



# Media Update

12 February 2015

---

## United Nations

PRESS RELEASE

### Applications invited for United Nations journalism fellowships

The Dag Hammarskjöld Fund for Journalists is now accepting applications from professional journalists from developing countries for its 2015 fellowship program. The application deadline is March 16, 2015.

The fellowships are available to radio, television, print and web journalists, age 25 to 35, from developing countries who are interested in coming to New York to report on international affairs during the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The fellowships will begin in early September and extend to late November and will include the cost of travel and accommodations in New York, as well as a per diem allowance.

The fellowship program is open to journalists who are native to one of the developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America/the Caribbean and are currently working for media organizations. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in and commitment to international affairs and to conveying a better understanding of the United Nations to their readers and audiences. They must also have approval from their media organizations to spend up to three months in New York to report from the United Nations.

In an effort to rotate recipient countries, the Fund will not consider journalist applications for 2015 from nations selected in 2014: Nigeria, Tunisia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Journalists from these countries may apply in 2016.





Four journalists are selected each year after a review of all applications. The journalists who are awarded fellowships are given the incomparable opportunity to observe international diplomatic deliberations at the United Nations, to make professional contacts that will serve them for years to come, to interact with seasoned journalists from around the world, and to gain a broader perspective and understanding of matters of global concern. Many past fellows have risen to prominence in their professional and countries. The program is not intended to provide basic skills training to journalists; all participants are media professionals.

Full fellowship eligibility criteria and documentation requirements as well as the fellowship application form can be found on the Fund's web site at [www.unjournalismfellowship.org](http://www.unjournalismfellowship.org)

Questions about the program, eligibility and application process can be directed by email to [fellowship2015@unjournalismfellowship.org](mailto:fellowship2015@unjournalismfellowship.org).

-----

## IFAD

PRESS RELEASE

### UN agency and Pakistan sign financing agreement to support smallholder farmers who depend on livestock for food security

Rome, 12 February 2015 - The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan are financing a US\$40.83 million project to increase productivity in the livestock and dairy sector and reduce poverty for 112,500 rural households in the four poorest districts in the Punjab Province.

IFAD will provide a loan of \$35 million on highly concessional terms to finance the Pakistan Livestock and Access to Market Project (LAMP). The loan agreement was signed today in IFAD headquarters by Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, and Tehmina Janjua, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Rome.



The project will address the key constraints that prevent growth in the livestock sector in Pakistan. These include low overall productivity, high disease and mortality rates among livestock, and farmers' limited access to markets and agribusinesses - such as dairies.

The IFAD-supported project is co-financed with contributions from the government of Punjab, the beneficiaries themselves and the private sector. It will be implemented over a six-year period.

“We are addressing the needs of the poorest farmers whose livelihoods and food security depend on livestock,” said Hubert Boirard, Country Programme Manager, IFAD. “Many of the poorest households are those headed by women. All livestock farmers will receive training and support to develop livestock production and connect to markets and small dairy businesses in the region.”

To date, IFAD has invested in 26 projects in Pakistan that had a total cost of nearly 2.4 billion of which IFAD contributed \$565.8 million, directly benefitting 1,980,400 households.

-----

## UNICEF

PRESS RELEASE

### More brutal and intense conflicts leave children increasingly at risk of recruitment

NEW YORK, 12 February **2015** – Children are increasingly vulnerable to recruitment and use by armed groups as conflicts around the world become more brutal, intense and widespread, UNICEF and the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict said today to mark the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers.

“While Governments of the world have made progress to recognize children have no place in their armies, the recruitment of child soldiers is still a huge problem, especially with armed groups,” said Leila Zerrougui,





the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. "Out of 59 parties to conflict identified by the Secretary-General for grave violations against children, 57 are named because they are recruiting and using child soldiers."

UNICEF and the Office of the Special Representative call for urgent action to end grave violations against children including their recruitment and use by armed groups. Parties to conflicts must meet their obligations under International Law.

"The release of all children from armed groups must take place without delay. We cannot wait for peace to help children caught in the midst of war," said UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Yoka Brandt. "Investing in ways to keep children away from the frontlines, including through education and economic support, is absolutely critical to their future and the future of their societies."

Tens of thousands of boys and girls are associated with armed forces and armed groups in conflicts in over 20 countries around the world. Many have been victims of, witness to and forced participants in acts of unspeakable brutality.

**In Afghanistan**, despite progress to end the recruitment and use of children in national security forces, children continue to be recruited by parties to conflict such as the Haqqani Network and the Taliban. In the most extreme cases, children have been used as suicide bombers, to make weapons and transport explosives.

**In the Central African Republic**, boys and girls as young as eight years old were recruited and used by all parties to the conflict to take direct part in inter-ethnic and religious violence.

**In the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the United Nations documented new cases of recruitment of children by multiple armed groups operating in the eastern part of the country. The children, in some cases as young as 10, were recruited and used as combatants, or in support functions such as porters and cooks. Girls were reportedly used as sex slaves or were victims of other forms of sexual violence.

**In Iraq and Syria**, the advances by ISIL and the proliferation of armed groups have made children even more vulnerable to recruitment. Children







as young as 12, are undergoing military training and have been used as informants, to patrol, to man checkpoints and to guard strategic locations. In some cases, they have been used as suicide bombers and to carry out executions.

UNICEF works with partners to support children once they are released from armed groups. This includes reunifying them with their families and providing them with health care, basic necessities and psychological support as well as access to education and training programmes. Just recently, the gradual release of approximately 3,000 children from the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA) Cobra Faction began. More than 500 children have been released in the past two weeks and are receiving support to return to civilian life. Further releases are expected over the next month.

###

**About the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers:** The international Day against the Use of Child was initiated in 2002 when the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* entered into force on February 12, 2002. This protocol was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in May 2000 and has been ratified by 159 states.

**About the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict:** The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict serves as the leading UN advocate for the protection of children affected by armed conflict and brings the voice of children affected by war to the UN's highest bodies. Since 1999, the systematic engagement of the UN Security Council has established a strong framework allowing the Special Representative and the UN system to denounce, engage with parties to conflict and respond to grave violations against children.

For more information about the Office of the Special Representative, visit: [www.childrenandarmedconflict.un.org](http://www.childrenandarmedconflict.un.org)

**About UNICEF:** UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.





For more information about UNICEF and its work visit: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)  
Follow UNICEF on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Access broadcast quality b-roll  
and photos here: <http://uni.cf/1DFMo1j>

### For more information

Melanie Sharpe, UNICEF New York [msharpe@unicef.org](mailto:msharpe@unicef.org) +1 917-251-7670

Stephanie Tremblay, Office of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict  
Office, [tremblay@un.org](mailto:tremblay@un.org), +1 917 288 5791

- Daniel Timme, Chief, Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF Pakistan, Phone:  
+92 300 500 2595, Email: [dtimme@unicef.org](mailto:dtimme@unicef.org)

-----

## United Nations

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### World Radio Day- 13 February 2015

On World Radio Day, we celebrate a medium that captures the imagination  
and brings people together.

Every year, United Nations Radio broadcasts over 1,200 documentaries,  
news items and editorials over the airwaves.

This year's observance of World Radio Day highlights the importance of  
radio to the world's 1.8 billion young women and men.

Radio matters for youth across the world.

As the international community shapes new sustainable development  
goals and a new global agreement on climate change, we need to hear the  
voices young women and men, loudly, strongly and urgently.

\*\*\*

