



**SUSTAINABLE
LIVING**
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AWARDS

Unilever

HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES YOUNG SUSTAINABILITY ENTREPRENEUR PRIZE

in partnership with:



Dr Sara Saeed, 29

Initiative: doctHERs

Country of impact: Pakistan

A digital platform that connects qualified female doctors to patients who are unable to access affordable healthcare in Pakistan.



In Pakistan, socio-cultural barriers prevent many women who qualify as doctors from working. According to the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, fewer than 13% of qualified female doctors actually go on to specialist practice.

Reintegrating women doctors into the workforce

The exclusion of qualified doctors from the healthcare workforce is particularly problematic in a country where 120 million citizens live below the poverty, earn less than \$2 per day and have little or no access to quality healthcare.

Co-founded in 2014 by Dr Sara Saeed, along with two other Co-founders, Dr. Asher Hasan and Dr. Iffat Zafar, doctHERs

connects impoverished communities to high-quality healthcare while re-integrating qualified female doctors into the workforce.

Providing high-quality health care

doctHERs converts existing community spaces into walk-in clinics. Patients attending the clinics are assessed by nurses or community health workers recruited by doctHERs and connected to female doctors online using state-of-the-art telemedicine software 'MDconsults'. The technology uses video alongside peripheral diagnostic instruments operated by nurses in the clinic and attached to the telemedicine system to diagnose patients remotely.

Patients are charged around \$1 to \$5 per consultation including specialized telemedicine and value added services. Fees are collected using either cash or mobile banking technology to provide a cashless, digital payment solution

Since May 2015, the enterprise has impacted 15,000 lives directly and over 100,000 lives indirectly and now employs 15 doctors, 5 nurses and 5 specialists. By 2020, doctHERs aims to scale its nurse-assisted video consultation program to over 500 clinics across Pakistan, directly impacting 1.2 million people.

See Sara in action [here](#) (55 second film) and view her competition entry [here](#).