

Media Update

17 August 2015

United Nations

Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Pakistan

The Secretary-General condemns the bomb attack today in District Attock in Pakistan's Punjab Province. He was saddened to learn that the attack had killed more than a dozen people, including Punjab's Home Minister, Shuja Khazada, and injured many others.

The Secretary-General reiterates that nothing justifies terrorism. He hopes the perpetrators will be brought to justice swiftly.

The Secretary-General extends his condolences to the families of the victims and wishes the injured a speedy recovery. He expresses his sympathies to the people and Government of Pakistan.

New York, 16 August 2015

ILO

PRESS RELEASE

District Model for Social Protection Developed for KP Province

Islamabad Monday, 17 August 2015: A comprehensive social protection system for the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been developed in consultation with the Federal and Provincial Governments and piloted in two



Districts including Peshawar and Nowshera. To streamline this system, a three-day consultative workshop on ‘How to implement Social Protection Floors’ was delivered by International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Planning & Development (P&D) Department of KP Government from 10-12 August. The workshop was co-hosted by the Social Protection Reforms Unit (SPRU) in the Planning and Development Department who have the primary role of mainstreaming Social Protection work in Government programmes and was attended by more than 40 officials from departments and organizations involved in social protection in KP Province including the social welfare department, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP); Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal; Zakat; Employees Social Security Institution (ESSI); Employees Old-age Benefits Institution (EOBI); Health; Education; UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and a number of civil society organizations. .

The Constitution of Pakistan under Article 38 guarantees comprehensive social security to the citizens of Pakistan. Similarly, the ILO Recommendation 202 of 2012 also promotes a “nationally defined set of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion”.

The workshop reviewed existing status of social protection in KP Province and identified a clear way forward for implementation by looking at reshaping the functions of the social protection system in line with the vision of draft KP Social Protection Policy; the design, institutional set up and organisational structure for Social Protection in KP; defining an implementation plan (including Organizing and Costing the implementation); and developing human resources and information campaigns for an effective social protection system.

The workshop was facilitated by two international experts from ILO Geneva including **Ms. Valerie Schmitt**, Chief Social Policy, Governance and Standards Branch, Social Protection Department and **Mr. Thibault Van Langenhove**, Social Protection Policy Officer, Governance & Standards Branch, Social Protection Department. They shared the global knowledge on successful models of social protection in different countries including Brazil, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Mexico and South-Africa.

The Project Director of SPR Unit, **Mr Asif Shahab** welcomed ILO’s technical support in establishing a broad-based Social Protection programme in the KP Province and assured that once the pilot in two Districts is completed, the

Government will fully institutionalize the coordinated social protection in all 25 Districts of KP Province.

Mr Francesco d'Ovidio-Country Director, ILO Islamabad highlighted the need for a well-coordinated social protection floor to reach out to vulnerable groups including informal economy workers – who constitute more than 70% of the 59.6 million workforce of the country. He assured ILO's continued support to the Government of KP Province in advancing social protection and also thanked the Government of Japan for its financial support to the project.

The training course was part of ILO's project on 'Promoting Social Protection Floor Initiative in KP' in collaboration with the Planning & Development (P&D) Department of the Government of KP. The project is funded by the 'ILO-Japan Social Safety Net in Asia and Pacific (JSSN)' and is implemented in two pilot Districts of Peshawar and Nowshera.

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