

Media Update

19 May 2016

United Nations

Press Release

UN EDUCATION ENVOY GORDON BROWN CHALLENGES WORLD TO WAKE UP TO 'FULL-BLOWN CRISIS' AND COSTS OF A LOST GENERATION DENIED SCHOOLING

PAKISTANI MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION BACKS NEW FUND

More than 100 of the world's leading countries, companies and philanthropists are to join forces to create a 'major breakthrough' in the fight to provide education for millions of children displaced by conflicts and natural disasters.

The new 'Education Cannot Wait' fund is being launched next week at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

United Nations Special Envoy Gordon Brown says action now has to happen urgently because this is becoming a "full-blown global crisis" that will haunt the world for generations with 20 million school-age child refugees or displaced persons denied an education.

Speaking to correspondents at UN Headquarters in New York, Brown said that the new fund could be the only chance to save a generation lost to war, child marriage, forced labour and the recruiters for violent extremism.

Mr. Brown will urge Western leaders, in particular, to step up to the plate and act now.



GLOBAL LEADERS BACK CREATION OF GROUNDBREAKING NEW FUND

The fund - a historic, global first that will seek substantial sums from governments and business - is being hailed as a 'game changer' in urgently targeting the needs of 30 million displaced children - the largest population of uprooted girls and boys since 1945.

These 30 million make up some of the 75 million children and youth who have seen their education severely disrupted because of conflicts, natural disasters and other crises.

Mr. Brown will unveil support from UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and a number of world leaders, including Graça Machel.

Education Commissioner and Adviser/Trustee of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), Baela Jamil, said: "Education must be a priority in emergency situations -- whether a flood, earthquake, conflict or displacement. Education Cannot Wait is a historic new fund that must be supported with financing from governments and the private sector."

Fellow Commissioner Amel Karboul, Secretary-General of the Maghreb Economic Forum and Former Minister of Tourism of Tunisia, has also enthusiastically backed the new fund:

She said: "We talk about securing the future of global education by disrupting education – changing the narrative and how we secure rights for millions of out-of-school children. With the launch of Education Cannot Wait, this is what we mean.

"I hope this will be but the first achievement in the march towards making education disruptions during emergencies a thing of the past. And I hope the international community will join us in seeing this promise come to fruition."

The goal is to recruit 100 major donors - from philanthropic foundations and the business sector as well as governments and international agencies.

Education Cannot Wait has been three years in the making. It will fill the gap where education falls through the net - between humanitarian aid,





which focuses on food and shelter, and development aid, which is by definition focused on the long-term.

Official figures from UN OCHA show that education aid secures less than TWO PER CENT of emergency funding.

The new fund has unique features:

- It will offer not weeks of educational emergency help but up to FIVE YEARS, recognising that the average time a refugee is out of their country is more than 10 years.
- It will have private sector, foundation and philanthropic windows and will be the first comprehensive education public partnership in humanitarian aid.
- It will engage philanthropic companies in innovative solutions to deliver education, including bold experiments in online education to help refugees in camps and those holed up in hovels, huts and tents.

The ultimate aim for Education Cannot Wait is to transform humanitarian aid for the future.

Mr. Brown, the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, said:

“This is a lost generation we must help urgently. We live in a world where refugee needs are not temporary, with many spending more than a decade out of country.

“For too long we have neglected the education of young people in conflict zones - at the cost of making youth the recruits for terrorist groups and their parents the most likely to leave and seek a better future for their children in Europe or America.

“When we ask ourselves what breaks once-thriving young children, it is not just the Mediterranean wave that submerges the life vest, nor the food convoy that does not make it to Madaya in Syria. It is also the absence of hope – the soul-crushing certainty that there is nothing ahead to plan or prepare for, not even a place in school.”



Many businesses have already agreed to take part alongside many of the world's top aid donors. Individual philanthropists have also been approached.

The new fund will build on the recent Syrian initiative promising one million Syrian refugees schooling in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan but it will also occur in Nepal where 900,000 children are out of school because of the earthquake emergency, in South Sudan where one third of children are denied schooling and in Nigeria where Boko Haram have closed 5,000 schools.

Further support has come from Yuriko Koike, Member of the House of Representatives (Japan) and Former Japanese Minister of Defense, also a member of The Education Commission.

Yuriko Koike said: "Today, 75 million school-age children are affected worldwide by wars, conflicts and natural disasters. Given that half of them are girls, some are subjected to being sold and some give birth to new refugees due to a lack of knowledge about contraception.

