department officials were sensitized on the importance of LSBE and meaningfully engaged to expedite the process of LSBE inclusion.

26-07-2019: Orientation Session with the Teachers' Associations in Punjab in which we ensured that all teachers' associations and unions are on the same page for the advocacy of LSBE at provincial level by updating them on its integration process.

August

26-08-2019: Lobbying Meeting with the Secretary School Education Department Punjab (SED) in which Secretary SED was introduced with our organization and work regarding LSBE. In response to our application, the Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) was notified to be a part of the LSBE Working Group established by the School Education Department. This group takes decisions and monitors the overall progress of LSBE integration into education curriculum.

September

02-09-2019: Consultative meeting on the integration of LSBE in curriculum in Punjab in which Members of Punjab Assembly (MPAs), CSOs representatives, PCTB representatives, teachers and School Education Department officials shared the progress of LSBE inclusion into the mainstream curriculum.

13-09-2019: Third orientation Session with Teachers' Associations in Punjab was held to share with teachers' associations and unions operating across Punjab about the progress of LSBE inclusion process while re-emphasizing on the significance of LSBE and to neutralize the any possible opposition coming from teachers.

December

11/12-12-2019: Capacity Strengthening Workshop on Building Evidence for Advocacy was organized for platform members to build their capacities on using qualitative and quantitative evidence to support their advocacy efforts.

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SRHR IN PAKISTAN - PHASE II

23rd July - 25th July 2019

Lahore, Pakistan

Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) in collaboration with The Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Centre for Women (ARROW) organized an extensive capacity strengthening workshop on the Intersectionalities for 30 young people from across Pakistan. It was a three-day workshop facilitated by Ms. Biplabi Shrestha and Ms. Nisha Santhar from ARROW team along with Mr. Fshat Ul-Hassan and Mr. Danish Tariq from YAN. The workshop was aimed to acquaint the participants with the understanding of sexuality as a multi-dimensional and the intersectional concept.



Secondly, this workshop holds importance as it explored the intersection between sexuality and other issues such as education, health, employment, law, and citizenship which promotes a holistic approach towards youth sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), policy making and programming. Through this workshop, we were successful to create a safe space for young people. Along with that, it discussed sexuality in relation to education, health, employment, and citizenship to share their experiences of SRHR fluently and they all were engaged in activity-based learning to make them more comfortable. The three-day workshop included activities related to understanding the basic sexuality concepts and intersectionalities.

SHE-DECIDES WORKSHOP

SheDecides is a global political movement for driving change, fuelled by the actions in the communities with young people at its heart and Mr. Akhtar Hussain (Core Member-YAN) was selected as 25x25 Champion. The young leaders brought a remarkable range of perspectives, knowledge sharing their talents for demonstrating how much has been achieved, and how much more is needed to create the new normal where SheDecides for the better future. Therefore, Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) in collaboration with SheDecides organized an extensive workshop on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) which was facilitated by Mr. Akhtar Hussain, Mr. Danish Tariq, along with Ms. Momnah Asad and Mr. Fsaht Ul-Hassan. It was a two-day workshop for young people to focus on initiating debates to break the silence around Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), Human Rights,

experience sharing, micro-aggression and role of youth. Along with that, all participants were acquainted with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and what commitments Pakistan made and how it is fulfilling them. Furthermore, in observance of International Youth Day and completion of 25 years of ICPD, two panel discussions were organized for the participants. Ms. Laraib Abid (Founder of MASHAL), Ms. Saro Imran (Transgender Community Activist) and Mr. Akhtar Hussain (25x25 Champion) were part of the first panel discussion of young leaders moderated by Mr. Danish Tariq. The second panel was of experts; Mr. Sarfraz Hussain Kazmi (Regional Director-Rahnuma FPAP), Ms. Khalida Brohi (Member of National Youth Council) and Ms. Sabeeha Shaheen (Founder-Bargad Development Association). This panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Fsaht Ul-Hassan which engaged participants with young leaders already working and achieving in the field of SRHR and getting food for thoughts from experts for moving forward and how they can play a contributive role in the development sector.



