



## Message from CEO – Rizwan Mustafa Mir

Universal Service Fund proudly presents its first Digital Connectivity Bulletin for the period July to December 2018. It is with great satisfaction that I look at the thriving entity that USF is today, especially when we compare it with the day it was established in year 2006.

Today USF is known in the Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) industry not only for its successes in facilitating rapid development of ICT in the un-served areas but also for its professionalism, transparency and low-key but focused approach towards attainment of targets set by the Government.

Despite many issues, all these years have been great learning experience for USF, during which USF successfully sustained and completed various Broadband for Sustainable Development, Optic Fiber and e-services projects. All this has become possible due to the efforts of a very dynamic team at USF alongside guidance of Ministry of IT and Telecom and our Board of Directors. I also appreciate support from the industry and the collaborative spirit with which USF projects are engaged.

Looking ahead, Next Generation – Broadband for Sustainable Development (NG-BSD) is a flagship USF program designed in consultation with the industry. It focuses on high speed broadband at minimum data rates of 512 kbps. I would like to share the great news

that the Federal Cabinet has approved NG-BSD project for 11 Rural Telephony and e-services (RTeS) lots. This program lays down the future of USF projects and takes the benefit of socio-economic



growth resulting from high speed broadband to an underserved population of about 30 Million. We also plan to work on a fiber program that will lay the foundation of future high speed networks.

On the digital front, in line with the Telecom Policy from the Government of Pakistan, USF will launch select projects in the fields of e-learning, e-health and similar verticals to help remove the digital divide and meet Sustainable Development Goals in the rural areas.

All these initiatives are closely linked with technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. With these projects, USF plans to carry on its journey towards uplifting the society through ICTs with full dedication and devotion in the coming years as well.

### 153 Million

Cellular Subscribers

### 61 Million

3G/4G Subscribers

### 3 Million

Basic Telephony Subscribers

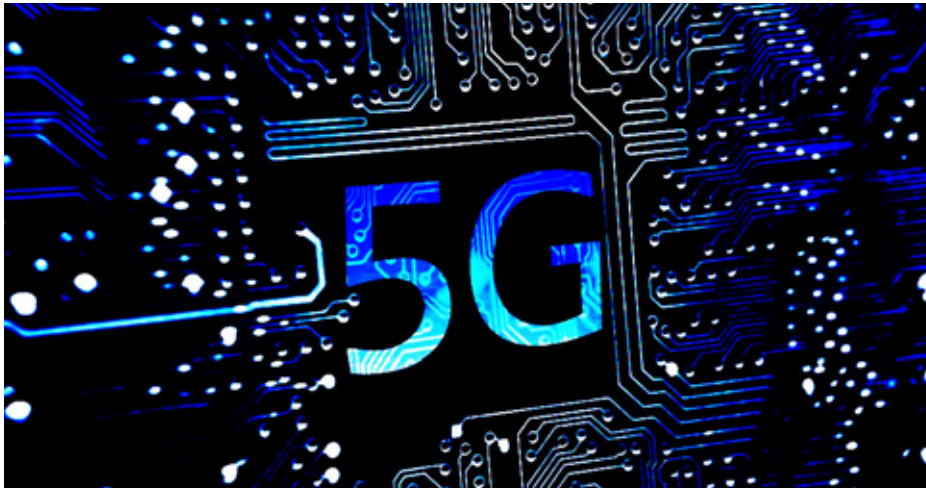
### 63 Million

Broadband Subscribers

\*Telecom Indicators by PTA



## Emerging TECH News



5G is the fifth generation of wireless technology, and the most robust technology the world would have ever seen. With its tremendous connectivity benefits, 5G is expected to take the Information Technology (IT) industry by storm. The benefits of 5G are not only restricted to exponentially faster download and upload speeds and low latency, it will revolutionize the way we operate in our social, work, and economic spheres. For Pakistan, this will change the way we interact with technology on a daily basis. One key beneficiary of this technology will be the public safety and infrastructure

sector as 5G will allow cities and other municipalities to operate more efficiently. Further, in light of high climatic variability, the 5G technology can be employed to notify of timely emergency situations. One way to deal with the changing climatic patterns and threats is to introduce technology in the mix to offer sustainable solutions and mitigate risks associated with climate change.

Given the volatile security situation in Pakistan, 5G technology offers tremendous benefits which can be used to improve the overall law and order situation as well. Given the remarkably

low latency, remote controlled heavy machinery and security equipment will now be a reality, which can be used by law enforced agencies to avert untoward incidents.

Healthcare would drastically improve as telemedicine, precision surgery and operating low cost remote healthcare units would become much easier. Technology is a key driver of socioeconomic development, and any improvement technologically opens up a world of possibilities for development practitioners.

A large population in Pakistan still lacks access to financial services, which hinders economic growth. There is growing evidence that improved access to financial services positively impacts development and poverty reduction. 5G will ensure more financial inclusivity and boost the burgeoning digital payment industry in Pakistan.

The way forward is to design low cost technological solutions for development issues. With the introduction of 5G technology, Pakistan will be able to fuse technology in the education, agriculture, security and healthcare sector to offer development solutions.