"It is urgent that we ensure their access to education while delivering food, water, shelter and protection. The international community and the public must contribute to Education Cannot Wait — an embrace innovative new ways of financing — to harness public and private resources for education in emergencies.

Jakaya Kikwete, former President of Tanzania and member of The Education Commission said: "In times of conflict and disaster, we must prioritize education. We can no longer be complacent with business as usual. The new education in emergencies fund will bridge the humanitarian-development divide to provide life-saving education.

Bilateral and multilateral donors must fully finance this initiative because "education cannot wait."

His call was backed up by Justin W. van Fleet, Director of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and Chief of Staff to the UN Education Envoy, who said: Education Cannot Wait will be a new, historic fund to deliver education in emergencies and realise the long-awaited promise for children and youth impacted by crises and conflict. The ambitious fund will be aimed squarely at bucking the trend in the



growing number of refugees, displaced persons and children locked out of opportunity during circumstances beyond their control – whether it be earthquakes, floods, outbreaks or armed conflict.”

The Commission is co-convened by Prime Minister Solberg (Norway), Presidents Bachelet (Chile), Widodo (Indonesia), Mutharika (Malawi) and UNESCO Director-General Bokova.

Notes for Editors:

The ILO has the latest most up to date figures on child labour globally:
http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Informationresources/WCMS_358969/lang--en/index.htm

Latest child marriage figures:
<http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/child-marriage.html>

There are an estimated 30 million children who are forcibly displaced:
http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_89673.html

For further information, contact:

Mark Seddon: mseddon@educationcommission.org

Reid Lidow: rlidow@educationcommission.org

UNAIDS

Press Release

UNAIDS calls for sustained investment and increased collaboration to develop an HIV vaccine

GENEVA, 18 May 2016—On HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, UNAIDS calls for greater resources and increased collaboration among governments, the scientific community and the private sector to advance research towards finding an effective HIV vaccine.





“Developing an effective HIV vaccine would be a major scientific and medical breakthrough for humankind,” said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé. “Alongside expanding access to existing antiretroviral medicines and combination HIV prevention tools, sustained investment and intensified collaboration to develop an HIV vaccine is needed to bring the world a step closer to ending the AIDS epidemic.”

In 2014, global investment in HIV vaccine research and development increased by 2.8%, to US\$ 841 million, up from US\$ 818 million in 2013. However, this rebound followed five years during which available resources either flatlined or declined, with a high of US\$ 961 million in 2007. The United States of America remains the largest investor in HIV research and development.

Public–private and international partnerships have been formed to accelerate progress towards an effective HIV vaccine. UNAIDS is working together with partners, such as the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, AVAC and other stakeholders, to advance research. UNAIDS is also an active participant in the annual vaccine funders’ meetings coordinated by the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise to highlight the importance of continued research, sustained funding and coordinated responses towards HIV vaccine discovery.

Over the past 30 years, four concepts for an HIV vaccine have been tested in six efficacy trials. Of these, the RV144 vaccine trial in Thailand in 2009 was most promising, reducing HIV infection risk by 31%. It is hoped that ongoing research will lead to at least two further large-scale trials of vaccine candidates starting in the near future. At the same time, work continues to develop other potential vaccines, including a combined vaccine for HIV and hepatitis C. The effectiveness of neutralizing antibodies is also being studied.

An HIV vaccine will be necessary for the long-term control of HIV and is the best hope for sustaining the progress made towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

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For further info contact:



UNAIDS Geneva ** Sophie Barton-Knott ** tel. [+41 22 791 1697](tel:+41227911697) **
bartonknotts@unaids.org

UNICEF

Press Release

Four schools or hospitals attacked or occupied every day – UNICEF

UN children’s agency calls for protection of schools and hospitals ahead of World Humanitarian Summit

NEW YORK 19 May 2016 – An average of four schools or hospitals are attacked or occupied by armed forces and groups every day – according to UNICEF analysis released ahead of the World Humanitarian Summit. The findings, drawn from the most recent Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, come in the wake of recent attacks on education and health facilities and workers – including the bombing of schools in Yemen, and a strike on a hospital in Aleppo, Syria on 27 April, that killed at least 50 people, including one of the last paediatrician’s in the area.

“Children are being killed, wounded, and permanently disabled in the very places where they should be protected and feel safe,” said Afshan Khan, UNICEF’s Director of Emergency Programmes.

