

**ibex.**  
**iSprint Challenge.**

**Round 1**  
**Make Karachi Great Again**  
*Problem Identification Round*

<b>5</b> Problem Areas <i>(Not Limited to)</i>	<b>1</b> Problem to Select	<b>Karachi</b> City of Focus	<b>2026</b> Cohort Year
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**ROUND AT A GLANCE**

<u>Round 01</u> Problem Identification	<u>Focus</u> Root-cause analysis & real-world relevance	<u>Submission</u> 1 problem area selected & analyzed in depth
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**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2026.**

## SECTION 01 — CONTEXT

### About Karachi

Karachi is widely recognized as the economic backbone of Pakistan, powering a major portion of the country's financial and industrial activity. Before we talk about what needs to be fixed, it is important to understand the scale of what we are working with.

20% of Pakistan's GDP	25% of National Revenue	30% of Manufacturing Output	45% Economic Value- Added	#1 Tax Contributor
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Karachi hosts the headquarters of numerous multi-national corporations and remains a critical driver of trade, investment, and employment in Pakistan. Despite this immense economic significance, the city continues to face deep-rooted social and administrative challenges that limit its true potential.

*iSprint exists because the people who live in Karachi are the only ones who can truly fix it. Not the government. Not an NGO. Not a corporation. The **people**.*

## SECTION 02 — OBJECTIVE

### What is Round 1?

Round 1 is the Problem Identification Round. This is where the challenge begins. Before you can build a solution, you need to deeply understand the problem you are trying to solve.

Most people can name a problem. Very few can truly understand it, its root cause, its human impact, and why it has remained unsolved. That is exactly what Round 1 challenges you to do.

### Your Objective

Select **ONE** key challenge from the list below and analyze it in depth.

Your submission should demonstrate:

<b>01</b>	<b>Problem Identification</b> A clear, specific articulation of the problem you have chosen.
<b>02</b>	<b>Root-Cause Analysis</b> Go beyond the surface. What is actually causing this problem? Use data and references where possible.
<b>03</b>	<b>Real-World Relevance</b> Ground your analysis in real examples around Karachi. This is not a theoretical exercise.
<b>04</b>	<b>Human Impact</b> Who is affected? How many people? What does this cost them — in time, money, quality of life?
<b>05</b>	<b>Scalable Thinking</b> What would a solution need to look like to actually make a difference — not just once, but at a larger scale?

## SECTION 03 — PROBLEM AREAS

### Major Problem Areas *(Not Limited to)*

Select **ONE** from the five problem areas below. Your submission must go deep on a single problem, breadth will not be rewarded. Depth will.

*Note: The list below is a starting point, not a ceiling. If you identify a pressing Karachi challenge that is not listed here, you may address it, as long as it meets **the criteria of being community-level, non-political, and solvable without government dependency.***

#### **01 — Waste Management & Sanitation**

*Why it matters:*

Karachi generates tons of solid waste daily. Informal dumping, blocked drains, and inadequate sanitation systems directly impact public health, flood risk, and quality of life, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

##### **Potential focus areas:**

- Solid waste collection and disposal systems
- Community-level sanitation habits and behavior change
- Informal waste picker ecosystems

- Flood risk and blocked drainage
- Plastic and industrial waste in coastal areas

## 02 — Environmental Concerns

*Pollution · Green Spaces · Coastal Preservation*

Karachi's coastline is deteriorating. Air quality is worsening. Green spaces are shrinking. These are not abstract environmental issues, they directly affect the health, well-being, and long-term livability of the city for its 20+ million residents.

### Potential focus areas:

- Air and water pollution in residential areas
- Loss of green spaces and urban heat island effect
- Coastal and mangrove preservation
- Industrial pollution and its community impact
- Climate resilience and environmental education

## 03 — Digitalization & Smart City Opportunities

*Technology that serves citizens — not just corporations*

Karachi has a growing tech talent pool and rapidly increasing digital penetration. Yet, most civic services remain manual, opaque, and inaccessible. There is a significant gap between what technology could do for this city, and what it is currently doing.

### Potential focus areas:

- Citizen-facing digital tools for civic reporting
- Digital access gaps in underserved communities
- Tech-enabled small business support
- Smart infrastructure and data-driven urban planning
- Digital literacy and skills development

## 04 — Community Engagement & Management

*Building ownership in a city where everyone feels like a guest*

One of Karachi's deepest problems is not infrastructure, it is apathy. Neighbors who do not know each other. Shared spaces that nobody maintains. A civic culture where responsibility is always someone else's problem. iSprint was built to address exactly this.

### Potential focus areas:

- Neighbor networks and local community organizations
- Shared space ownership and maintenance
- Volunteerism and civic responsibility culture
- Intergenerational community engagement
- Local safety, trust, and social cohesion

## 05 — Education & Skill Development

*Preparing Karachi's youth for the city — and the world — they will inherit*

Karachi has one of the largest youth populations of any city in the world. Yet, access to quality education, vocational training, and skill development remains deeply unequal. The city's future depends on what we do with this talent.