## USF Events

Universal Service Fund and Facebook launched **#SheMeansBusiness** for women in Pakistan. The program launch was attended by Federal Minister for Information Technology, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, APAC Director of Community Affairs, Facebook, Clair Deevy and Chief Financial Officer, USF, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary on September 14, 2018.

#SheMeansBusiness is a space for entrepreneurial women to make valuable connections, share advice and move forward, together. The program, which involves a series of

workshops, training sessions and online resources, is designed to equip women entrepreneurs with the knowledge, connections, skills and technology required to build and grow their businesses online. As part of the #SheMeansBusiness program, training will be provided to trainers of USF ICT for girls programme in the areas of Women Empowerment and digital safety. This training will teach 8,000 women annually on how to set up and grow their businesses using practical digital skills on Facebook and Instagram platform and tips for protecting their privacy, security and staying safe online.





Universal Service Fund (USF) and **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** collaborated to organize a two-day International Workshop on **'Internet Access and Adoption'** on October 10, 2018. Chief Guest Federal Secretary for Information Technology, Mr. Maroof Afzal, Senior Advisor, ITU, Mr. Sameer Sharma and CEO, USF, Mr. Rizwan Mustafa Mir fully participated in the workshop.

Delegates from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Bangladesh presented their work with maximum confidence. Senior officials of Ministry of IT, USF, industry and academia representatives attended the opening ceremony.

The Workshop aimed at enabling the developing nations to take full advantage of affordable internet access

which has to be widely accessible and adopted by the citizens. The objective of the Workshop was to foster information exchange on successful projects related to eliminating the digital divide in un-served and under-served communities. The workshop discussed the relevance of emerging technologies like 5G, artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain.



Universal Service Fund awarded **'Seamless Broadband Coverage from Hub to Jiwani: Makran Coastal Highway Project'** worth PKR 759 million to Pak

Telecom Mobile Limited (Ufone). The Contract Signing Ceremony took place between Rizwan Mustafa Mir, CEO USF and Rashid Khan, CEO Ufone. Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

(PTA), Muhammad Naveed inaugurated this event in Islamabad on December 12, 2018. Senior officials of the Ministry of IT, Ufone, USF and representatives of IT and Telecom companies were also present at the event.

In order to execute the project, 58 BTS towers will be installed in a contracted time frame of 18 months. To take this further, all major motorways and highways will be facilitated through seamless connectivity (voice and broadband services) to the coastal highway of 694 kilometers. This will be the first project in which national roaming will be enabled by the operator so subscribers from other operators can receive service while travelling along the highway.



## Project Updates

Number of muzas provided 3G/mobile internet and basic telephony and data services	7,216
Computer labs established in Pakistan Baitulmal	120
No. of students trained in Pakistan Baitulmal	12,000
No. of teachers trained in Pakistan Baitulmal	100
Computer labs established in Pakistan Sweet Homes	13
No. of teachers engaged by USF for Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) schools	202
No. of teachers trained by Facebook	100
No. of teachers trained by UN Women	30
Computer labs established at Special Education Centres in Islamabad	06
Computer labs established in FDE schools	226
Establishment of IT labs at educational institutes	30
Broadband connections	784,279
Educational Broadband Centers	1,325
No. of cities where broadband has been provided	552
Length of Optic Fiber Cable	6,951 Km

## USF Employee Story



Employee name: **Muazzam Farooq**  
Designation: **Assistant Manager**

Muazzam works as an Assistant Manager with USF and his job requires travelling to remote rural areas, which are faced with precarious security conditions. Some of the rural areas in Balochistan are riven with conflict, a situation which is aggravated with overlapping layers of ethnic fissures, sectarian clefs, and institutional fractures. Further, with the escalating militancy, it poses newer challenges and intensified risks for humanitarian and aid workers.

On his recent visit to Awaran and Pehalwag in mid-November, Muazzam was faced with a life-threatening situation. Pehalwag is an economically marginalized area in Balochistan, with poor civic amenities and living conditions. The inclement weather conditions further add to the problems especially for those who are travelling. On their way back from the site, Muazzam along with the team members was informed that insurgents had placed landmines on their route, which are victim-activated weapons, and can kill indiscriminately. Upon receiving this information, the team acted promptly and took an alternate route. The Frontier Corps (FC) personnel did not change their route and upon detonation of the landmines, two FC guards lost their lives whereas another two were critically injured. Muazzam feels how closely he brushed off death and was it not for changing the route, he too could have met the same fate. He said, "I am so grateful to be alive. I keep thinking how it could have been

me. I am truly lucky to have escaped this situation."

Even the visit to Awaran was not without its challenges; the audit Muazzam was spearheading took place while a military operation between the government and insurgents was taking place. He lived in a camp with limited mobility and continued to do his work, undeterred by the perilous circumstances. Recognizing his bravery and resolve to continue his work despite unfavorable environs, Muazzam Farooq was presented with a Spot Recognition Award 2018. While accepting the award, Muazzam shared, "The work of every individual is important towards achieving the broader goal, and we must continue in our resolve to deliver in the harshest of circumstances. I am grateful for this recognition and will strive to work even harder in the future."

