

Media Update

10 August 2016

ILO

Press Release

PROVINCIAL LABOUR INSPECTORATES READY TO ROLLOUT LABOUR INSPECTION DRIVE

Lahore, Friday, 5th August, 2016: A group of 24 senior labour inspectors from Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces resolved to rollout afresh labour inspection drive with a modern approach that combines the elements of enforcement with that of awareness raising, information and improved communication for improvement of working conditions at Pakistani work places. . The drive will scale up the outreach, quality and effectiveness of the labour inspection thereby improving the compliance with labour laws. Labour inspectors of all four provincial labour departments vividly expressed this at the certificate distribution ceremony held at the conclusion of weeklong Training of Trainers (TOT) on Labour Inspection held in Lahore.

The training of the inspectors was jointly organized by the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) and the ILO in cooperation with the four provinces. The training that was imparted by the ILO's International Training Center, Turin, Italy, aimed at preparing a group of master trainers from within the labour departments, who will replicate the modern labour inspection approaches by further training the entire labour inspection force in their respective provinces. The training particular focused on obligations according to Convention 81; functions, characteristics and ethics of labour inspection; Fundamental principles and rights at work and tools for labour inspection. The training also focused on building the training capability of the participants who will further impart the training in their respective field areas.

The training provided a platform to the labour inspectors to interact and share their experience from respective provinces. The participating labour



inspectors appreciated the ILO for organizing this national level event and emphasized that such forums should be conducted in future too. The participants highlighted that the forums like this help in learning from varying experiences in other provinces, cross fertilize the ideas with colleagues and foster a positive competition amongst the provinces.

Mr. Saleem Hussain, Director General Labour Welfare Punjab appreciated the ILO technical support to the federal Ministry of OPHRD and the provincial Labour Departments in order to strengthen the institutional capacities that remain crucial for improvement of the labour inspection system in Pakistan. The DG appreciated the well-timed support of the ILO and declared this training as a step closer to the destination. He encouraged the participants to take full advantage of this opportunity and equip themselves with all the technical knowledge required to perform their duties more efficiently. He further proposed that the effectiveness of labour inspection system could be improved by making up the human and financial resource deficit, institutionalizing user-friendly labour inspection tools and addressing the data management and training requirements.

Addressing on the occasion, ILO's Country Director in Pakistan, Ms. Ingrid Christensen congratulated the inspectors on successful completion of this TOT and urged them to take forward their learning to their colleagues. Ms. Christensen emphasized the important role of the labour inspection as a game changer that could ensure better working conditions at the workplaces. Ms. Christensen also recognized, amongst others, the challenge of deficient human resource capacities faced by the provincial labour inspectorates and termed this training program as a significant endeavor towards strengthening the outreach and quality of the labour inspection function in Pakistan. Ms. Christensen also acknowledged the Netherlands Government for their financial support. She also highlighted the benefit of interacting with social partners for the strengthening of the inspectorates.

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ILO

Press Release

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to implement a “Coordinated Social Protection System: under One Window Operation” in the province

PESHAWAR: In a two days Training Workshop held in Peshawar on 4 and 5 August 2016, the Director for the Special Development Unit (SDU), Planning & Development Department (P&DD), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Mr. Muhammad Fakhr-e-Alam said that the Government of the province is committed to sustain and cooperate with all implementing and development partners in developing and reforming the social protection system in the Province. The Director further shared that the province of KP is passing through a very critical juncture of its history. The issues of protracted emergency coupled with natural disasters have worsened the existing social protection situation. There is an increased rise in the vulnerabilities of the common people. He said that the government is trying its level best to respond to the need of the people and redefine the structure and roles of the existing social protection system aligning them to social protection floor concept. He highlighted the need for a social protection system to be more inclusive, comprehensive and well coordinated.

The Director said that KP is among the poorest provinces with poverty incidence of 41.3% against 26% at the national level. However, the KP Government is cognizant of its responsibility, and is fully committed to assist the poorest of the poor. The participants were informed that the province has made substantial efforts towards a coordinated social service delivery system by adopting an updated and comprehensive planning document of the province i.e. the Integrated Development Strategy (2014-2018) with the objective to deliver the fundamental rights and privileges to its citizens with the following priority areas of social services, education, health, livelihood, safe drinking water & sanitation, good governance, poverty reduction, employment, and skilled work force.