“Attacks against schools and hospitals during conflict are an alarming, and disgraceful, trend. Intentional and direct strikes on these facilities, and on health workers and teachers, can be war crimes. Governments and other actors need to urgently protect schools and hospitals by upholding the





provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and states must sign the Safe Schools Declaration.”

Attacks against schools and hospitals are one of the six grave violations against children identified and addressed by the UN Security Council. The last Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict documented more than 1500 incidents of attacks on, or military use of, schools and hospitals in 2014, including:

- In Afghanistan 163 schools and 38 health facilities were attacked.
- In Syria, 60 attacks on education facilities were recorded, as well as nine cases of military use of schools and 28 attacks on health facilities.
- In Yemen, 92 schools were used for military purposes by armed forces and groups.
- In South Sudan, there were seven incidents of attacks on schools and 60 involving military use.
- A total of 543 educational facilities were damaged or destroyed in the State of Palestine and three attacks were documented on Israeli schools.
- According to education authorities in Northeast Nigeria, a total of 338 schools were destroyed and damaged between 2012 and 2014.

Over the past year, the UN monitoring system has also documented so-called ‘double-tap’, or even ‘triple-tap’, strikes on healthcare facilities in which civilians are attacked, as well as the first responders arriving on the scene.

Beyond attacks on buildings, conflict has other far-reaching consequences on children’s education and healthcare. In Syria, for example, as well as attacks on hospitals, the removal of medical kits and surgical supplies from aid convoys, restrictions on medevacs, and killing of medical personnel, mean that access to critical and lifesaving healthcare for civilians in affected areas is diminishing day by day.

“Children are being abducted from their schools in horrific circumstances in countries like Nigeria and South Sudan, while others are being raped, or recruited and used as child soldiers,” said Afshan Khan.

The very first World Humanitarian Summit will take place in Istanbul on the 23rd and 24th of May. Global leaders will discuss how to effectively respond to major humanitarian emergencies, and how to be better prepared to meet challenges of the future.



Notes to editors:

Interviews are available from countries affected by humanitarian emergencies, as well as from UNICEF HQ in New York.

For further information, please contact:

Rose Foley, UNICEF New York, Tel: + 1 917 340 2582, rfoley@unicef.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 Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

UNICEF

Press Release

Stunting is Holding Back the Development of South Asian Children and Nations

New Delhi, 18 May 2016 – *Stop Stunting in South Asia*, a special issue of the international journal *Maternal and Child Nutrition* offers evidence that stunting is holding back the development of South Asian children and nations. The latest data indicate that 38 percent of South Asia's children under five years of age – about 64 million children - have stunted growth due to chronic nutritional deprivation.

Stunting causes physical and neurocognitive damage that is most often irreversible. Stunted children have stunted bodies and brains and live stunted lives, hampering the development of entire societies. South Asia remains the epicenter of the global child stunting crisis, compromising the future of the whole region. *Stop Stunting in South Asia* focuses on three



major drivers of child stunting in the region: poor diets of children in the first two years of life; poor nutrition of women before and during pregnancy; and poor hygiene and sanitation practices in households and communities. The special issue features papers by global experts in maternal and child nutrition and the linkages between nutrition and sanitation. It also features papers by specialists based in South Asia who offer country-specific perspectives for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan – countries that contribute substantially to the burden of stunting.

“South Asian nations must invest in large-scale programmes along with equity-focused social and economic policies for the prevention of stunting. These programmes must be based on evidence and give priority to the most vulnerable children and women” said Karin Hulshof, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia.

Through their participation in the World Health Assembly, all South Asian countries have endorsed the global target to reduce the number of stunted children by 40 percent by 2025. “Countries in South Asia need to seize the opportunity of economic growth to invest in addressing child stunting at scale. These are investments that, if supported, can ‘lock in the potential’ for children and nations, with benefits that far exceed the cost” added Dr. Purnima Menon, Senior Research Fellow with IFPRI.

“Over the last two decades, the prevalence of stunting in South Asia declined from about 61 percent to about 38 percent. This is a remarkable achievement. The challenge ahead is to accelerate progress so that South Asia delivers its share of the global target to reduce child stunting. South Asian countries can afford to stop stunting and cannot afford the cost of inaction. The benefits of action will far exceed the cost” said Dr. Victor Aguayo, UNICEF Regional Nutrition Advisor for South Asia.

Studies estimate that every US\$ 1 invested in nutrition generates US\$18 in economic returns. Large declines in child stunting can be achieved with political will and evidence-based interventions. The need to invest fully to address stunting in South Asia is urgent.

