

Media Update

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UNDP

Press Release

The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa presents early recovery framework following the 2015 floods and earthquake in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD, 10 December 2015 – The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa convened an international partners' dialogue to seek collaboration on the early recovery frameworks for areas affected by the October earthquake and flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. The framework was developed with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and presented at a workshop hosted by the KP Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and UNDP.

The frameworks were presented by Mr Amer Afaq, the Director General of PDMA's Provincial Reconstruction, Rehabilitation & Settlement Authority. The chief guest was Mr Pervez Khattak, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Mr Neil Buhne, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, said, "I am pleased to join this event today on the importance of early recovery frameworks for the vulnerable communities and areas affected by the floods and earthquake in Pakistan. We are already seeing the effects of climate change across Pakistan as natural disasters grow more frequent and intense. The United Nation in Pakistan continues to work with the government and development partners to build resilience to shocks and develop the capacities of the communities and institutions to adapt to

extreme weather events. Taking a developmental approach, this workshop is useful in mitigating risks and harnessing new opportunities for the vulnerable communities in Pakistan. ”

Mr Marc-André Franche, UNDP Country Director said, “Adaptation to climate change is critical for sustainable development. The damages from the floods and the earthquake this year were considerable and people are now in a dire situation as their houses and livelihoods have been severely affected. UNDP is rebuilding critical infrastructure benefiting 5000 families with the support of the Government of Japan. The needs are tremendous as visible in the assessment conducted by the KP Government with the support of UNDP, FAO, SRSP and other partners. We are hoping that through the dialogue today, we can engage in a substantive conversation for greater support from the international community.”

During the summer of 2015, mountainous regions of Chitral district, KP province were severely affected by flooding caused by torrential rain and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF). These killed 36 people and caused severe damage to infrastructure. Before the area had begun to fully recover, it was badly hit by an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale, which caused severe damage across seven districts of KP, including Chitral. In Chitral, over 19,000 homes were damaged.

Following the July flooding, PDMA developed a flood recovery needs assessment and action framework with technical assistance from UNDP. A sectoral analysis was conducted, showing that nearly PKR 7 billion was required for reconstruction, including PKR4 billion to rebuild the transport sector alone. The damage assessment conducted by district line departments were validated by the Sarhad Rural Support Programme. UNDP has initiated rehabilitation of 26 critical infrastructure schemes in Chitral, with US\$230,000 funding from the Government of Japan.

Immediately after the October earthquake, UNDP drafted a Recovery and Reconstruction strategy document based on consultations with PDMA, Chitral district officials and other UN agencies including UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNHabitat, and ILO. Thematic maps were used to show the extent of damage in various sectors in earthquake affected areas of Chitral, such as damage to homes, schools, roads, bridges, and water supply schemes. An estimated US\$317 million will be required for earthquake recovery. UNDP

Pakistan is collaborating with the Heritage Foundation to pilot 160 prefabricated green shelters and toilets for families who have lost their homes in Chitral and Shangla districts.

For more details,

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UN Women Press Release

UN Women names Muniba Mazari as Pakistan's first National Goodwill Ambassador

Islamabad, 10 December 2015: UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, names Muniba Mazari as Pakistan's first female Goodwill Ambassador to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The announcement took place in Islamabad, the Country's capital city, as the Saudi Pak Tower located in 'Blue Area' turned ORANGE in colour to mark the 16th Day of Activism against gender-based violence. Under a global initiative '**Orange the World: End Violence against Women and Girls**' led by UN Women on behalf of the UN Secretary-General's global campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, the campaign's ORANGE colour reflects a bright and optimistic future for women and girls, and a life free from violence and discrimination.

In her new role as National Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women Pakistan, artist-activist-writer/singer and motivational speaker, Muniba will dedicate her efforts towards the empowerment of women and girls, and would serve as an advocate for UN Women's "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender

Equality” and other campaigns advocating for change to address the challenges that are holding women and girls back from reaching their full potential, whilst engaging men and boys to take a stand and speak up for women’s rights as human rights.

Muniba, who for over the last seven years has been in a wheelchair after a car accident that left her with spinal cord injury, has represented the voice of women, men, girls and boys across Pakistan on important issues of gender inequalities, discrimination and determination to not give up and win against the odds. Muniba’s passion and conviction for women and girls’ rights will galvanize a multiplier effect that together with UN Women will reach the hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan and beyond.

Announcement of Muniba as Pakistan’s first female National Goodwill Ambassador for gender equality and women’s empowerment very timely follows the adoption by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, along with other world leaders, of a new development framework in September 2015 at the UN General Assembly. The new agenda based on seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, includes a stand-alone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as gender sensitive targets within the other goals.

