

Media Update

20 June 2016

ILO

Media Advisory

Launch of the “Code of Conduct on Ethical Recruitment” for Licensed Overseas Employment Promoters

What: The Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA) has developed a **code of ethical conduct** for licensed overseas employment promoters. The code of ethical conduct serves to ensure that POEPA members maintain the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct throughout all stages of the process to recruit workers for foreign employment. All registered POEPA members must comply with the standards set out in the code of conduct and will be required to report on their compliance with the code every year. The code of conduct, which has been developed with technical support from the ILO, is a strategic component of the attempts of the Pakistani private recruitment industry to regulate the conduct of its close to 2,000 members through an industry-wide self-regulation and monitoring initiative; all with the aim to ensure fair recruitment.

Who: Mr. Afzal Chaudhry, Central Chairman, Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA) will officially launch the Code of Conduct on Ethical Recruitment along with Ms. Ingrid Christensen, Country Director, International Labour Organization Country Office for Pakistan.

When: Wednesday, 22 June 2016, 05:30 pm

Where: Embassy Lodge Hotel, Islamabad

How to Participate: If you are interested to attend the event, please send your name, CNIC number and your media affiliation, to naimaa@ilo.org, not later than 1200 noon 21 June 2016.



Labour Migration from Pakistan:

Pakistan has a long history of labour migration to the Middle East, and is the second largest labour sending country (after India) in South Asia. During the period of 1971-2015, more than 8 million Pakistanis have officially proceeded abroad for employment. Out of this total labour migration, about 96% have proceeded to the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states - the key destination countries are Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In terms of professions-in 2015, of all emigrants from Pakistan, 41 per cent were skilled, 16 per cent semi-skilled and 40 per cent un-skilled. Less than 3 per cent were highly qualified or highly skilled. However, the emigration of Pakistani women is negligible, and during the last decade, approximately 8,000 female workers moved abroad for employment, primarily in the field of health services, finance sector, beauty care and fashion designing.

The recruitment industry of Pakistan plays a pivotal role in its labour migration industry through promotion of the Pakistani manpower and securing demands from the overseas employers. Currently about 58 percent of all migrant workers find employment abroad through private overseas employment promoters (OEPs).

These OEPs get license from Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource development (MoOP&HRD), however, obtaining a license cannot provide any guarantee for ethical practices in the recruitment sector; it is well known that malpractices (including high costs and fees, failure to meet placement obligations and contract substitution are fairly common among licensed agencies. Unidentified and unregistered sub agents in the recruitment business is another issue which further contributes to migrant workers vulnerabilities, human smuggling and trafficking.

Recognising that these challenges persists within the private recruitment sector in Pakistan, the *Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association* (POEPA) - the representative body of private OEPs in Pakistan has developed Code of Ethical Conduct for its member OEPs under industry self regulation initiative in addition to government regulation mechanism. The purpose is to minimize abuses and exploitation of the migrant workers in both country of origin and destination.

POEPA has developed this code of conduct with the support of the ILO South Asia Labour Migration Governance project. The project is funded by the European Union.

UNDP

Press Release

Pakistan's new poverty index reveals that 4 out of 10 Pakistanis live in multidimensional poverty

Islamabad, 20 June 2016 – Pakistan's first ever official report on multidimensional poverty was today launched by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The report details Pakistan's official Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) which was earlier published in the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2015–2016. The report has been compiled with



technical support from UNDP Pakistan and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford.

According to the report, nearly 39 percent of Pakistanis live in multidimensional poverty, with the highest rates of poverty in FATA and Balochistan. Pakistan's MPI showed a strong decline, with national poverty rates falling from 55% to 39% from 2004 to 2015. However progress across different regions of Pakistan is uneven. Poverty in urban areas is 9.3 percent as compared to 54.6 percent in rural areas. Disparities also exist across provinces.

The report found that over two-thirds of people in FATA (73 percent) and Balochistan (71 percent) live in multidimensional poverty. Poverty in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stands at 49 percent, Gilgit-Baltistan and Sindh at 43 percent, Punjab at 31 percent and Azad Jammu and Kashmir at 25 percent. There are severe differences between districts: Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi have less than 10 percent multidimensional poverty, while Qila Abdullah, Harnai and Barkhan (all in Balochistan) have more than 90 percent poverty. Deprivation in education contributes the largest share of 43 percent to MPI followed by living standards which contributes nearly 32 percent and health contributing 26 percent. These findings further confirm that social indicators are very weak in Pakistan, even where economic indicators appear healthy. The report also found that the decrease in multidimensional poverty was slowest in Balochistan, while poverty levels had actually increased in several districts in Balochistan and Sindh during the past decade. The level and composition of multidimensional poverty for each of Pakistan's 114 districts are also covered in this report.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index uses a broader concept of poverty than income and wealth alone. It reflects the deprivations people experience with respect to health, education and standard of living, and is thus a more detailed way of understanding and alleviating poverty. Since its development by OPHI and UNDP in 2010, many countries, including Pakistan, have adopted this methodology as an official poverty estimate, complementing consumption or income-based poverty figures.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, said that the reduction of multidimensional poverty is one of the core objectives of Pakistan's Vision 2025. He said that inclusive and balanced growth, which benefits everyone and especially the marginalized communities, is government priority and is essential for

promoting harmony in society. MPI is a useful instrument for inform public policy for targeting, budgeting, resource allocation and inclusion. Pakistan's MPI establishes baseline not for only Vision 2025, but also for Pakistan's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and complements the consumption-based poverty estimates recently released by the Government of Pakistan.

Marc-André Franche, UNDP Country Director said, "We consider this a highly innovative approach because of its multi-faceted nature and the availability of estimates at the sub-national level. Multidimensional poverty provides useful analysis and information for targeting poverty, and reducing regional inequalities. Many countries are using MPI to inform government priorities for planning and it is encouraging to see Government of Pakistan adopting MPI to complement monetary poverty measure in Pakistan."

Dr Sabina Alkire, Director OPHI, congratulated Pakistan on launching the national MPI as an official poverty measure. She said, "Developed with input from all provinces, Pakistan's MPI is very robust and we have been very pleased to work alongside the very strong academic and policy community in Pakistan. Pakistan's leadership will be of interest to over 40 other countries in the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network who are using multidimensional poverty measures in the Sustainable Development Goals."

MPI report link: <http://bit.ly/1Oy3kiB>

For more details, or to arrange an interview with the speakers or request a copy of the Pakistan MPI report, contact:

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