He appreciated the joint efforts of ILO and KP Government in devising the draft “Social Protection Policy” and the “Two Years Social Protection



Strategy” for the years 2016-17. He also informed participants about the GIZ’s commitment to support four major components of the 2-Years Strategy.

Ms. Valerie Schmitt, Chief of Social Policy, Governance and Standards Branch, ILO Geneva, greeted the participants and said that social protection is a human right and it can become a reality for all. She said that member states of the ILO have adopted a Recommendation on social protection floors in June 2012. Social protection including floors is also part of the sustainable development goals that have been adopted at the global level. Social protection is not new to Pakistan but many challenges remain such as gaps in coverage, overlaps and inefficiencies. To improve the situation, the Government of KP has conducted a mapping study based on which they have developed a comprehensive social protection policy. The roadmap for the implementation of this policy includes the design and implementation of an integrated and coordinated social protection system based on the social protection floor concept. She further said that Pakistan is signatory to a number of ILO’s Conventions including the three on Social Security.

The need for joint efforts and involving all stakeholders including social partners at each stage of the design was also highlighted by her. She also mentioned that the Social Protection Floor Initiative in KP was initially funded by the Japan Social Safety Net that has come to an end in Jun, 2016. She assured the Government of KP of the ILO’s continued technical support to implement Coordinated Social Protection System in the Province as part of ILO’s Global Flagship Programme on Building Social Protection Floors.

She emphasized the need for efforts to “leave no one behind” to ensure that social protection schemes are available and accessible to all people in the country and underlined the importance of continuous improvement of the existing social protection system..

Mr. Thibault Van Lange hove Social Protection Policy Officer-facilitator of the training- educated participants about the various designs of OWO currently being operated globally. The training workshop was successful to enable stakeholders not only to understand the mechanism of One Window Operation but also to contextualize the structure of the OWO design and redefining the stipulated roles & responsibilities through different group work activities and focused discussions. The workshop was also successful in developing a concrete road map for implementing OWO in the KP province.

SPFI-KP project was funded by the 'Japan Fund for Building Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific' from 2013 till June 2016 with the objectives of institutional capacity development of key social security institutions; awareness raising on social protection floors; policy development and policy debate on Social Protection (SP); mapping of social protection programmes in the KP province; piloting district model under the draft policy in two selected districts of KP (Peshawar and Nowshera), and developing a video documentary for donors to generate synergies in continuing and sustaining support to the government of the province while scaling-up the social protection programs and projects.

The workshop was attended by some 53 participants representing all relevant stakeholders working at national, provincial and district level, including representatives from the government agencies, social protection institutions, employers, workers, civil society, UN agencies, development partners, social protection taskforces and experts in the field. Representatives from International Technical Cooperation agencies (GIZ), private banks and enterprises also attended the event.

Mr. Shah Rehman, Director General of the SDU/SPRU in his closing remarks informed participants about the significance of One Window Operation. He appreciated the efforts of ILO and his team in advancing further the design of OWO through mutual consultation and collaboration. He also thanked participants for their active participation and developing the road map for implementation of OWO. To start implementation DG SDU directed the ILO and SPRU Team to submit the final design for approval. He also reaffirmed his commitment to secure funds for the implementation of Two Years Social Protection Strategy (2016-17) under the upcoming (2017-18) Annual Development Program of the Government of KP. He further revealed that GIZ has already commissioned funds for the in-kind support of four major components of the two years Social Protection Strategy i.e. Vulnerability Assessment, OWO, developing Graduation Strategies, and revising the draft Social Protection Policy.

UNODC

Press Release

Operations in 20 Prisons of Punjab being Computerized and Automated

Seminar at Launch of Prison Management Information System (PMIS) in Punjab Prisons

Lahore, 10 August 2016. The number of prisoners are increasing due to the increased crime rate, present security challenges, and burgeoning population in Pakistan. The current issues in prison administration are overcrowding, the mixing of high- and low-risk prisoners, obsolete legislation and rules/operating procedures, the lack of any electronic record-keeping system, and lack of prison staff training and capacity building. For this the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Punjab Prisons Department, has designed a Prison Management Information System to computerize and automate prisoner related matters and day to day operations in the province's prisons.

UNODC today hosted a Seminar at the launch of PMIS in 20 prisons of Punjab, where stakeholders from the international community (donors), representatives from civil society, and government officials were present; and were given the opportunity to learn about the new computerized automation system.

