

# Media Update

19 July 2016

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## ILO

Press Release

### **Closing Ceremony of One UN Project: ‘Livelihood restoration, protection and sustainable empowerment of vulnerable peasant communities in the Sindh Province (LRP)’**

Islamabad (UN-News): Improving the living standard of the common people in Pakistan is core agenda of UN, said Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. Talking at the closing ceremony of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) funded project, he said this project is unique in structure and has improved the lives of the people by giving them a choice. Quoting from recent UN statistics, he revealed that multidimensional poverty in Sindh stands at 43 percent and in some districts it touches the fearful figure of 70 percent plus. He proposed enforcing “human security” on the principle of holistically reaching first to the most secluded people. He said that the project improved people’s life and choice and freed them from fears. He described the project as unique in the sense that it gave the people voice, choice and dignity.

Addressing the occasion Ms. Ingrid Christensen, Country Director ILO said that the ILO closely cooperate with other organizations at national, regional and global levels for achieving the decent work objectives, especially focusing the rural economies. The ILO is recognized for promoting decent work in rural economies through creating green jobs, employment and skills development, providing micro-finance and insurance services, developing micro enterprises, and risk reduction methodologies. In this particular project, ILO team closely worked with youth and poorest peasants for making their livelihoods resilient. She also spoke about the 2010 and 2011 floods of Pakistan and their adverse impact on Sindh, particularly Mirpurkhas and Dadu districts, leading to joint recovery operations by FAO, UN Women and



ILO. She commended the unity of UN agencies and said she was inspired by the transformation in the life of the beneficiaries of the project.

Mr. Patrick T Evans, FAO Representative in Pakistan highlighted the uniqueness of the project that supplemented the FAO's on farm activities like improved agriculture production, irrigation systems and soil management. ILO and UN Women added value through their off-farm and Women focused activities to strengthen the livelihood resilience of the benefitted communities.

'Ms. Sangeeta Thapa, Deputy Country Representative UN Women said the project improved women's role in household and community level decision making and has improved their access to national identity cards. She further said that the land tenancy agreements for landless women farmers are a landmark achievement of the project, she appreciated the Sindh government's support and urged the government and other partners for scaling up of these initiatives to other parts of the country as well.

Representatives of the 'employers' and 'workers' organizations also spoke on the occasion. They spotlighted that three times more agriculture production can be achieved by organizing the agriculture workers and employers, as has been practically demonstrated by the LRP.

Champa and Nursing, who had come from Mirpurkhas, represented the beneficiary community. Champa acknowledged the effectiveness of green skills training provided to her by the ILO. She said " I was able to construct 2,000 smokeless, fuel efficient and environment friendly stoves. I thus earned a profit of 400,000 rupee and also managed to win the Entrepreneurship award from the governor of Sindh". Nursing declared that he was getting three crops per season from his conservation agriculture plot and his wife was able to setup a grocery shop-thus they were feeling quite secure and resilient.

Commissioner Mirpurkhas Division Shafiq Ahmed Mahesar lauded the project, especially the micro-enterprise development initiatives that had boosted the rural economy of Sindh. He also emphasized the need for scaling up the good practices from the project to other parts of the Sindh so that human security of many more vulnerable populations could be improved and the capacity of the Sindh government could be developed simultaneously.

Talking at the ceremony, Mr. Altaf Bijarani Secretary Planning and Development acknowledged that the project was a real success in bringing



human security to 11800 families. He emphasized the need for expanding the good practices from the project to other parts of the Sindh. He pledged that government of Sindh in cooperation with the UN and the donor agencies will soon launch an expansion of the project to other parts of the Sindh. He further committed to call a donors conference immediately after Eid to further take up the expansion of the project.

A booklet based on inspiring stories from this project titled “Rebuilding Flood Affected Farmers’ Communities: Inspirational Human Stories” was also launched. A mime performance highlighting the issues that the community faced, caught the eye of the audience.

Representatives from the government, donor organizations, beneficiaries, civil society and media people were also present on the occasion. This 3 year project steered by the government of Sindh, was jointly implemented by FAO, ILO and UN Women in Dadu and Mirpur Khas Districts. The project was steered by the Planning & Development Department, Government of Sindh. The key achievements of this project include improved livelihoods and economic security of rural communities, enhanced skills and knowledge base of nearly men and women peasant farmers, landless people and empowerment of peasant organizations, women groups and their constituent hari members to enhance their natural resource base.

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## UNESCO

### Media Advisory

#### **Consultation meeting on policies for Pakistan’s culture and creative sector- Islamabad**

The consultation meeting will be held in Islamabad on 20 & 21 July and aims to bring together government officials from Federal, Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and civil society actors to discuss the state of affairs of Pakistan’s culture and creative sectors, raise awareness on UNESCO 2005 Convention



on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and suggest policy recommendations for the cultural and creative sectors.

**What:** Consultation with culture stakeholders and creative entrepreneurs on policies for culture and creative sectors

**When:** 20 & 21 July 2016

**Timings:** 20 July: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm & 21 July: 8:30 am to 11:00 am

**Who:** Supported by Centre for Culture and Development (CKU- Denmark) and facilitated by UNESCO, governmental actors, representatives of civil society organizations, including women, youth, media and marginalized groups and young entrepreneurs will attend the two day event

**Where:** Hotel Grand Ambassador, Islamabad

### **Preliminary programme- 20 July: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm**

1:00- Registration of participants  
1:15pm

1:30- Welcome Remarks by Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO  
1:50 pm Representative to Pakistan

Address by Mr. Mohsin S Haqqani, Secretary National History and Literary Division, Government of Pakistan

Address by Ms. Sobia Jabeen Mokadam, Minister for Women Development, Youth Affairs and Culture, Government of Gilgit Baltistan

1:50- Presentation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and  
2:30pm Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and its  
guiding principles

Q&A

### **Preliminary programme- 21 July: 8:30 am - 11:00 am**

8:30am Registration of participants

9:00- Opening by representative of the Provincial or Federal





- 9:20 am Government or the Ministry of Culture  
Key note address by Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO  
Representative to Pakistan
- 9:20-10:30am Presentation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and  
Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and its  
guiding principles, by Mr. Andrew Senior  
Triangulation
- 10:30-11:00am Coffee break

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