SIDE EVENT FOR YOUTH AT COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP



The Country Engagement Working Group (CEWG) assesses the latest data on the Family Planning progress regarding Pakistan annually. It discusses the challenges and considers the evidence-based solutions to drive high-level outcomes of Family Planning indicators in Pakistan. This Working Group reflects upon the learnings being made and initiates the discussion on how to successfully achieve the FP2020 goals and commitments. However, this group lacks the representation of youth which is critical because the Pakistan's population comprises 64% of youth. Therefore, to

meaningfully share the youth perspective on Family Planning, Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) put forward the recommendation to include one youth representative in the CEWG meeting to share the narratives of young people on Family Planning. The recommendation was well noted and Mr. Fsaht Ul-Hassan was invited on behalf of Pakistan's Youth to share his presentation on "Collective Narrative of Youth and Family Planning in Pakistan" in the Country

Engagement Working Group (CEWG) meeting, which was held on 18th September 2019 in Lahore-Pakistan. Along with that, Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) in collaboration with JHPIEGO and USAID facilitated a consultative meeting on 19th September 2019 in Lahore-Pakistan. It was organized to gather youth from different organizations working on Family Planning and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) to have better understanding about population development issues. 30 young people from all over Pakistan with specialized focus on Family Planning and SRHR participated in the meeting. They all shared their work and developed the National Youth Narrative on Family Planning. The session was concluded with a commitment to meaningfully engage youth in population related initiatives.

NATIONAL YOUTH ALLIANCE ON FAMILY PLANNING & SRH

Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) initiated “National Youth Alliance on Family Planning and SRH” (NYAFP-SRH) which comprises many formal and informal youth-led organizations and young leaders working on Family Planning (FP) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) in Pakistan. This initiative was taken in response to address the largest bulge of young people who are making sexual and reproductive health decisions that significantly impact their health, well-being and ability to achieve their dreams. Unfortunately, to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health, they do not have access to quality sexual and reproductive health information, education, and services. Moreover, open discussion on such topics is strongly discouraged as parents do not feel comfortable talking to their children about puberty and biological changes which makes them more vulnerable to exploitation. To empower the generation of adolescents and young people with knowledge and skills to make informed SRH decisions and to address the lack of youth focused SRH education and services, this alliance was initiated. It aims to support and meaningfully engage the diverse group of adolescents and young people in a variety of activities to build momentum around Family Planning and Reproductive Health issues in Pakistan. Initially, the members of this alliance met twice, one on 26th July, 2019 and second on 19th September, 2019. Both meetings were focused on suggesting innovative service delivery initiatives, and diverse advocacy approaches to reach out and engage adolescents and young people across Pakistan and to strengthen the local leadership and organizational effectiveness simultaneously.



NATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

January

01-0-2019: Mr. Fshat Ul-Hassan represented Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) and introduced National Youth Alliance on FPSRH at a meeting on National Action Plan to ensure Realization of CCI approved recommendation on Family Planning and Population Development in Pakistan by Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination.

March

14-03-2019: Mr. Fshat Ul-Hassan, Mr. Amir Bilal, and Ms. Mommnah Asad attended a seminar on 'Climate Change Declaration with Religious Leaders' organized by Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) & Governor Of Punjab. It was organized to engage religious scholars for combating Climate Change and we were pleased to be a part of this initiative as youth & CSO's voice.

August

1/5-08-2019: Ms. Mommnah Asad attended the Values Clarification and Attitudes Transformation (VCAT) Workshop that revolves around reinforcing the discourses on Youth SRHR issues, relevant laws and policies, gender and youth, child marriages, and communication skills.

September

19-09-2019: Ms. Mommnah Asad represented YAN at a Sensitization Workshop on Punjab Cost Benefit Analysis for the Family Planning organized by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

21-09-2019: SheDecides Open Mic was organized by Our Core Member and She Decides 25x25 Champion Mr. Akhtar Hussain, to discuss the barriers for young people and how they face discrimination.

October

03-10-2019: Ms. Mommnah Asad represented YAN at Consultative Session on Population-Sector Round Table with Experts organized by UNFPA.

