



SDG Sensitization Workshops for Local Challenge Fund (LCF)

Role of Universities in achieving SDG Targets

National governments alone cannot realize the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on their own. Collective efforts are required at the national and local levels and by all stakeholders for achieving the SDGs. Governments will need the support and broad involvement of various stakeholders, especially the universities as well as the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs), amongst others. This is where HEC grant, Local Challenge Fund (LCF) kicks in.

What is LCF

LCF is a funding instrument launched by HEC under the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project that provides grants to research projects on a competitive basis. LCF will support research by university faculty on challenges faced by local communities in the districts in which the universities are located. The purpose is to provide faculty members with an incentive to address local problems, be they about water and sanitation, or energy access, or promoting growth and exports, or increasing employment, or others.

Workshop Objectives

To equip universities and relevant stakeholders with right skills, HEC under the banner of LCF plans to host a series of virtual workshops for the academic community wishing to apply for the upcoming LCF grants. The aim of the workshops is to sensitize stakeholders about the SDGs, prioritize SDGs for Pakistan and also to get feedback on the role of SDGs for their work and how they can contribute to SDG implementation in the country.

- To sensitize stakeholders about SDGs, reflect on SDG prioritization and localization;
- To update participants on the country's progress towards the implementation of SDGs;
- To involve academic stakeholders regarding the SDG priorities and ascertain their relevance and role and how they can support and contribute to SDG implementation in the country;
- To establish future working relations to ensure that SDGs are understood resulting in quality proposals ensuring effective implementation.

Workshop Methodology

- A focal person from each of the provinces will be sharing their respective priority areas and some of the use cases for the SDG research.
- We will follow a case study format, where representatives of relevant universities will be invited to pitch in their ideas and share past research experiences related to SDGs.
- Participatory approach will be taken to prioritize the SDGs. This will provide participants an opportunity to deliberate and provide feedback on how they can contribute towards implementation of the SDGs, by also identifying the SDGs, which are most relevant to them.



Workshop Schedule

The workshops will be held from 7th till 17th August and structured as follows:

S. No.	Workshop theme	Tentative date & time
1.	Role of Universities in independent evaluation and monitoring of the SDGs	7 th August, 5-7 pm
2.	Innovation Support from Universities for Sustainable Development Solutions	10 th August, 5-7 pm
3.	Implementation Support from Universities for the achievement of the SDGs	13 th August, 5-7 pm
4.	Research approaches needed to address the SDGs, including interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research	17 th August, 5-7 pm

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For any further information, please contact info-r&d@hec.gov.pk.