Mr. Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative for UN Women Pakistan announced: “We are thrilled and honored to have Muniba Mazari as UN Women Pakistan’s first Goodwill Ambassador who epitomizes the core values of UN Women and serves as an inspirational force for hundreds of thousands of women and men in Pakistan and abroad. We are the generation with a real possibility to conquer adversity and fundamentally make a positive change.” Recently named as one of BBC’s 100 Women for 2015, Muniba’s voice and support to UN Women and to our ‘Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality” initiative, will ensure that gender equality and women’s empowerment stay at the forefront of the sustainable development agenda.

Speaking at the event, Muniba Mazari said: “I am a strong supporter of UN Women and the role we have in ending gender-based discrimination, and working towards gender equality, making it a lived reality by 2030. We need to educate both men and women if we want to eliminate gender based

discrimination from the country and from the world, and for this we'll have to work together as one. This is the time to empower women and girls because when you empower one woman, you empower the whole generation”.

Also addressing the audience was the Honorable Ms. Shaista Pervaiz (Secretary, Women's Parliamentary Caucus and Member of National Assembly) who welcomed UN Women's announcement and said that women's participation in the political arena in Pakistan continues to grow and that “many of the laws passed in recent years in Pakistan to curb harmful practices and discrimination against women would not have happened without the relentless advocacy and initiative of female members of parliament, along with a few strong male supporters”.

H.E. Mr. Tomas Rosander (Ambassador of Sweden) highlighted Sweden's longstanding commitment to both human rights as well as gender equality and remarked “Gender equality is a goal in itself. But it is also a prerequisite for a prosperous and sustainable society. Gender equality is highly cost effective; how could one afford to see half of the population not fully involved in a country's future?”

Mr. Ashley Gold (President, Ericsson Pakistan) as co-host of the event, appreciated the increasing collaboration with UN Women. In its role as a commissioner on the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, and a Board member of the UN Foundation, and a member of the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Ericsson participates with the UN and industry leaders to discuss policy recommendations for implementing broadband to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. Among others, these discussions also explore the role of ICT in supporting gender equality.

In congratulating Muniba on her appointment as UN Women's National Goodwill Ambassador, Mr. Neil Buhne (UN Resident Coordinator) emphasized that “women's rights are human rights and that vigorously advocating for gender equality is not for UN Women to address alone, but that it is a crucial agenda that the entire UN system in Pakistan will continue to be deeply engaged in.”

UN Women is thankful to the Management of Saudi Pak Tower, Ericsson Pakistan, and to Philips Pakistan Limited for their support in lighting up Saudi Pak Tower in ORANGE to raise awareness and mobilize actions to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

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UN Women - Pakistan

UN-Habitat Press Release

Health, academia, media, private and humanitarian sector came together in the first-ever Symposium to set foundation for menstrual hygiene management in Pakistan

Islamabad – 3 December, 2015: The Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Working Group organised Pakistan's first ever Symposium on menstrual hygiene management in Islamabad today. Dr. Nausheen Hamid Mairaj, MPA Punjab and Member Health and Gender Mainstreaming attended the event as chief guest. The symposium witnessed the presence of experts from across health, academia, media, private and humanitarian sector who discussed challenges and bottlenecks pertaining to the subject.

The symposium provided first of its kind forum to discuss the future of menstrual hygiene in Pakistan. Experts agreed on formulating a strategy

aligned with the vision to tackle issues in Pakistan pertaining to girls and women with regards to MHM. The symposium was set as a firm stage by organizing a series of walks for advocacy throughout the country last month.

Timothy Grieve, WASH Chief, UNICEF commenting in relation to the discussions in the Symposium said, “Fifteen million girls in Pakistan are out of school, some of this is due to lack of proper sanitation and menstrual hygiene facilities available. Research shows that 29% of girls of menstruating age can miss up to 20 days of school per year, this is unacceptable. It is time we all step forward together to improve the lives of millions of girls and women around the country by supporting better Menstrual Hygiene Management.”

Dr. Nausheen Hamid, Chief Guest, while addressing the audience said that, “We need to educate women about the issues related to menarche so they are better prepared to help their daughters and themselves. If women have better knowledge of MHM than it would help the reproductive process management. We need to take this issue at policy level for better MHM policies.”

Dr. Shehla Akram, Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak, Ms. Bella Evidente, Ms. Asiya Ashraf Chaudhry, and Mr. Matiullah Jan attended the event as expert speakers representing their relevant sector. Organisations like UNICEF, UN-Habitat, WaterAid, Plan International, IRC, Hands, RSPN, Piedar, AHKMT, Save the Children, IRSP, Muslim Aid, NRSP, Agahe, and PIMS also attended the event. The event got wide social media coverage, reaching out to 8 million people through twitter impressions worldwide and trending in Pakistan today through #MHMPakistan.

Menstruation has always remained a hushed up issue in Pakistan due to cultural constraints. As a result, the needs of women, especially in regards to sanitation, have never been brought to the fore-front. There is a dire need to “break the silence” around MHM in Pakistan through strong advocacy in order to encourage the government and relevant sectors to take action and make commitments.
