ADDIS ABABA (13 November 2013): Today, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Pakistan-based Aman Foundation announced their intention to collaborate on a new reproductive health initiative focused on family planning to improve maternal and child health in Karachi, Pakistan. Each foundation announced their commitment to the Sukh Initiative at a signing ceremony today for a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC). The foundations were represented by Carol S. Larson, President and CEO of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Fayeeza Naqvi, founder trustee of the Aman Foundation.

Speaking on the occasion Fayeeza Naqvi said, “The Sukh Initiative has an urban focus as we at Aman believe that urban poverty is a growing problem that must be tackled. Family planning and maternal health are critical interventions for a mega city like Karachi.

The Sukh Initiative emerged from commitments made between the three foundations after the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning. The program aims to provide more women with access to family planning and seeks to increase contraceptive use by 15% in underserved Karachi communities and will be implemented by Aman Health Care Services and other partners.

“Reproductive health for all women is something the Packard Foundation has cared about and worked on since our beginning,” said Carol Larson. “We are excited about this collaboration with the Aman and Gates Foundations, since no one funder can support this work without thoughtful partners who are willing to work in the areas that need our help the most.”

Pakistan is known to possess low contraceptive prevalence, high unmet need for family planning, and one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the region - 276 women die for 100,000 live births. Furthermore, Pakistan has one of the world’s highest infant mortality rates, driven in large part by short birth intervals. Birth spacing is essential for the well-being of women and children. In view of this, the Sukh Initiative aims to implement programs to improve quality and access to family planning in the context of improving maternal and child health.

“The world came together in July 2012 to help women and girls plan their families so that they can lead healthy and productive lives,” said Melinda Gates. “Today we are thrilled to acknowledge the launch of this unique partnership to meet the needs of poor and vulnerable women in Karachi, Pakistan.”
Karachi, with more than 20 million inhabitants, remains Pakistan’s most populous city. The Initiative will include provision of quality door to door family planning and maternal health services through community health workers, easy access to information through tele-health services, clinical interventions for post-partum birth spacing, and information and life skills for 50,000 young people age 16 and over.

###

**About The Aman Foundation:**
The Aman Foundation is a local, not-for-profit trust, based and operating in Pakistan. Inspired by a proactive commitment to the cause of human development, the Foundation aspires to make strategic and catalytic interventions in Pakistan to support development in the areas of healthcare and education. Visit: [www.amanfoundation.org](http://www.amanfoundation.org)

**Contact:**
Dr. Ahson Rabbani  
Executive Director - Program Development & Communications  
The Aman Foundation  
Plot no.333, Korangi Township, Near Pakistan Refinery, Karachi  
Cell: 0300-8218283; Tel: 92-21-35100003; Fax: 92-21-35123697  
ahson.rabbani@amanfoundation.org

Murtaza Abbas  
Asst. Manager PR & Events  
Marketing & Communications Dept.  
The Aman Foundation  
Aman Foundation | Plot # 333, Korangi Township, Near Pakistan Refinery, Karachi - Pakistan | Tel: +92-21-111-111-823 Ext: 2407 | Fax: +92-21-35123697 | Cell: +92-345-2014812 | Email: murtaza.abbas@amanfoundation.org