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APPSF partners with Opportunity EduFinance to increase access to education through school financing

Lahore – January 28, 2021: All Pakistan Private Schools' Federation (APPSF), the single largest representative federation for Pakistan private schools nationwide, has partnered with [Opportunity International EduFinance](#) to increase access to quality education for children across Pakistan by strengthening the link between affordable private school owners and essential school financing.

With a membership of over 200,000 private schools – the majority charging under Rs. 2,000 per month (~US\$12/month) along with more than 15,00,000 million teachers and more than 20 million students in all over Pakistan – APPSF is working on behalf of its members to increase access to affordable financing that schools need to build new classrooms and add more seats, increasing educational access and options for families. When able to access affordable capital, data shows school owners invest in improvements to the quality of education and learning environment of their schools, such as ICT, teachers' trainings, improved student facilities, transportation and – most critical right now during COVID-19 – safety equipment for learners and staff.

Opportunity EduFinance has expertise in education finance, working with over 60 financial institution partners in 24 countries to develop and launch Education Finance loan products that meet the unique needs of affordable private school owners and parents. Through this partnership, Opportunity EduFinance will facilitate linkages between APPSF member schools seeking financing options and financial institution partners that are offering EduFinance's tailored school improvement loan product.

Kashif Mirza, President of APPSF, explained why he has established this partnership on behalf of APPSF members. "We want to solve the technical and financial problems of the private schools community of Pakistan, that Schools are facing increasing demands to prepare students for rapid economic, environmental and social changes after COVID-19, for technologies that have not yet been invented, and to solve social problems that have not yet been anticipated. Education can equip learners with the agency, the competencies and the sense of purpose to shape their own lives and contribute to the lives of others. Children entering school in 2021 will be young adults in 2030. So, change is imminent. We also agree, the aim of Education: Which proposes an overarching learning framework with transformative competencies; reviews the nature of the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that young people will need; and ends with possible curriculum design principles. It encapsulates the key messages of the project so far.

In this regard we have established this partnership on behalf of APPSF members, APPSF, want the rapid advance of science and technology may widen inequities, exacerbate social fragmentation and accelerate resource depletion. We also have the same belief that Education has a vital role to play in developing the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that enable people to contribute and benefit from an inclusive and sustainable future. Learning to form clear and purposeful goals, work with others with different perspectives, find untapped opportunities and



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identify multiple solutions to big problems will be essential in the coming years. Education needs to aim to do more than prepare young people for the world of work; it needs to equip students with the skills they need to become active, responsible and engaged citizens.”

Speaking about this partnership, Andrew McCusker, Head of Opportunity EduFinance, further noted the catalyzing role private capital can have on the gap in education access. “The members of All Pakistan Private Schools’ Federation already play a key role in filling gaps in education access for thousands of children. By linking these local schools to financing, we hope to see their full potential unlocked, as they invest in expanded classrooms and quality improvements. We believe this new partnership with APPSF has the potential to significantly transform the educational landscape across Pakistan.”

ABOUT APPSF

Pakistan Private Schools' Federation (APPSF) is the single, largest, representative and registered Federation for All Pakistan private schools included Punjab, Sindh, KPK, Balochistan, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. More than 300+ registered Associations and organizations of private formal schools, technical and vocational training institutes from all over Pakistan are the part of the federation to ensure quality education. APPSF represents more than 200,000 private schools with more than 15,00,000 teachers and more than 20 million students in all over Pakistan. To find out more about APPSF, visit www.pakistanprivateschools.com.

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL EDUFINANCE

Opportunity International EduFinance, with headquarters in London, United Kingdom, partners with financial institutions around the world to help them develop, launch and manage sustainable education lending portfolios, focusing on the development of two flagship education lending products: School Improvement Loans and School Fee Loans. EduFinance currently has 63 financial institution partners in 24 countries, through which more than 14,000 schools and 133,000 parents are currently borrowing, benefiting an estimated 7.3 million children globally since the start of the program. Discover more at www.edufinance.org or join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

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