

Where everything feeds itself.

Humans. Animals. Plants.

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

A social enterprise in Pakistan · Islamabad & Karachi

WHAT IT IS

FROM ZERO

A working loop, run on land other people had given up on. Kitchen waste goes in at the gate; compost, food, plants, milk, eggs and honey come back out. Where it works, we do it again somewhere harder.



The loop

Peel, culls, trimmings and bedding are weighed at the gate. Sixty days in pits, windrows and worm beds, turned by hand, with labour as the only input. The compost goes into the beds; the harvest goes into crates; the crate goes home with peel in it.

What comes out

Compost and potting mixes, heirloom seed, an organic nursery of fruit trees, grasses and plants, seasonal vegetables and fruit, milk, eggs, honey and bio greens — sold through the farm shop and delivered locally.

Who it is for

Children, through nature camps that teach the whole loop by hand. Households, through affordable organic produce and plants. Growers, through seed, compost and advice. Institutions, through waste routes with weights and a diversion statement at the end of the month.

Why it matters here

Food security, livelihoods and soil, built from a city’s own waste stream rather than imported inputs — on the cheapest, hardest ground available, so that the model is repeatable where it is needed most.

IN THE FOUNDER'S WORDS

WHY ANY OF THIS EXISTS



From Zero started at Quaid-e-Azam University. That was the first one, and that is where the name comes from. That site is closed now.

There was manure and there was water. That was the plan. It was land nobody wanted — essentially a jungle, wild thorny bushes, hard soil full of stones. Everybody who looked at it said the same thing: not worth it. It worked anyway.

I was in debt. I did this. It healed me, and it moved me from growing people to growing ecosystems. I am putting the two together now.

Umair Jaliawala, Founder

HOW IT WENT

TIMELINE

Quaid-e-Azam University
THE FIRST GROUND

A piece of land nobody wanted — thorny jungle, hard soil full of stones. The plan was manure and water. Everyone who looked at it said the same thing: not worth it.

It worked
COMPOST, THEN FOOD

Kitchen scrap went in at the gate and came back out as soil, then as vegetables. Beds, a nursery, a herd and a flock followed, on ground that was supposed to be useless.

The first residents
A STRAY, AND HER PUPPIES

Nobody brought them. A stray chose the land before there was anything on it and had her litter there — the first thing the place produced on its own.

QAU closes
THE GROUND GOES

The site is lost. What it proved does not go with it: the compost, the seed, the animals and the method all move on.

Chak Shahzad
SHAHJANI FARMS GIVE THE LAND

8 kanals inside their 44, given to us to work, with more already committed. The camps, the shop, the nursery and the herd are all here.

Karachi
YDC, IN DEVELOPMENT

The same loop on a city site at the Youth Development Centre — beds, compost and a nursery going in now.

Roots International, F-10
SIGNED

A school campus committed to becoming Pakistan’s first sustainable campus, with the From Zero loop implemented end to end.

The Sindh YDCs
NEXT YEAR

The other Youth Development Centres across the province, on the pattern Karachi is setting now.

A thousand
THE INTENTION

In the remotest and poorest places, all connected — taking in waste, employing people, and churning out green equity.

> **Dates** — the sequence is accurate; calendar years are being confirmed and will appear in the next revision of this profile.

ONE OF THEM, NOT THE ONLY ONE

THE FROMZEROSPOTS

Every spot runs the same loop on whatever ground it is given. Chak Shahzad is the one open to visitors today.

THE FIRST ONE

Quaid-e-Azam University

ISLAMABAD

Where From Zero started, and where the name comes from. That ground is no longer ours — but nearly everything now growing at the other spots was proved on it first.

OPEN NOW

Chak Shahzad

ISLAMABAD

8 kanals inside Shahjani Farms' 44. The camps, the shop, the nursery and the herd are all here, and more land has already been committed.

IN DEVELOPMENT

YDC Karachi

KARACHI

Beds, compost and a nursery going in at the Youth Development Centre — the same loop, on a city site.

NEXT YEAR

The Sindh YDCs

SINDH

The other Youth Development Centres across the province, on the pattern Karachi is setting now.

SIGNED

Roots International, F-10

ISLAMABAD

A school campus committed to becoming Pakistan's first sustainable campus, with the From Zero loop implemented end to end.

The land at Chak — 8 of Shahjani Farms' 44 kanals, given to us to work, with more already committed. Their farming and ours are complementary, and the arrangement has been generous from the first day.

THE MANTRA

WHAT WE ARE FOR

Where everything feeds itself. Humans. Animals. Plants.

What We Are Building

A thousand small sites in the remotest and poorest places, each taking in waste and giving back food, soil, work and seed — connected, and built to be copied rather than franchised.

What We Do

Compost at volume, heirloom seed, an organic nursery, animals, a farm shop, and children’s camps that teach all of it by hand.

How We Work

Start on the worst ground. Bring in as little as possible. Weigh what comes in and what goes out. Pay people. Keep the seed open. Nothing is waste, including a failed bed.

Programmes at Chak Shahzad

NATURE CAMP	Ages 2–4 and 5–8 · 5 days, 2 hours daily · winter season, pre-registration open
NATURE CAMP · 10 DAY	Ages 5–8 · ends in a Farm Festival for the parents
NATURE UNPLUGGED	Ages 13–18 · one full day, farm-to-table lunch, fire circle
FAMILY NATURE HOUR	All ages · day visits open from November
SCHOOLS	Half-day visits — waste audit, compost build, planting

PARTNERSHIPS

WHERE YOU COME IN

Schools & universities
A working garden, the curriculum around it, and camp days at the farm. Ends in an actual harvest.

Restaurants & hotels
A scrap route with weights, a monthly diversion statement, and produce back through the same door.

Corporates & CSR
A team day that produces something you can weigh, and a triple-bottom-line story with numbers instead of adjectives.

Municipalities
Ward-level composting run by people who live in the ward. Less to truck.

Seed keepers & researchers
Multiplication, trial plots and shared germplasm for varieties slipping out of circulation.

Funders
Replicate a FromZeroSpot. Small, costed, documented — built to be copied, not franchised.

Farmers & landholders
Compost, rotation planning, and a market that does not punish you for growing desi.

Land
The harder and cheaper the ground, the more interesting the conversation.



The Lounge at Chak, going in — a shaded place for older people to come and sit. No programme, no fee, no reason to hurry.



TALK TO US

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