Victor M. Aguayo (UNICEF) and Purnima Menon (IFPRI) are the guest editors of Stop Stunting in South Asia, a special issue of the international journal Maternal and Child Nutrition.

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To download Stop Stunting in South Asia:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/mcn.2016.12.issue-S1/issuetoc>

For more information, photos and videos: www.stopstunting.org

Note to the Editors:

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For further information, please contact:

Jean-Jacques Simon, UNICEF South Asia: jsimon@unicef.org +977
9801030076

Vaishali Dassani, IFPRI South Asia : V.Dassani@cgiar.org 91
9810020635

UN Women

Press Release

Pakistan Launches its Status Report on Women's Economic Participation & Empowerment

18 May 2016: A status report on women's economic participation and empowerment in Pakistan was launched at an event jointly hosted by the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on Wednesday 18 May 2016 at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad.

Pakistan's newly launched 'Women's Economic Participation and Empowerment - Status Report 2016' emphasizes the complex and multifaceted concept of women's economic empowerment and in using national survey data and qualitative studies documents the status of Pakistani women to different dimensions and determinants of economic participation such as human, financial and physical capital, employment statistics and vulnerability in employment, gender wage differentials and poverty. The report also documents the economic situation of women affected by humanitarian crises and complex emergencies over the past decade.

Economic participation and empowerment of women is recognized globally as essential for the progress of a nation and growth of its economy. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 (where Pakistan is a Member State) also recognizes the importance of empowering women - Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Whilst Article 38 of the Constitution of Pakistan 'guarantees citizens the right to pursue economic opportunities irrespective of sex, caste or creed and related labour laws', and at the same time the Government of Pakistan's principal planning document Vision 2025 recognizes expanding women's participation and access to opportunities as central to sustained

economic and social development, the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2015 ranks Pakistan 143 out of 145 countries in economic participation and opportunities and 135 in educational attainment.

The Status Report, produced with support from the Governments of Norway and Denmark, by UN Women in collaboration with NCSW looks at social and economic vulnerabilities that keep the Pakistani woman underpaid and overworked, even when she has overcome structural and social barriers to seek employment. The Report highlights specific aspects of women's economic empowerment (such as employment, type of employment and wages, vulnerable work and the working poor), and recommends a concerted effort to improve women's access, opportunities and capabilities in order for them to participate as full economic actors in development and growth of a dynamic Pakistan that the Vision 2025 seeks.

Mr. Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan, in his welcome stated: "This comprehensive report captures different facets of women's economic empowerment from the relations between malnutrition and lesser opportunities in the workforce to the extra burden of humanitarian crisis on women. The report delineates a meticulous overview of the working women population of Pakistan. It is imperative to position gender responsive infrastructure in places such as daycare centers, anti-sexual harassment mechanisms, safe and affordable transport and accommodation options to encourage economically inactive women to join the formal workforce as well as ensure retention for the existing women workforce. Providing equal opportunities for better quality education is also critical for women and girls to improve their employment options."

Ms. Helle *Nielsen*, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Denmark, Islamabad in her remarks said: "Investing in girls and women is not only the right thing to do but also a smart thing to do, as research shows that investing in girls and women is the most effective investment in development, reaching far beyond the individual women." Ms. Nielsen gave the example about how women spend 90% of their salary on their children and the health, education and well-being of their family, while men only spend 30 to 40%. She also highlighted that by removing the barriers that prevent women

from entering the labour market, a country's productivity can increase. "Investing in women's economical participation is a direct way to gender equality, poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth, but in order for the world to experience progress, we need to give girls and women the equal opportunities to which they are entitled. This will not only benefit girls and women but societies at large", said Ms. Nielsen. She also shared that Denmark was proud to be hosting the world's largest global conference on women and girls' rights, 'Women Deliver', which is currently taking place in Copenhagen. During this conference, a wide range of actors, including representatives from Pakistan, are exchanging ideas and solutions on how to ensure that the needs and rights of girls and women are fully taken into account in the implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Dr. Yasmin Zaidi, Lead Researcher and Author for the Status Report 2016 and Director, Center of Gender and Policy Studies, in presenting the report highlighted: "Women's economic work, paid and unpaid, needs to be recognized, acknowledged and tracked at District and provincial levels in Pakistan so that Pakistan can report on SDG 5. Robust data on employment and earnings will allow provinces to plan where to allocate resources so all districts can prosper and generate decent employment, and manage the flow of economic migration within the country."