### Potential focus areas:

- Out-of-school children and dropout rates
- Vocational and technical skill gaps
- Gender disparity in education access
- Quality of public-school infrastructure and teaching
- Youth unemployment and entrepreneurship support

## SECTION 04 — SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### What to Submit

Your Round 1 submission must address all five components below. Incomplete submissions will not be considered for shortlisting.

#### Note:

#### Submit both:

1. A presentation covering the problem statement, root-cause analysis, impact, and potential solution directions *(03 Slides Minimum - 10 Slides Maximum)*
2. A short video pitch explaining the problem, why it matters, and your team's thought process *(2-3 Minutes Maximum)*


#	Component	What We Expect
01	<b>Introduction to Selected Problem</b>	A clear, focused description of the problem you have chosen. What is happening? Where? Who does it affect? Be specific, 'Karachi has a garbage problem' is not enough.
02	<b>Root-Cause Analysis</b>	What is actually causing this problem? Go beyond the obvious. Use data, references, and research to support your analysis. We want to see structured thinking, not surface observations.

03	<b>Real-Life Relevance with Examples</b>	Ground your analysis in real Karachi examples. Real streets. Real neighborhoods. Real people. Connect your problem to something you can point to on a map.
04	<b>Impact on Citizens &amp; City Systems</b>	Who is affected and how? Quantify the impact wherever possible, tentative numbers are acceptable. Think: health impact, economic cost, social consequences, effect on city systems.
05	<b>Proposed Potential Solutions</b>	This round is primarily about problem understanding, but we want to see early solution thinking. What approaches could work? What has been tried elsewhere? What makes your proposed direction promising?

**SECTION 05 — REAL-LIFE INSPIRATION**

## Global Examples That Started Small

Every large-scale solution started with one person who decided to do something. These are not examples for you to copy, they are proof that focused, community-level action can scale into something that changes cities, countries, and in some cases, the world.



**Waste Management**

**Afroz Shah: Versova Beach Cleanup, India**

A lawyer who decided to clean one beach, by himself. What started as a solo effort turned into the world's largest ocean cleanup, recognized by the United Nations and replicated globally.

**The lesson:** *You do not need permission to start. You need a broom and a decision.*



**Environment**

**Favela Painting Project: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Dutch artists Jeroen Koolhaas and Dre Urhahn partnered with local Brazilian communities to transform favela neighborhoods through large-scale murals. Local residents were trained as painters and paid. International funding followed. The neighborhoods were transformed, not by the government, but by the people who lived in them.

**The lesson:** *Community ownership is the only kind that lasts.*




**Digital**

**SeeClickFix: Ben Berkowitz, USA (2008)**

A digital platform that let citizens report civic issues, potholes, broken lights, waste, directly to local authorities. It started as a small tool in one US city. It scaled into a

nationally adopted platform that fundamentally changed how governments respond to citizen needs.

**The lesson:** *The right technology, applied to the right problem, at the right scale, becomes infrastructure.*




**Community**

**Roots & Shoots: Jane Goodall**

What began as a small conservation education program in Tanzania grew into a global youth movement operating in over 100 countries. Young people identifying local problems and taking local action, connected through a shared vision of community responsibility.

**The lesson:** *Small local action, multiplied by thousands, becomes a global movement.*



**Education**

**Girls Who Code: Reshma Saujani, USA**

A summer coding program for girls that grew into a global movement partnered with Fortune 500 companies and educational institutions. It addressed one specific gap, gender in tech, with one specific intervention, practical coding education. The focus made it scalable.

**The lesson:** *Narrow the problem. Go deep. Scale follows.*

**SECTION 06 — EVALUATION CRITERIA**

## How We Will Evaluate

Round 1 submissions will be evaluated by the ibex. team across four dimensions. The strongest submissions will demonstrate deep thinking, real-world grounding, and early solution potential.

<p><b>Depth of Analysis</b></p> <p>How well do you understand the root cause? Is your thinking structured and supported by evidence?</p>	<p><b>Real-World Grounding</b></p> <p>Is your problem statement connected to real Karachi examples? Are you citing specific areas, communities, or data?</p>	<p><b>Human Impact Clarity</b></p> <p>Have you clearly articulated who is affected and how? Are there numbers? Have you quantified the problem?</p>	<p><b>Solution Direction</b></p> <p>Even in Round 1, we want to see early thinking on what a solution could look like. Is it realistic? Is it scalable?</p>
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*We are not looking for the most polished submission. We are looking for the most honest, most specific, and most deeply thought-through one.*

**Ready to make Karachi great again?**

*This is where it starts.*

iSprint by ibex.

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