PMIS is designed to facilitate the prisons' administration in operations such as Admission and Release, FIR, Under Sections and Warrants' Administration, Prisoners' Housing Management, Daily Court Production Management, Court Decisions and Sentence Management, Remission Management, Appeal Management for Convicted Prisoners, Management of Medical Treatment, Visitors' Management, and other miscellaneous subjects viz. Prison Offense Management, Cash Ledger, Belongings' Management, Children's Log, etc. The system also includes a Reporting Module for facilitating the several reports specified for presentation and utilization at different levels. UNODC is in addition providing the Punjab Prisons Department with the necessary PMIS-related equipment including computers, biometric systems, networking, etc.



Initially the system is being installed in 20 prisons across Punjab. The system was piloted at Camp Jail, Lahore and was replicated in 19 prisons throughout the province. Apart from this, basic training on PMIS is being conducted for prisons officials at the National Academy for Prisons Management (NAPA), towards better understanding and implementing the system in

their respective prisons. Training sessions on PMIS were also conducted for senior prisons officials of NAPA.

Addressing the participants Ms. Anne Bergenstrom, Officer in Charge UNODC, thanked Mr. Azam Suleiman Khan, Home Secretary Punjab, Mr. Shoaib Akbar, Special Secretary (Home), Mian Farooq Nazir, Inspector General Prisons, Mr. Asad Ullah Faiz, Additional Secretary (Home), and all participants from the Government of Punjab and the international community for supporting the important initiative of implementing the Prison Management Information System in Punjab. Ms. Bergenstrom also said it was now time, in fact the need of the hour, to move forward towards digitalization of prisons' data. The Officer in Charge then apprised the participants of the actual steps UNODC had taken for the capacity building of the Punjab Prisons Department:-

- Over 17 training sessions delivered to lower, mid- and upper-rank prison officials, on 17 specialized modules
- Training of Trainers (ToT) courses held for prisons officials
- The institution of PMIS in 20 prisons of the province
- Draft Prisons Rules for Punjab drawn up

To conclude, she assured the attendees of UNODC's continued support in enhancing the capacity of the Prisons Department; and acknowledged with thanks the generous support therein of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) USA.

For further information and confirmation, please contact :

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WFP

Press Release

German Government contributes Euro 1 million to WFP towards Resilience and Food Security in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Germany has confirmed a contribution of Euro 1 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for resilience and food security in Pakistan.

WFP is complementing Government of Pakistan's reconstruction and development efforts and the FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy (SRRS) by addressing food security issues of temporarily displaced people (TDPs) and returnee populations. WFP relief food assistance have been designed with the prime objective to save lives and avert hunger through the conduct of unconditional relief food distributions to the affected families, who have left their homes or are returning after protracted periods of displacement, and have limited or no means to meet their basic food needs.

The financial contribution by Germany will help WFP to continue providing uninterrupted food assistance to both displaced and returnee families in the country's north-west and will serve as a foundation upon which people can begin rebuilding their livelihoods and communities.

The German Ambassador, H. E. Ina Lepel, said: "The German Government is very committed to support the return and rehabilitation of the people of FATA. After the IDPs have returned to their homes the support of their daily needs has to be the first priority. We are glad to be able to increase our support to the WFPs food security interventions to this end."

This support will allow WFP to assist more than 89,000 displaced and returnee families affected by law and order operations in FATA, with monthly unconditional relief food distributions. Around 1,200 metric tons (MT) of food commodities including yellow split peas, vegetable oil and iodised salt will be procured for distribution along with the in-kind wheat provided by the Government of Pakistan).



WFP Pakistan Country Director and Representative, Lola Castro said that “the German contribution is very crucial at this moment, as it will help address food and nutrition security of vulnerable IDP and returnee populations who have no means to meet their basic needs, and prevent them from resorting to negative coping strategies.”

In March 2015, the Government of Pakistan initiated a phased-return plan aiming to voluntarily return all displaced populations to their areas of origin in FATA by the end of 2016 and developed a Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation Strategy (SRRS) centered on five pillars of recovery. Displaced populations are vulnerable to food insecurity both in areas of displacements and after their return, until they recover and benefit from stable livelihoods. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain humanitarian assistance for families which remain in displacement and support returnee populations during the crucial period of resettlement.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in 80 countries.

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