Speaking during the panel discussion, Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, panelist and former Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women stated that "Authentic official data and its analysis are imperative to establish the reality on the ground for giving direction for appropriate policies and action. The reports significance is the multidimensional approach to the analysis of women's economic empowerment especially employment. This publication also deserves special appreciation for developing the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index for the first time in Pakistan. The Index will help in ranking the WEE status by districts and provide a mechanism to measure progress and pinpoint areas that require more concerted attention."

Ms. Sana Mahmud, panelist and Captain, National Women's Basketball Team spoke of the gender pay gap saying: "The wage gap for men and women remains high, even within the realm of sport. Female athletes - doing exactly what the men are doing - are many at times paid less than their male counterparts. This in turn creates an even more difficult situation for women who are already struggling to participate fully and equally in

sports, and are further disillusioned by the lack of incentives provided, including monetary remuneration."

Mr. Mohsin Afzal, panelist and Founder and CEO of Founder, we.R.play Studios addressed Pakistan's untapped women workers saying: "While there is no denying that gender equity is strong moral and humanitarian issue, I feel a lot of people don't understand that it has economic implications as well. Denying equal opportunities and participation to almost half of our population [the women] simply means we're wasting a lot of untapped potential."

The Chief Guest and Chairperson of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Fauzia Viqar congratulated NCSW and UN Women for producing a very informative report and stressed the importance of data collection for informed policies, actions and to measure progress. "This data would surely help us in correct decision making and we hope that the analysis would inform development schemes of the Government of Pakistan" she said.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. Sangeeta Thapa, Deputy Representative, UN Women Pakistan.

To view and download the report: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/05/status-report-on-womens-economic-participation-and-empowerment>

For more information contact:

Ms. Faria Salman, Strategic Management and Partnerships Officer & Communications Focal Point for UN Women Pakistan
Email: faria.salman@unwomen.org



WFP

Press Release

WFP AND GOVERNMENT INAUGURATE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FACILITY IN SUKKUR

SUKKUR – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Sindh Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) today inaugurated the sixth Humanitarian Response Facility (HRF) for Pakistan, in the presence of the Chief Minister, Sindh, Mr. Qaim Ali Shah, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Margaret Adamson, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. Yunya Matsuura, WFP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. David Kaatrud, and WFP Pakistan Representative, Ms. Lola Castro.

As a result of global warming, the climate in Pakistan has become increasingly volatile causing unpredictable weather patterns making the country prone to progressively intense natural disasters such as flooding, landslides and drought. Strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacity has therefore been identified by NDMA as one of the priorities in the National Disaster Management Plan.

WFP, the Government of Pakistan and international donors have been working together since 2013 to establish a network of humanitarian hubs in eight strategic locations across the country, as part of broader emergency preparedness and response activities. The state-of-the-art relief hubs will allow disaster management authorities in Pakistan to respond more swiftly and efficiently to a sudden emergency. Hubs have already been inaugurated in Quetta, Muzaffargarh, Lahore, Hyderabad and Peshawar.

“The effects of global climate change resulting in unpredictable weather patterns and extreme climatic conditions have also impacted Pakistan. Natural disasters necessitate enhanced emergency preparedness and response management measures to be in place as close as possible to the



affected communities, such as in upper Sindh where flooding periodically occurs. In this way, more lives are saved quicker” said Lola Castro. “I am very encouraged to already see tangible results of this excellent partnership in protecting lives and livelihoods of these communities in areas where the humanitarian hubs have already been constructed” she added.

The US\$3.5 million response facility in Sukkur covers 8.7 acres. It features three large warehouses for general cargo and one smaller, climate-controlled warehouse for more sensitive items such as medicines and ready-to-use foods, as well as office space and staff facilities. There is enough covered storage space for 64,000 50 kg bags (or 3,200 metric tons).

The Government of Pakistan has provided land to WFP to build the humanitarian facilities in eight of the country’s most disaster-prone areas and is responsible for the management and staffing of the facilities. WFP provides training for relevant staff in facility management as well as in humanitarian supply chain and emergency response. The project is being implemented in coordination with national and provincial disaster management authorities, with generous funding provided by Japan, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Denmark and the United States of America.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in 80 countries.

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For more information please contact:

Mahira Afzal, WFP/Islamabad. Phone: +92 51 831 2273, Mobile: +92 345 855 9333; Email: Mahira.Afzal@wfp.org

Zubair Ahmed, WFP/Islamabad. Phone: +92 51 831 2270 Mobile: +92 334 523 5406; Email: Zubair.Ahmed@wfp.org