16-10-2019: Ms. Mommnah Asad represented YAN at the meeting regarding prevention of child abuse in the Punjab through LSBE in schools organized by School Education Department where she shared our work regarding the inclusion of LSBE into mainstream curriculum.

16-10-2019: Mr. Danish Tariq and Mr. Akhtar Hussain represented YAN and SheDecides at National Dialogue - Renewing ICPD commitment on accelerating efforts for Pakistan's population challenge. Mr. Danish Tariq spoke about Youth Narrative on FP and previous National and Regional consultations.



October (contd.)

17-10-2019: Mr. Danish Tariq, Ms. Sara Najaf, Ms. Hafsa Noor, and Mr. Akhtar Hussain met with Ms. Lina Mousa (Country Representative of UNFPA) and Mr. Ehsan ul Haq (Director Ministry of National Health Services) to discuss about National Youth Alliance and meaningful role of young people especially in awareness and implementation of the policies.

November

16/17-11-2019: Ms. Mommnah Asad moderate a session on Community Mobilization and Mr. Fshat spoke on the role of civil society in providing opportunities to young people and their inclusive participation in policy making at Youth-led Policy Forum in Punjab organized by School of Leadership Foundation in collaboration with UNDP

21-11-2019: YAN Team led by Mr. Fshat Ul-Hassan met with Dr. Nausheen Hamid, (Federal Parliamentary Secretary, National Health Services and National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs) to discuss the meaningful youth participation in post ICPD25 and Role of National Assembly of Pakistan, National Youth Alliance and CSOs for integration of Family Planning, Life Skills Based Education, and Youth Friendly Health Services in policies and legislation.

25-11-2019: Mr. Fshat Ul-Hassan spoke on the role of men and boys during panel discussion in a seminar on "Female Politicians and Policy Making Regarding Women Empowerment"

27/28-11-2019: Mr. Danish Tariq and Mr. Akhtar Hussain participated in two days' workshop on Empowering Civil Society Organizations to Effectively Promote and Protect Child Rights organized by SPARC.

December

30-12-2019: Ms. Surhan Ali was invited as a guest speaker by Azm-e-Naujawan to speak on Gender Discrimination. She talked about gaps within society to understand Rights of Transgender & particularly YAN's work for role of youth in minimizing the discrimination.



INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

March

21/23-03-2019: Mr. Danish Tariq represented YAN at Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Youth Forum 2019, held in Bangkok, Thailand where young people from 15 countries from Asia and Pacific Region came together and developed the Call to Action on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) No. 4, 8 & 11.

April

8/9-04-2019: Mr. Fsaht UI-Hassan represented YAN as Regional Focal Point of United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY) at The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum concluded in New York, United States

June

22-05-2019: YAN co-hosted the side event on “Youth and Governments Working Together to Achieve Peace and Security for Sustainable Development” at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21 at Lisbon, Portugal. Special Assistant to Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Usman Dar, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Farhad Hajiyev, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports Romania, H.E. Ms. Cristina Andronic, Director General ICYF-ERC, H.E. Mr. Elmaddin Mehdiyev, President of Scheherazade Foundation,



Ms. Wajiha Haris, Founder/ CEO YAN, Mr. Fsaht UI-Hassan and Advisor on Youth Projects Kazakhstan, Ms. Tangsholpan Zhauynbay were the panelists. Director Partnerships YAN, Mr. Qasim Farasat moderated the session.

September

7/9-09-2019: Mr. Fsaht Ul-Hassan spoke about gaps and opportunities for youth-led organizations in CEDAW and SDGs related processes at Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) SDG Learning Exchange Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

11/13-09-2019: Mr. Danish Tariq represented YAN at Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Regional Youth Forum and Asia Youth Festival 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

22-09-2019: Ms. Hafsa Mehmood participated and represented Pakistan at "24th One Month Long Capacity Building Course on Gender, Sustainable Livelihoods, Human Rights, and Peace" held from 24th August - 22nd September 2019 in Nepal.

