

Media Update

16 November 2015

UNICEF

PRESS RELEASE

World Prematurity Day Calls for Reducing Preterm Births and Child Deaths due to Related Complications

ISLAMABAD, 16 November 2015: Pakistan, along with the rest of the world will observe the 5th annual World Prematurity Day tomorrow, to show its commitment towards reducing the number of preterm births in the country. According to an estimate, around 750,000 preterm births are recorded each year in Pakistan.

Globally, fifteen million babies are born preterm each year and over 1 million children die before their fifth birthday from related complications. Pakistan, India and Nigeria account for more than 60 per cent of the total number of babies born prematurely each year and 50 percent of the deaths due to preterm complications.

“The recently launched Sustainable Development Goals to which Pakistan stands committed, include ending preventable child deaths by 2030,” says Angela Kearney, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. “In order to achieve this target, we must focus on preterm births – one of the leading causes of death for children under 5 years of age. Pakistan has made significant strides in its health policies in the past year to improve access and care for mothers and newborns. However, the quality of care for women and newborns needs to be further scaled up so that they survive, thrive and transform the society.



World Prematurity Day is part of a global effort to raise awareness about the deaths and disabilities due to prematurity. Up to 75 per cent of deaths of preterm babies are preventable. Scaling up the quality and coverage of care for women and their babies will bear a triple return on investment preventing 54 per cent of maternal deaths, 71 per cent of new born deaths and 33 per cent of still births.

An important aspect of prevention of preterm birth is adequate maternal nutrition which is critical for foetal development. Women with low Body Mass Index or low pregnancy weight gain are at increased risk for preterm birth.

In addition, there are proven low-cost interventions that are especially effective for preterm babies. These include antenatal steroid injections given to mothers in preterm labour, Kangaroo Mother Care – a technique used to keep the newborn warm and support breast feeding. Good hygiene care can help prevent multiple infections while early initiation of breast feeding within the first hour can particularly help prevent deaths.

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 further information, please contact:

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ILO

PRESS RELEASE

Towards a Decent Work Network with Academia

Islamabad, 16 November 2015: In order to share information on the ILO's global Decent Work Agenda and the Decent Work Country Programme in Pakistan (DWCP) in the context of the socio-economic development of the country; labour and employment trends and to discuss the role of young women and men and academia in promoting Decent Work amongst a wide stakeholder base, a seminar was organized at Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad aimed at establishing a collaborative framework on 12th November 2015. More than 50 research scholars (M.Phil students) and faculty members of the university attended the seminar.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has a unique tripartite structure which ensures that the voices of three key actors of the world of work (governments, employers and workers) are heard and given equal importance in policy and development initiatives. Today, ILO is working actively to support 186 member States to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

The seminar outlined the current programmes of ILO in Pakistan and reviewed ILO's technical support globally and more specifically in countries in South Asia. The seminar was facilitated by three technical specialists from ILO Technical Support Team based in New Delhi (India), including Mr Sher Verick (Deputy Director Delhi Office), Mr Markus Ruck (Snr. Technical Specialist on Social Protection) and Mr Ravindra Peiris (Snr. Technical Specialist on Employers' Activities). The ILO Officer-in-Charge for Islamabad, Ms Sherin Khan, also addressed the seminar and requested the university to identify areas of meaningful collaboration with ILO.

The faculty members and students took keen interest in the issues related to the realization of decent work in Pakistan and raised a number of questions related to causes of prevailing child labour in Pakistan, increasing informality



of work, the extension of social protection, the relevance of ILO support to Pakistan, and challenges related to data and analysis for informed policy decision making.

The Dean of Social Sciences, Dr Aliya H. Khan, welcomed ILO's initiative for the establishment of a Decent Work Network with academia and identified various means for further collaboration in terms of joint researches and knowledge-sharing. Students also identified summer-internships as a means of collaboration between the University and ILO.

The ILO is planning to further expand and reach out to other stakeholders in Pakistan in order to advance the agenda of Decent Work more effectively.

For more information, please contact:

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UNODC

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of Theoretical Training for the World pilot CCP AIR - “Air Cargo Profiling Unit”

Karachi, 16 November 2015 - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Pakistan today organized a two weeks theoretical training of the Karachi Airport “Air Cargo Profiling Unit” under its Global Container Programme, at Ramada Plaza Hotel Karachi.



The Global Container Control Program is a joint initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organization. This initiative helps states to set in place an effective inter-agency law enforcement structure, to minimise the exploitation of containers for illicit drug trafficking and the smuggling of various illicit consignments such as chemical precursors, arms and ammunition, endangered species, and items relating to intellectual property rights. This Program was launched in 2005 with pilot projects in Ecuador, Pakistan, and Senegal. Karachi was among the first ports to establish a (maritime) Container Control Unit.

Jinnah International Karachi is the country's biggest airport with the approximate passenger movement of 6 million per year. It also handles more than 50 % of the country's air cargo with an average of 150 tons per year. This highlights the significance of having an effective profiling unit at Karachi Airport; especially given its geopolitical importance in the region's trade, and Pakistan's contiguity to Afghanistan.

Given the encouraging results of the Container Control Programme in sea ports, UNODC is now in the phase of expanding the same concept for airports. Government of Pakistan had asked UNODC and WCO to help them establish the first pilot unit in Karachi. The Karachi air cargo control unit will be mandated to profile cargos entering/exiting the airport in order to minimize the risk of air consignments being exploited for smuggle of illicit drugs, precursors, arms and ammunition and other sorts of illegitimate goods.

For this UNODC has organised a two week theoretical practical training of the Karachi Airport "Air Cargo Profiling Unit" with the participation of representatives from Denmark, France, Japan, UK, international organizations UNODC, WCO, ICAO as well as officials from Pakistan Federal Board of Revenue, Anti-Narcotics Force and Civil Aviation Authorities.

The training is being conducted by Instructors from World Customs Organization and UK Border Police. In the long term UNODC plans to expand it to major airports of Pakistan including Lahore and Islamabad.

Addressing the audience at the launch Cesar Guedes, Country Representative said "it is an honour to see that Pakistan in launching yet another world pilot project in the field of drug control and border security". He also stated – "I would like to highlight that the Global Container Control Programme has been one the most successful UNODC initiatives: starting in 2005 as described in 3 countries including Pakistan, and today operational in 28; while another 25 states are in the process of participating therein."

Since its inception in 2005, UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme has been a worldwide success with tons and tons seizure of illicit drugs and other contrabands. Currently, it is being run in sea ports of 28 countries and another 25 countries are willing to join the initiative. Pakistan alone, has seized more than 50 tons of cannabis, 3 tons of heroin, and 30 tons of chemical precursors since 2008.

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Karachi
