

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



**Enabling Civic Innovation**

[www.codeforpakistan.org/](http://www.codeforpakistan.org/)



**2016**

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**“Building technology;  
empowering citizens”**





**Sheba Najmi**  
Founder, Code for Pakistan

## OUR INTRODUCTION

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### What is Code for Pakistan?

Code for Pakistan was founded in 2013 as a technology non-profit building a civic innovation ecosystem to improve quality of life across Pakistan. We leverage technology with the aim of transforming the citizen-to-government relationship by increasing citizen engagement, enabling the government to be more responsive, improving government service delivery, and driving innovation in the public sector.

# Code for Pakistan 3 years in

## Driving Civic Innovation in the Country

After spending six and a half years as a UX Designer at Yahoo!, I decided to quit my job to find a more meaningful way of using technology to create impact in society. I became a Code for America (CfA) Fellow in 2012 and it was here that I started to learn about building startups, government and civic innovation. I realized that the daily lives of citizens are so dependent on the government to provide them with basic necessities that there was no way the government could be kept out of the equation if one truly wanted to improve citizens lives. As citizens, our relationship with government tends to be transactional at best- vending machine style. The gap of mistrust between citizens and their government keeps widening as the rest of society progresses and our expectations of the ability of public services to keep up fall further behind. I wondered what would happen if the interaction with public services and the government wasn't so painful? What is every trip to a government office was a positive, easy experience? What if citizens started to use our skills to create solutions? This was the thought process that gave birth to Code for Pakistan in 2013.

We started off with a small Hackathon at T2F in Karachi, organized with the help of Sabeen Mahmud. With 10 days to plan the event, we were unsure if anyone would show up. But before we knew it, doctors, engineers, government employees, students, and professionals had signed up, making our first civic hackathon a huge success. The Hackathon proved that citizens wanted to use their skills to innovate and improve public services. The rest was history! Since 2012, Code for Pakistan has served as a civic innovation platform to a passionate community of talented professionals and students in Pakistan and the US, driven by a strong belief in civic innovation and social impact that can move Pakistan forward in measurable and meaningful ways. Today, we have organized 8 successful hackathons, launched Civic Innovation Labs in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, finished two cycles of our very own KP Civic Innovation Fellowship Program in partnership with the KP Government, and partnered with civil society organizations and the public sector to open data and use technology to create solutions to pressing problems in the country. The aim behind all of this is to transform the citizen-to-government interaction and improve citizens lives. Our work has shown what is possible in Pakistan. In 2017, we hope to deepen the impact of our work. The driving force behind CfP's work is our exceptional team of volunteers and professionals. Thank you for all that you do and thank you for making Code for Pakistan a success. I'm very excited to see us grow together in 2017.

### Sheba Najmi

Founder, Code for Pakistan

## Some Highlights 2013-2016



### KP Civic Innovation Fellowship

Completed 2 cycles of the KP Civic Innovation Fellowship in partnership with the KP IT Board and The World Bank Group. Our Fellows partner with government departments for 6 months to improve government service delivery and transform the citizen-to-government relationship. We started with 12 Fellows in the first year and scaled to 20 Fellows in our second year. Code for Pakistan is set to launch the 3rd cycle in February 2017!



### Civic Innovation Labs

Launched Civic Innovation Labs, a first of its kind community-driven civic innovation program. Our volunteer-run community groups that are part of a global Code for All network and who partner with NGOs and the government to drive civic innovation in the country.



### Hackathons

Organized and executed 8 Hackathons across Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Islamabad. The Civic Hackathons were successful in introducing, for the first time, the platform of civic engagement and innovation to citizens and government alike. 1100 people applied to participate in these events. We introduced open source as a platform for civic hacking, taught the participants to open their code, and also brought non-technical groups like journalists into the fold of civic innovation. Project ideas were pitched by both citizens and government representatives, and 71 apps were prototyped during these first ever civic hackathons in Pakistan. The 10 apps launched so far all started at civic hackathons. One of the startups created out of the Lahore Hackathon, Savaree, was recently acquired by Careem!



## 2016 at a Glance

### **Scaling our work: expanding our team**

In 2016, Code for Pakistan expanded its team in Islamabad, KP and the US. We hired a new Head of Programs, Anam Zakaria, to drive our high-level initiatives in the country. We brought on board 2 alumni from the Fellowship Program: Ebtihaj joined us as KP Civic Innovation Fellowship Program Manager and Sohail Khan came onboard as KP Civic Innovation Fellowship Associate Manager. We onboarded Matin Rahman in Denver to support our financial and organizational systems and our Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab grew with three new members, Qarib Raza, Sihah Waris and Umar Khan

### **Building an inclusive global community: Code for All movement**

In 2016, Code for Pakistan deepened its collaboration with the Code for All movement around the world. Code for Pakistan's founder, Sheba Najmi, attended Code for All meetups in Poland to develop strategy for the movement. Our Head of Programs, Anam Zakaria, Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab's Director, Asim Ghaffar, and Manager, Outreach & Partnerships, Sahar Habib also traveled to the US to attend the Code for America Summit alongside Sheba Najmi and Code for Pakistan's Director, Organizational Strategy, Nabeha Khan.



