

Media Update

25 August 2016

FAO

Press Release

Water scarcity on the rise in Sindh; over 1 million people fall below emergency level threshold

Karachi: 75% of the population in zones dependent on local rainfall for crop and livestock production lacked the resources to cover basic survival and livelihood protection needs. In short, an estimated 1,101,623 people fell below emergency-level thresholds.

This was revealed in two reports launched by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) funded these reports.

The “Household Economy Analysis (HEA)” and the “Sindh Drought Needs Assessment (SDNA)” reports were presented at a ceremony held in Karachi.

Where the HEA report covers the period up June 2015 , the SDNA reveals that 2013-2015 drought has increased water scarcity in Sindh province, causing large reductions in yields and abandonment of cultivation altogether in the most drought-affected zones.

Thanking FAO for the opportunity to participate in the survey, Mr Zafar Iqbal, Director National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) stretched out the key responsibility of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in preparing the communities and responding to emergencies and disasters. He also said NDMA’s role was to strengthen and support PDMAs in taking care of their responsibilities.



The reports highlight the three categories of households that have clearly suffered from the drought: pastoralists (livestock breeders) who have lost up to two thirds of their animals and their income. Sharecroppers particularly in the West zone have also been forced to seek alternative livelihoods. They were already among the poorest of households and then there are agricultural laborers particularly women laborers who have been hit with dwindling labor opportunities.

Mr. Nasar Hayat, Assistant Country Representative FAO, speaking at the ceremony said: “The drought affected communities need our assistance to cope with the adverse effects of drought that are still present and persistent. The most vulnerable groups are the landless households, the sharecroppers and the smallholders, as well as the medium land holders in the most vulnerable zones.”

These reports recommend that households in the vulnerable zones should be the priority of drought-mitigation interventions.

In this connection Mr. Aleem Lashari , Director PDMA Sindh who was present at the ceremony pledged to make use of and exploit as much as possible the outcomes of the SDNA and HEA reports to build up the preparedness of PDMA.

Representatives from FAO, WFP, OCHA, Bureau of Statistics Sindh, Sindh Agriculture and Livestock departments, NHN, PHF and ECHO attended the ceremony.

Sindh Drought Needs Assessment (SDNA) was carried out to understand drought and its impacts on various sectors including livelihood, food security, nutrition, health, water, and sanitation in Sindh whereas the objective of the Household Economy Analysis (HEA) field assessment was to assess the impact of the 2013-2015 drought on local livelihoods in some of the worst drought affected districts of Sindh Province. The results of these reports will assist the stakeholders, the Government of Pakistan, the Government of Sindh, national and international humanitarian actors to improve the decision making and design of interventions and programs.

UN Women

Press Release

Pakistan-Afghanistan dialogue on women's situation in displacement: Challenges and way forward for policy and practice

25 August 2016, Peshawar: A first joint initiative between Pakistan and Afghanistan took place today to assist women during displacement to enhance synergies so regional and provincial responses and coordination mechanisms incorporate women and girls as change agents and promote gender equality commitments in disasters and emergencies.

The meeting 'Pakistan-Afghanistan dialogue on women's situation in displacement: Challenges and way forward for policy and practice', was hosted by the Honorable Meraj Humayun Khan, Chairperson of the Provincial Women Parliamentary Caucus of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with support from UN Women (the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) along with counterparts virtually connected from Kabul, Afghanistan. Participants included displaced women, Members of Parliament, women machineries and development and humanitarian actors.

The UN Women Pakistan and Afghanistan Country Offices presented findings from a number of inclusive Focus Group Discussions held with over 150 women and girls affected by displacement - Afghan Sikh and refugee women migrants 'hosted' in Pakistan and returnees to Afghanistan, and Pakistan's internally dislocated women and returnees due to military operation against non-state actors. In sharing their journey of dislocation and survival these women and girls identified frequent and emerging issues faced by them during emergencies, displacement and in reconstruction. Findings from both sides of the border referred to: women's role in decision-making before, during and after displacement; camp and settlement facilities; access to health services, educational facilities and income generating opportunities;



possession of identity and/or residency cards; and transportation and financial assistance.

Members of the Women Parliamentary Caucus, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Provincial Assembly and Afghanistan's Parliament following a plenary discussion based on the findings of the focus group discussions with displaced women and girls, incorporated their recommendations in a Joint Resolution.

Salient features of the Joint Resolution to make regional and provincial responses effective and more responsive to the needs of women, girls and vulnerable persons, and to support their safe and dignified return, include: (i) Ensuring women's participation in the return processes including their meaningful role during the return intention surveys; (ii) Adopt an inclusive community-based approach with women's participation at all levels including coordination of relief efforts as well as for identifying sustainability of families whilst displaced, while taking into account their healthcare, education, status; (iii) Providing guidance for economic empowerment and earning livelihoods by creating skill building trainings opportunities for the women and child headed households in particular; (iv) Lobby for allocation of adequate dedicated funds in the budgets/annual development plans of the provinces and districts experiencing consistent emergencies; (v) Develop institutional mechanisms for the collection and analysis of disaggregated data by sex, age, vulnerability and location; (vi) Oversight of processes providing identification documents (Tazkira in Afghanistan and Computerized National Identity Cards in Pakistan) to every woman that allows them an identity and access to food rations, healthcare facilities, non-food items and education for their children; and (vii) Increase access to social spaces to interact, share experiences and knowledge sharing with respect to displacement related issues and challenges for women and children in order to strengthen indigenous coping strategies and mechanisms.

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