

Media Update

27 June 2016

ILO

Press Release

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO) PAKISTAN KP Government geared up to support social protection in the province

June 23, 2016: ISLAMABAD: In a seminar held today in ILO Pakistan Office Islamabad, Secretary P&DD KP, Mr. Syed Zafar Ali Shah said that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will extend its full support and cooperation to all donor agencies, development partners, international technical cooperation and implementing agencies in realizing the goal of social protection, economic empowerment and social justice in the province.

Secretary Benazir Income Support Program Mr. Salim Ahmad Ranjah and UN Resident Coordinator Pakistan Mr. Neil Buhne were attending the seminar on “Coordinated Social Protection Experience Sharing & the Way Forward”; which was jointly organized by Government of Pakistan (GOP) and ILO.

SECRETARY P&DD KP shared that the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is no exception with regard to the issues being faced by the safety net programmes throughout the country.

He said, KP is amongst the poorest provinces with poverty incidence ratio of 41.3% against 26% at the national level. However, the KP Government is cognizant of its responsibility, and is fully committed to assist the poorest of the poor.

The Secretary P&DD KP informed the participants that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has made great strides towards a coordinated social service delivery system by adopting an updated and comprehensive planning document of the province i.e. the INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (2014-2018) with the objective to deliver the fundamental rights and privileges to its



citizens; constituting priority areas of social services, education, health, livelihood, safe drinking water & sanitation, good governance, poverty reduction, employment, and skilled work force.

He appreciated joint efforts of ILO and KP Government in devising the draft “Social Protection Policy” and welcomed partners to any development investment, particularly, in the prioritized sector of social protection.

On the occasion, UN Resident Coordinator Pakistan Mr. Neil Buhne said that Pakistan is a One UN country and improving social protection is a priority area of the One UN Programme II (2013-17).

He said Pakistan Vision 2025 is also very much in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; that highlights need for social protection in Goal 1 and particularly in Target 1.3.

He emphasized the need for efforts to “leave no one behind” to ensure that social protection schemes are available and accessible to all people in the country and underlined the importance of continuous improvement of the existing social protection system.

The Country Director ILO Pakistan Ms. Ingrid Christensen, during her speech, informed the participants that the existing donor funded ‘Social Protection Floor Initiative-KP (SPFI-KP) project’ is coming to an end on June 30th, 2016. She however assured the Government of KP of the ILO’s continued support to implement Coordinated Social Protection System in the Province. And for this purpose ILO will secure resources to continue activities until December 2017 and beyond.

The seminar also organized a panel discussion with the following panelists: Chief Poverty & SDG Unit, Planning Commission, Govt. of Pakistan, Mr. Zafar ul Hassan; DG Complimentary Initiatives-BISP, Mr. Dost Ali Shah; Social Security Specialist, ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia, New Delhi, Mr. Markus Ruck; other government officials and dignitaries of partner organizations.

The Seminar was organized to share achievements, best practices and lessons learned under the project SPFI-KP and to identify ways and means, priority areas, and the institutional relationships that is required to collaborate at national and provincial level on the future course of actions related to social protection, including the implementation of draft “Social Protection

Policy” along with a “Two Years Social Protection Strategy “in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

SPFI-KP project was funded by the ‘Japan Fund for Building Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific’ from 2013 till June, 2016 with the objectives of institutional capacity development of key social security institutions; awareness raising on social protection floors; policy development and policy debate on Social Protection (SP); mapping of social protection programmes in the KP province; piloting district model under the draft policy in two selected districts of KP (Peshawar and Nowshera), and developing a video documentary for donors to generate synergies in continuing and sustaining support to the government of the province while scaling-up the social protection programs and projects.

As a “Way-Forward” a two years social protection strategy has been designed under the project which is intended to contribute not only to the integration of social protection schemes and projects but also to improve coordination among national and provincial level social protection systems in Pakistan.

United Nations

Press Release

The United Nations in Pakistan urges Government action to end “Honour Killings”

ISLAMABAD (20 June 2016) - The United Nations (UN) joins people across the country in strongly condemning the increasing number of killings in the so-called name of ‘honour’ and urges the Pakistani Government to prevent such killings and to bring those responsible to justice.

“Every year, hundreds of women and girls are killed in Pakistan to protect family or community ‘honour”” said United Nations Resident Coordinator, Neil Buhne. “But the large numbers and tragic nature of killings over the last



weeks highlights the terrible cost from such killings to women, children, families, communities and all of Pakistan, as tragically shown by the Muqaddas Bibi (22) who, was brutally murdered by members of her own family simply because she married a man of her own choice". According to reports, her father, brother and mother slit the throat of Ms. Muqaddas, who was pregnant with her second child after she married against her family wish, three years ago. Adding to the latest surge in reported 'honour killings' in Pakistan are the recent deaths of another pregnant woman and her husband by relatives who disapproved of their marriage, and a young girl shot by her brother for wanting to marry a man of her choice.

