

Media Update

18 August 2016

United Nations

Secretary-General Message

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

19 August 2016

A record 130 million people are dependent on humanitarian assistance to survive. Grouped together, these people in need would comprise the tenth most populous nation on Earth.

These figures are truly staggering, yet they tell only a fraction of the story. Hidden behind the statistics are individuals, families and communities whose lives have been devastated. People no different to you and me: children, women and men who face impossible choices every day. They are parents who must choose between buying food or medicine for their children; children who must choose between school or working to support their families; families who must risk bombing at home or a perilous escape by sea.

The solutions to the crises that have plunged these people into such desperate hardship are neither simple nor quick. But there are things we can all do – today, and every day. We can show compassion, we can raise our voices against injustice, and we can work for change.

World Humanitarian Day is an annual reminder of the need to act to alleviate the suffering. It is also an occasion to honour the humanitarian workers and volunteers toiling on the frontlines of crises. I pay tribute to these dedicated women and men who brave danger to help others at far greater risk.

Today, I urge everyone to sign on to the United Nations “World You’d Rather” campaign. As well as raising awareness and building empathy, the campaign has a concrete goal: to raise money for the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund and to enrol the support of individuals



everywhere as Messengers of Humanity. We need everybody to demand that their societies and governments put humanity first.

Earlier this year, 9,000 participants gathered in Istanbul for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit. World leaders committed to transform the lives of people living in conflict, disaster and acute vulnerability. They rallied behind the Agenda for Humanity and its pledge to leave no one behind.

This promise is also at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals. With their focus on human rights, resilience and poverty eradication, these 17 global goals offer a 15-year plan to reduce needs and vulnerability and promote a world of peace, dignity and opportunity for all. To succeed on this collective journey, we need everyone to play their part. Each one of us can make a difference. On this World Humanitarian Day, let us unite in the name of humanity and show that we cannot and will not leave any one behind.

UNDP

Press Release

Cost-sharing agreement between UNDP and Balochistan government ensures continued assistance for refugee affected areas

Islamabad, 18 August 2016 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Balochistan today signed a cost-sharing agreement worth PKR 100 million to provide assistance and support to impoverished areas which have experienced the social, economic and environmental impacts of hosting refugees from Afghanistan since 1979.

This is a continuation of the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) project, which developed infrastructure and built social cohesion in 12 districts, benefitting 1.35 million people in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces with European Union funding. The extension will seek to make up for shortfalls in achieving the original targets in Balochistan province.



The agreement was signed by Marc-André Franche, the outgoing UNDP Country Director; Dr Hamid Khan Achakzai, the Balochistan Minister for Planning & Development; and Daud Barrech, Balochistan Additional Chief Secretary for Development. Under the agreement, UNDP will mobilize additional resources to scale-up the programme.

“The communities involved in the first phase of RAHA lag considerably in terms of human development and infrastructure compared to the rest of Pakistan,” said Marc-André Franche. “Building social cohesion, stronger livelihoods, essential infrastructure and social and environmental protections helped build their resilience despite the strain caused by an influx of refugees needing assistance.”

Using €40.5 million in funding from the European Union, RAHA expanded from 23 to 102 union councils in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, directly benefitting 54 percent of the population, against a target of 60 percent in these areas between 2011 and 2015. Under this project, over 4,100 community organizations were formed to lead local development agendas, and community and major infrastructure schemes (such as roads) benefitted over 584,000 people. Clean drinking water and education projects benefitted 717,000 people in both provinces, while reforestation led to nearly half a million trees planted. The project also contributed to the only facility which provides free orthopaedic and prosthetic services in Balochistan. This new cost-sharing agreement will expand on the gains made between 2011 and 2015, and consolidate them in some of the most deprived areas of Balochistan province.

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UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