## 2016 at a Glance

### Deepening impact: global thought leaders

In 2016 Code for Pakistan was an active contributor in the global civic tech and civic innovation movement. Code for Pakistan's founder, Sheba Najmi participated in conferences and meetups in Poland, TICTec in Barcelona and SmartCityOS in Dubrovnik. The Pakistan and US team were also part of the Code for America Summit in Oakland, USA, in November 2016. Sahar Habib from ICIL attended the Internet Governance Forum 2016 to present Muavin, an app Code for Pakistan and Media Matters for Democracy are developing to counter harassment and bullying online, and represented Pakistan on a panel titled TechWomen: Driving ICT, Innovation & Collaboration in CASA.

### Showing what's possible: transforming the way governments work

We wrapped up the 2nd cycle of the Fellowship Program, with 2 of our solutions being adopted by government departments.

#### Traffic Police App

The Fellowship Traffic team created an Android application for traffic wardens to report traffic incidents and violations in realtime, and gather realtime data from the field and view it on the web — and this is a tool which the traffic wardens are currently using. That enables Traffic dept to determine where traffic incidents are occurring and where the congestion is. It also helps them figure out where to put in U-turns to reduce congestion and where to deploy the wardens. So far the app has saved the Traffic dept Rs 1 crore (\$100,000). Given the success of the app, the Traffic Police department has scaled the usage of the app from Peshawar district to all districts of KP

#### Relief Reporting System for PDMA

The team created a web app for keeping records of casualties, cattle damage, and distributions to people in disaster-stricken areas — and also another web app connected to it that displays public information for journalists and humanitarian agencies working in the field. The system has 24,000 victim records that have been offered compensations for injuries or home damages. Nearly 12,000 cattle loss compensations have been handed out. Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) is using the data generated from the app for preemptive measures such as improving drainage systems in Nowshera and Peshawar district to avoid flooding due to rain

### *Hear what the government has to say:*

**“The Traffic Police Department feel very privileged to work with Code for Pakistan. In previous cycle the Code for Pakistan team worked on Real-Time Traffic Management projects and developed an android app to report citations, accidents, road infrastructure issues, and road furniture such as signboards which is then displayed visually on a map in a Web app. The app is simple and easy to use for our wardens. It is also compatible with most of the android versions. The app is currently used in all highways of KPK and helping us to make smart decisions based on real-time data from the field. Code for Pakistan team is very professional and we appreciate their problem solving capability. We looking forward to work again with Code for Pakistan.” Muhammad Aftab, Deputy Director IT, Traffic Police Peshawar**

The KPITB and The World Bank are partnering with Code for Pakistan for a third time to launch the 2017 Fellowship Cycle. We will be hiring 20 new Fellows to work with the government for 6 months, focusing on creating citizen-facing digital solutions that improve citizens lives.

# Showing what's possible

## Building an ecosystem of civic innovators

A Fellowship Alumni Network has been established to create a stronger, more cohesive community of Fellows who graduate from our KP Civic Innovation Fellowship Program. On 14th August, the Fellows Alumni Network had its first meetup at The Nerd Camp in Peshawar to share experiences and learning and create a support group for the 2017 batch of Fellows.



**Sohail Khan**

2015 Fellow and Code for Pakistan's Associate Fellowship Manager in KP

### Hear what alumni have to say:

“I was lucky enough to join Code for Pakistan’s Civic Innovation Fellowship Program as Fellow back in 2015. It was a great experience working with the government to innovate public services. During the fellowship I found a charm in helping the govt to improve their services. This inspired me to join Code for Pakistan as an Associate Program Manager. Since joining it has been very informative and explorative journey for me. To address the gap between the govt and the public and to make govt machinery work more efficiently through technology, it has taken my interest to new level. I have found Code for Pakistan to be a perfect fit for me in this regard and I am very thankful to them for giving me the opportunity to not only grow individually but also providing me with a platform through which I can help our Govt and its citizen.” Sohail Khan, 2015 Fellow and Code for Pakistan’s Associate Fellowship Manager in KP

# Showing what's possible:

## Creating digital tools for civic & social problems

### “Creating solutions that make a difference”

Code for Pakistan partnered with the World Bank, KP IT Board, Pakistan Telecom Authority, and Tech Valley Abbotabad to run a 3-month long online hackathon called the “KP Apps Challenge.” The KP Apps Challenge gave people the opportunity to create web, mobile, and SMS applications under the following categories: Civic Applications, Governance, and Health, Agriculture, Finance, and Education. 42 apps were submitted out of which 17 were shortlisted and invited to demo in front of ~120 people.

The Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab organized the second annual Islamabad Civic Hackathon. The Hackathon was a two-day competition where 150 civic-minded software developers, professionals, students, designers, data analysts, and innovators came together to innovate in public services by creating open-source technology solutions and digital tools to address civic and social problems faced by fellow citizens. Over 350 applicants applied, of which 92 participants were selected. Experts in the fields of technology, business, design, health, education, and entrepreneurship mentored participants closely.



### Hear what Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab's Director, Asim Ghaffar, has to say:

I got sold on the idea of civic hacking when I participated in 2015 Islamabad Hackathon. I immediately raised hand when Sheba asked if anyone is interested in setting up a civic innovation lab. Since then it's a fun journey, thanks to awesome fellow volunteers in the lab. CFP really is a powerful idea! With citizen power, we really have a shot at leapfrogging government service delivery in Pakistan. I believe what we are doing is contagious: There will be others who will get inspired and will solve even bigger challenges for Pakistan. But for now there is no one else so it is up to us to promote civic innovation in its true spirit at national level.

#### **Asim Ghaffar**

Director, Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab

# Showing what's possible:

## Technology for journalist safety

The Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab collaborated with a local NGO, Media Matters for Democracy (MMfD) to develop Pakistan's first semi-crowdsourced, digital threat reporting system for media workers and bloggers. Muhafiz is designed to supplement existing threat reporting and response structures, as well as documentation of such threats. The program is currently being piloted in KP

### Hear what Sadaf Khan, Director, Programs at MMfD, has to say about working with Code for Pakistan's Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab:

While exploring the arena of JournoTech, for MMfD it was very important to find a partner that not only brought in the technological expertise, but also shared the values of using technology for civic development. Fortunately, we found the perfect partner in Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab and Code for Pakistan. The team is amazing, helpful and ready to collaborate with formal and informal initiatives. We are very impressed by the gender balance in the team and have grown together as close partners. Over the last year, we have worked on multiple projects together and see a number of new ones on the horizon. The best thing about working with Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab is the synergy we have developed with them, which allows us to discuss and explore random ideas together to shape them into actual, implementable projects.



**Sadaf Khan**  
Director Programs at MMfD

## Improving public service delivery

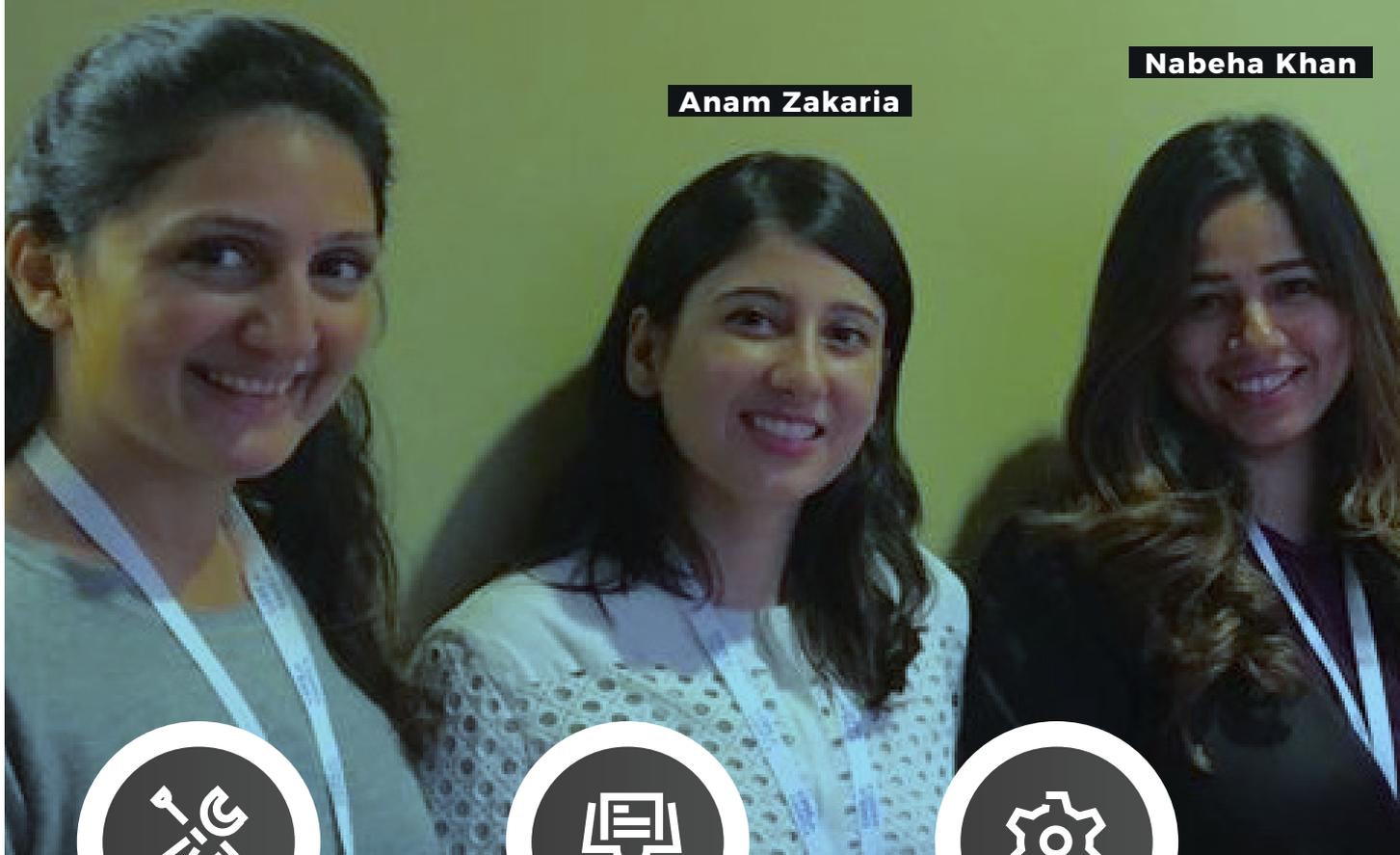
Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab's Design and Innovation Lead worked with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to conduct preliminary ethnographic research to help improve services they offer to citizens. Code for Pakistan was also invited to HEC to guide the organization on branding guidelines. We are currently exploring a potential Fellowship with HEC to support their social media wing with the

