

# Media Update

27 April 2016

---

## WFP

Press Release

### **DFID contributes GBP 1 million to WFP for ‘twinning’ of wheat donated by the Government of Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD: United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID)—UK government’s agency responsible for administering overseas aid—has confirmed a contribution of GBP 1 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for twinning the in-kind wheat donations provided by the Government of Pakistan.

WFP is complementing the Government of Pakistan’s reconstruction efforts in the country’s north-western areas by providing relief and recovery support to displaced populations and six-month food packages to recent returnees during the critical period of resettlement in their areas of origin. DFID’s contribution of GBP 1 million will enable WFP to meet the associated costs including transformation, fortification, bagging, transportation, handling and distribution of wheat to the beneficiaries, donated by the Government of Pakistan, also referred to as “twinning”. The concept of twinning is known for creating a “win-win” partnership mechanism between the Government of Pakistan, WFP and the international donor community.

While welcoming the DFID’s generous gesture, Lola Castro WFP Pakistan Country Director and Representative, said that “DFID’s GBP 1 million contribution is very crucial at this moment, as it will enable WFP to meet the associated costs of 4,534 metric tons of Government donated wheat, and assist about 56,112 families and 336,673 beneficiaries who are either displaced or have recently returned to their areas of origin in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)”.

DFID’s financial contribution will help WFP to continue providing uninterrupted food assistance to both displaced and returnee families, which receive a return food package including fortified wheat flour, pulses, enriched vegetable oil and iodized salt, for a period of six months enabling them to



meet their basic food needs. After the six-month period, WFP supports returnee populations through livelihoods recovery interventions (Food Assistance for Assets - FFA) by engaging them in various rehabilitation and productive assets creation activities in the country's north-west. With the support of the Government of Pakistan's in-kind wheat donations coupled with contributions received from international donors such as DFID, WFP's assistance serves as a foundation upon which people can begin rebuilding their livelihoods and communities.

WFP's relief food assistance interventions have been designed with the prime objective to save lives and avert hunger through the conduct of unconditional relief food distributions to the affected families, who have left their homes or are returning after protracted periods of displacement, and have limited or no means to meet their basic food needs.

In 2015, the Government of Pakistan donated 219,000 metric tons of wheat with an estimated value of USD 85 million to WFP, for supporting IDP and returnee populations in KP and FATA through relief and livelihood interventions. The Government of Pakistan's in-kind donation in 2015 has been the largest in-kind contribution in a single year, making it the largest host government donor to WFP operations globally and the second biggest donor to WFP operations after the United States. In 2016, the Government of Pakistan has confirmed a further in-kind wheat contribution of 124,000 metric tons with an estimated value of USD 49 million to WFP operations in the country.

# # #

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.

Follow us on Twitter @wfp\_media; @WFPakistan; Facebook; WFPakistan

**For more information please contact:**

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

[Mahira.Afzal@wfp.org](mailto:Mahira.Afzal@wfp.org)

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

[Zubair.Ahmed@wfp.org](mailto:Zubair.Ahmed@wfp.org)



# FAO

## Press Release

### Round Table Consultation on Wool Value Chain Development in Balochistan

April 27, 2016

Food And Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with the federal and Balochistan governments is preparing for an integrated wool sector development program.

A round table was organized in Islamabad on 27 April to seek suggestions and recommendations for the best way forward in developing the wool sector in Balochistan.

Dr. Hashim Khan Populzai, Additional Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research opened the conference and highlighted the importance of wool in developing the rural economy of Balochistan. Patrick T. Evans, FAO Representative to Pakistan informed the participants that wool has a high potential for development in Balochistan and how this important resource can be used to improve livelihoods of rural farmers including women. He invited the participants to make practical recommendations for development of the wool value chain in Balochistan.

Mr. Siddique Mandokhel, Secretary Livestock, Balochistan highlighted some of the problems faced by the livestock sector in Balochistan especially in marketing and getting fair prices of their produce.

He said *“Balochistan is well known for its livestock. Wool value chain development will facilitate economic development and is an important step towards development of Pakistan.”*

Experts made presentations giving insights on animal husbandry, added value activities, gender perspective and mechanical shearing.

A Q&A session at the end invited suggestions and comments from those present.



Women farmers along with men from Balochistan were also present in the conference and shared their experiences and issues faced by them. Shazia and Saleema– two women from village Qambrani and Sraghurgai, travelled from Quetta to narrate their experiences and described how the training received from FAO Project enabled them to contribute to household income. They said they were happy that they were now able to send their children to school.

## Background

Though Balochistan has an estimated 14.7 million sheep, most are used for meat or hides. Wool is often treated as a by-product with little or no value and is generally discarded. A well functioning wool value chain in Balochistan will create employment for herders, shearers, wool washers, sorters, graders, balers, spinners, dyers, traders and transporters. Much of this work can be done by women.

The proposed program (From Sheep to Shawl) will cover all aspects of the wool value chain from improved and sustainable rangeland management to vaccination, better feeding of sheep, delivery of shearing services and added value activities such as carpet making.

\*\*\*