Last week Zeenat Rafiq (18) was burned to death by her mother for "bringing shame to the family" by marrying a man of her choice. On 31 May family members tortured and burned alive school teacher Maria Sadaqat (19) for refusing an arranged marriage proposal. Young girls are also affected: on 29 April the body of Ambreen Riasat (16) was found inside a vehicle that had been set on fire after a 'jirga' ordered her death for helping her friend marry of her own choice. In one case a man's throat was slit by relatives of his wife who disapproved of their match - a rare instance of a male victim.

According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), 1,096 women (of whom 170 were minors under the age of 18) were killed for 'honor' in 2015. As there are no official figures on 'honor' killings the real figure could be much higher, with many such killings believed to be disguised as accidents, or they go unreported by family members.

"Under international and national laws and standards, there is a clear State responsibility to uphold women's rights and ensure freedom from discrimination, which includes the responsibility to prevent, protect and provide redress – regardless of sex, and regardless of a person's status in the family," added Mr. Buhne. " It is both the State's and the judiciary's responsibility to deter such crimes, and ensure that people who commit them are brought to justice. The UN General Assembly, in three separate resolutions in 2001, 2003 and 2005, called on Member States to intensify legislative, educational, social and other efforts to prevent and eliminate "honour"-based crimes, and to investigate thoroughly and prosecute effectively, bringing the perpetrators to justice.

The Government of Pakistan has recognized this, as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said in February. "Honour killing is a most critical issue and the Government is determined to adopt all possible ways and means to remove this stain from our society" Mr. Buhne said the UN System stands ready to



assist the Government of Pakistan to take urgent measures to do this. In this direction, a strengthened and adequately resourced national and provincial Women's Commissions and Women Development Departments can play a major role.

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UNICEF

Press Release

Embargoed until 00:01 GMT on 28 June 2016

Poverty, illiteracy and early deaths await world's most disadvantaged children: UNICEF

Making the right choices now can, and will, reverse this fate, new report says

Download a PDF of the report and multimedia content at:

<http://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFFS4KH>

ISLAMABAD/NEW YORK, 28 June 2016 – Based on current trends, 69 million children will die from mostly preventable causes, 167 million children will live in poverty, and 750 million women will have been married as children by 2030, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals – unless the world focuses more on the plight of its most disadvantaged children, according to a UNICEF report released today.

The State of the World's Children, UNICEF's annual flagship report, paints a stark picture of what is in store for the world's poorest children if governments, donors, businesses and international organizations do not accelerate efforts to address their needs.

The report notes that Pakistan carries nearly 8 per cent of the global burden of under-five child deaths due to lack of nutritional support and health care.



With more than 5.6 million out-of-school children, the country is home to nearly 10 per cent of the out-of-school children of primary school age globally. In Pakistan, the level of education achieved largely depends on gender, residence, and wealth. Currently, the public sector spending on education is around 2 per cent of the GDP. These investment levels are below the estimated 5.5 per cent of GDP that will be required to provide education for all by 2030.

“Denying hundreds of millions of children a fair chance in life does more than threaten their futures – by fueling intergenerational cycles of disadvantage, it imperils the future of their societies,” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. “We have a choice: Invest in these children now or allow our world to become still more unequal and divided.”

The report notes that significant progress has been made in saving children’s lives, getting children into school and lifting people out of poverty. Global under-five mortality rates have been more than halved since 1990, boys and girls attend primary school in equal numbers in 129 countries, and the number of people living in extreme poverty worldwide is almost half what it was in the 1990s.

But this progress has been neither even nor fair, the report says. The poorest children are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday and to be chronically malnourished than the richest. Across much of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, children born to mothers with no education are almost 3 times more likely to die before they are 5 than those born to mothers with a secondary education. And girls from the poorest households are 2.5 more likely to marry as children than girls from the wealthiest households.

Nowhere is the outlook grimmer than in sub-Saharan Africa, where at least 247 million children – or 2 in 3 – live in multidimensional poverty, deprived of what they need to survive and develop, and where nearly 60 per cent of 20- to 24-year-olds from the poorest fifth of the population have had less than four years of schooling. At current trends, the report projects, by 2030, sub-Saharan Africa will account for:

- Nearly half of the 69 million children who will die before their fifth birthday from mostly preventable causes by 2030;

- More than half of the 60 million children of primary school age who will still be out of school; and
- 9 out of 10 children living in extreme poverty.

Although education plays a unique role in levelling the playing field for children, the number of children who do not attend school has increased since 2011, and a significant proportion of those who do go to school are not learning. About 124 million children today do not go to primary- and lower-secondary school, and almost 2 in 5 who do finish primary school have not learned how to read, write or do simple arithmetic.

The report points to evidence that investing in the most vulnerable children can yield immediate and long-term benefits. Cash transfers, for example, have been shown to help children stay in school longer and advance to higher levels of education. On average, each additional year of education a child receives increases his or her adult earnings by about 10 per cent. And for each additional year of schooling completed, on average, by young adults in a country, that country's poverty rates fall by 9 per cent.

Inequity is neither inevitable, nor insurmountable, the report argues. Better data on the most vulnerable children, integrated solutions to the challenges children face, innovative ways to address old problems, more equitable investment and increased involvement by communities – all these measures can help level the playing field for children.

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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](#)

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