## Where are we heading in 2017?

**Sahar Habib**

**Anam Zakaria**

**Nabeha Khan**



### Changing Government Practices

Code for Pakistan will run its third cycle of the Fellowship Program in 2017, with the goal of creating citizen facing digital services. Inspired by the U.S Digital Service and U.K Government Digital Service, Code for Pakistan is also in talks with the KP government to explore the possibilities of launching Pakistan's first ever Digital Services Unit.



### Deepening Impact

Witnessing the success of the KP Civic Innovation Fellowship Program in Peshawar, the KP government is now keen to scale the Fellowship Program to Mardan. Code for Pakistan is also in the process of setting up a Fellowship Program with the Sindh IT Ministry.



### Strengthening the Civic Ecosystem

Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab is building an academy for winners of the Islamabad Hackathon and other teams with promising ideas, to equip them with the necessary skills and tools to take their projects to the next level. A 5-week acceleration program will be initiated that takes civic and social startup ideas to actual products by providing mentorship and training. This program is in the planning phase and is being led by Islamabad CIL volunteers Sihah Waris and Javeria Masood.

### Want to get involved?

Support innovation in Pakistan by joining the movement! Become a volunteer and join our civic innovation labs. Contribute your time and skills to support civic activities. Visit us at [codeforpakistan.org](http://codeforpakistan.org) and send us an e-mail at [info@codeforpakistan.org](mailto:info@codeforpakistan.org)

### Hear what others have to say:

“I am literally blessed to be working with Code for Pakistan. It has not been a long time since I joined the KP Civic Innovation and Fellowship Program but since day one it has proved for me a very intuitive initiative where we have to face a new challenge everyday, making it even more interesting. Meeting and brainstorming with internal highbrows, convincing external organisations and Government officials to collaborate and solve different public facing problems through technology has made my daily workday very rewarding. This was something that I wanted to do for such a long time and now that I have a chance, I will try my utmost best to make this program successful.” Ebtihaj, 2014 Fellow and KP Civic Innovation Fellowship Manager

**Sheba Najmi**

**Asim Ghaffar**



#### Opening Government Data

Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab is also working with Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) and LMKT to use government data to build a database with geographic coordinates within Islamabad to inform users of the spread of pollen, which is a prime cause of severe allergies and health issues in the city. A mobile app will be created to alert users when they are in close proximity to pollen so that preventive measures can be taken.



#### Making the Government More Transparent

Islamabad Civic Innovation Lab partnered with the Center for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) to work on a project that, for the very first time in Pakistan, will rank elected representatives of government based on their performance and open the data to the public.



#### Building More Partnerships

We will partner with more organizations and institutions in the public and private sector to strengthen our Civic Innovation Labs in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. We will also be setting up the Karachi Civic Innovation Lab in 2017.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**We are excited about what 2017 holds in store for us.  
Follow us on social media for regular updates.**

## GET IN TOUCH



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