23/24-09-2019: Mr. Danish Tariq and Mr. Akhtar Hussain represented YAN at ICPD Asia Pacific Youth Consultation held in Bangkok, Thailand.

25-09-2019: Mr. Danish Tariq spoke on the 'Role of Young People in ICPD' & Implementation of 'Meaningful Youth Participation' at country level at ICPD Flagship Event at United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand.

October

05-10-2019: Mr. Fsaht Ul-Hassan was invited as the only speaker from Pakistan to Speak at seminar on Economic Corporation Organization (ECO) held in Mashhad, Iran.

15/19-10-2019: Mr. Fsaht Ul-Hassan presented the work and future plans of Youth Advocacy Network and future plans of YAN at Asian-African Youth Partnership Meeting for Cooperation held in China.



November

05-11-2019: Ms. Laiba Zainab was among 12 Pakistan's Young Influencers who were part of International Visitors Leadership Program by US Department of State.

12/14-11-2019: Mr. Fsaht UI-Hassan, Ms. Hafsa Mehmood, Mr. Akhtar Hussain and Ms. Hamyl Anjum represented YAN and Pakistan at The Nairobi Summit on ICPD+25 held in Nairobi, Kenya.

12-11-2019: Youth delegates and YAN team met with Honourable Federal Health Minister H.E. Mr. Zafar Mirza where Mr. Fsaht highlighted Youth Friendly Health Services and meaningful engagement of Trans & disabled population should be committed by the government at Nairobi Summit.

December

2/5-12-2019:

Mr. Fsaht UI Hassan moderated the session on Role of Youth in Implementation of SDGs for Asia Region at International Volunteers Forum held in Sochi, Russia.



YOUTH VOICES



SANA KHALID

After joining YAN, I become more confident to voice my opinions. YAN not only encourages young people to participate in national and international activities but it provides us with opportunities to explore our area of interests to implement our ideas. The platform has nominated me to engage in learning forums and productive campaigns that proved to be functional and beneficial for my personal and professional growth.



DR. MAHAM HABIB

I have been working with YAN from the last few months and represented YAN at several national level platforms. My learning experience through YAN has enabled me to see the world with a new perspective. Now, I feel more confident and able to better communicate and convey my opinions and concerns.

YOUTH VOICES



JUNAID TAHIR

“

While working with YAN, I truly understand the meaningful participation of young people as YAN not just shares opportunities but encourages us to take lead and implement our own initiatives.

”



SARA NAJAF

“

YAN has contributed to my learning by providing me various opportunities like attending policy forums and meeting government officials/UN representatives. This helped me to polish my leadership skills and enlightened me with the experience, opinions and contributions of youth across Pakistan. As far as advocacy is concerned, YAN has taught me how policy makers are approached and how our opinions can be put across the table with them.

”

YOUTH VOICES

USWA-E-ZAINAB



“

YAN ensures meaningful participation of young people at policy level as it engages us in all of their projects' implementation activities. YAN has nominated me to several national level events and provided me with an opportunity to learn about the protection of women's rights and several other pressing issues of Pakistan.

”



NAMRA SHAHBAZ

“

YAN has made me more confident in sharing my concerns with stakeholders as I am more aware about my rights and responsibilities. We live in a society where people are often disadvantaged by different means of oppression; e.g. the caste system, gender, religion or other identities. But in the Intersectionalities workshop, I got to learn to stand up for my rights and for others and how to overcome the differences.

”

YOUTH VOICES



SURHAN ALI

“

YAN has played a very important role in my life since I joined it back in 2014 as it always helped me to take diligent and well informed decisions. I came to know about very important Life Skills on which I also advocated with stakeholders to enable it in primary education curriculum in Sindh province. I have been part of various national stakeholders' and lobbying meetings which helped me a lot to grow personally and professionally.

