Pakistan’s Emerging Middle Class:
Lessons from a Country in Transition

Speaker Biographies

Homi Kharas is a senior fellow and codirector in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution. He studies policies and trends influencing developing countries, including aid to poor countries, the emergence of the middle class, and global governance and the G-20. He has been the lead author and executive secretary of the secretariat supporting the High-Level Panel, cochaired by President Sirleaf of Liberia, President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, and Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom, advising the UN secretary general on the post-2015 development agenda.

Ghazala Mansuri is a lead economist in the Poverty and Equity Global Practice and the Development Research Group at the World Bank. She has published extensively in leading journals in economics and development, including the American Economic Review, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, and the Journal of Development Economics. She also coauthored the book Localizing Development: Does Participation Work? In addition to research, she leads the World Bank’s poverty and equity program in Pakistan and advises other country teams in the South Asia and Middle East and North Africa regions. Mansuri’s research spans poverty, inequality, and mobility; rural development; the economics of household behavior; the political economy of participatory development; and institutional and governance reforms for development. She holds a PhD in economics from Boston University.

Reehana Raza is a senior research associate in the Center on International Development and Governance. Her research interests are in institutions, political economy, human development, and service delivery. Before joining Urban, Raza was a senior economist in the Education Global Practices of the World Bank, and before that served as the first director of the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives, an economic think tank in Pakistan. She has taught at the Lahore University of Management Sciences, where she was an assistant professor of economics and currently is an adjunct professor at GWU. Raza has a PhD in economics from the University of Cambridge.

Ali Cheema is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives and an associate professor of economics at Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan. He is also a board member and fellow of Centre of Development and Policy Research. Cheema has extensive experience in research and policy work in Pakistan. His research focuses on political economy, electoral politics, fiscal decentralization, and human capital acquisition. Cheema is a member of the Punjab Provincial Finance Commission and the National Finance Commission. He is a Rhodes Scholar and holds a BA with honors in philosophy, politics, and economics from Oxford University. He received his MPhil in economics and politics of development and a PhD in economics from the University of Cambridge.
Charles Cadwell heads the Center on International Development and Governance at the Urban Institute. A lawyer, he joined Urban in 2007. Urban's international work targets governance reform, public sector effectiveness, women’s empowerment and political economy of service delivery. Cadwell has also worked in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, in a research and advocacy office of the US Small Business Administration, in private law practice, and in private business. Prior to joining Urban, he worked with Mancur Olson as director of the IRIS Center in the Department of Economics at the University of Maryland, where they studied economic development and reform in some 70 developing countries. He is a graduate of Yale College and the law school at the George Washington University. He is also an adjunct professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs at GWU.