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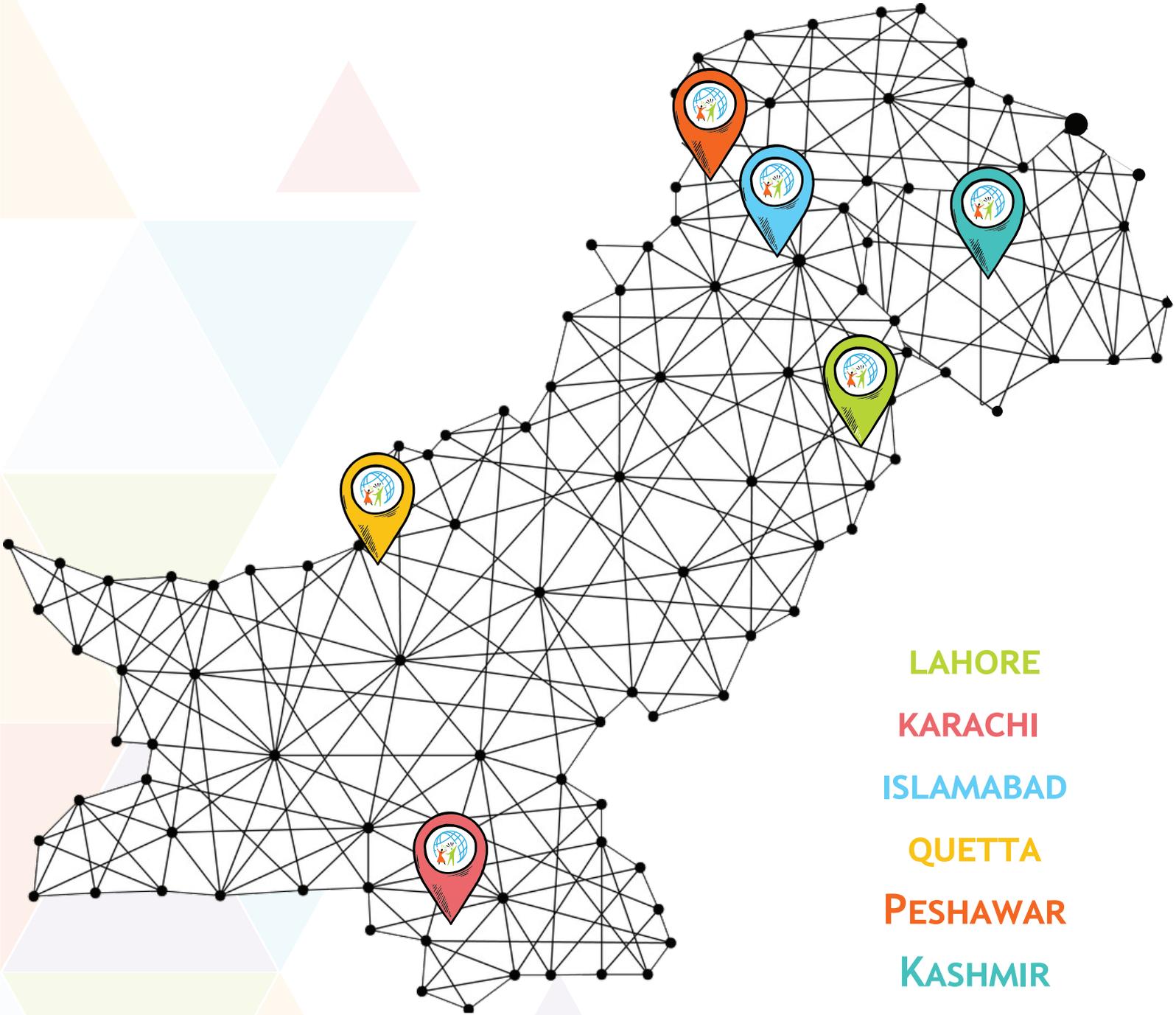


SAAD AZHAR

“

YAN has helped me to understand, acknowledge and openly talk about many taboos and problems of our society that have had detrimental effects on our youth's wellbeing. I am now more open to listening to issues of others in an unbiased manner and without stigmatizing them. YAN is a family and hopefully I want to remain a part of it in building a future for our society that is much more tolerant, peaceful and accepting in the end.

”



LAHORE

KARACHI

ISLAMABAD

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