

Media Update

28 April 2016

UNICEF/UN-Habitat

Press Release

New Survey Reveals Need for Proper Maintenance of Sanitation and Hygiene among Jacobabad city residents

While residents are willing to pay for safe drinking water the same is not the case for sanitation and hygiene

Karachi – 28th April, 2016: A new survey has revealed that Jacobabad residents are not willing to pay for sanitation and hygiene services despite being aware of associated health risks. On the contrary, residents are willing to pay for safe drinking water. Conducted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) with funding from USAID through United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the ‘Willingness to Pay for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services’ study was launched at a ceremony in Karachi today.

The study is part of a project that seeks to mobilize communities to improve Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services in Jacobabad city. It is a collaborative effort between UN-Habitat, UNICEF, the Municipal Services Delivery Program (MSDP), Government of Sindh and USAID. The survey sought to determine the factors that influence people’s willingness to pay more for improved WASH services in Jacobabad. It aims to support the Government of Sindh in taking necessary steps to ensure the effective running of the Municipal Service Development Programme (MSDP) by taking public’s opinion into account in devising necessary actions.

The survey recommends that the base tariff for water charges should not be kept higher than PKR 500, while overall charges should be divided into three specific quartiles reflecting people’s willingness to pay. The research further proposes that along with public sector efforts to provide solid waste



management services, a public-private-partnership model should be developed to involve the community in this drive to improve lives in the city of Jacobabad. According to the press statement by Muhammad Waseem, Additional Chief Secretary - Government of Sindh, “Improving municipal service delivery is one of the many challenges confronting local government institutions. In some municipalities, the existing facilities for water supply, sewerage, and solid waste management are dysfunctional and require major remedial interventions. Such complexities are better solved through strategic partnerships and this is where I would like to thank USAID, UNICEF and UN-Habitat for continuing to support our program for improved municipal services across the city.”

He further added, “Armed with the research findings of the survey and its recommendations, we are a step closer to alleviating the concerns of the masses by setting up an effective and modern WASH services structure.”

As the program is aimed at strengthening and supporting the Government of Sindh through MSDP, Khalid Hyder Shah, Program Director - MSDP commended the project’s efficacy by stating, “The MSDP program aims to improve lives of the people of Sindh by developing and mending the water, sanitation, hygiene, and solid waste management structure. I appreciate the efforts of USAID, UNICEF, UN-Habitat and other partners in strengthening our structure and ensuring that people’s opinion is taken into account. The findings of this survey are critical to designing an effective and sustainable municipal services delivery mechanism.”

Dr. Nargiza Khodjaeva, Chief of the Sindh Field Office, UNICEF – talked about achieving SDG Goals. “The 2030 agenda for sustainable development talks about universal access to WASH services. The target 6.1 talks about universal, equitable, safe and affordable access to drinking water. Our focus initially under MDGs was on provision of improved water. We now need to ensure safety along with accessibility and availability. We therefore should ensure risk management approaches such as Water Safety Planning. Ensuring safety concerns will also enhance the willingness to pay levels”.

Jannat Durrani, WASH Officer - UN-Habitat said, “Any public service delivery system cannot be successful in isolation, unless the people who are to benefit from such a system are aligned with its objectives, and feel part of the entire process. Sustainable, efficient and equitable management of WASH services goes hand-in-hand with the need to carry out a responsible social mobilization and behavioral change communication with the public.” This survey establishes appropriate and acceptable user charges for improved water, sanitation and solid waste management services, and takes into

considerations the willingness and ability of people who benefit from these services”

For more information and to receive a copy of the survey please contact:

Muhammad Irfan Saeed Alrai – WASH Specialist UNICEF on misalrai@unicef.org

Zara Jamil – Communications focal point, UN-Habitat on zara.jamil@unhabitat.org.pk

Fayaz Muhammad Zai, Monitoring & Evaluation Expert, MSDP-USAID, P&D, Government of Sindh on fayazmzai@yahoo.com

-ENDS-

About UN HABITAT:

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is the focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system. UN-Habitat renewed its presence in Pakistan in late 2005 following the devastating earthquake in the north of the country, facilitating the reconstruction of over 460,000 houses. At present, UN-Habitat is co-convenor of Strategic Priority Area on DRR/DRM of the One-UN Pakistan Programme 2013-2017, Chair of the WASH Working Group and is actively represented in the Shelter, WASH and Community Restoration clusters in KP & FATA.

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.

About USAID:

USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. In order to support these goals, President John. F. Kennedy created the United States Agency for International Development by executive order in 1961. USAID carries out U.S. foreign policy by promoting broad-scale human progress at the same time it expands stable, free societies, creates markets and trade partners for the United States, and fosters good will abroad.

About MSDP:

MSDP is channelizing the funds provided in the grant by the US Government through USAID/ Pakistan of US \$ 66.0 million for the development of municipal infrastructure in six selected towns in 2010 flood affected districts of the Province. Under MSDP emphasis was given to smaller towns, falling outside the purview of SCIP. Accordingly Jacobabad, Qambar, Shahdaddkot, Mehar, Khairpur Nathan Shah and Johi were selected for the said USAID assisted development work under the program. In the first phase, the construction works on Jacobabad Water Supply System are currently underway while work on Waste Water and Solid Waste Systems in Jacobabad are expected to start very soon.

UNESCAP

Press Release

Increasing productivity is key to revive economic growth and support the 2030 Agenda in Asia-Pacific, says UN

As nations begin implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the next phase of Asia-Pacific economic growth should be driven by broad-based productivity gains, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in its flagship publication *Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2016* launched today, emphasizing that this will require higher, targeted fiscal spending, enhanced skills, better infrastructure, and improved agricultural productivity.

In the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific, annual average growth of total factor productivity declined from 2.8 per cent in 2000-2007 to just below 1 per cent in 2008-2014, according to the *Survey*.

The productivity slowdown accounts for almost a fifth of the recent economic slowdown, from an average of 9.4 per cent during 2005-2007 to an estimated 4.6 per cent growth in 2015. ESCAP underscores that this is a concern because sustained and resilient economic and productivity growth, backed by balanced economic, social and environmental development, is a prerequisite for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Launching the *Survey* in Bangkok, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary emphasized that steady growth in real wages, which is critical for tackling poverty and inequality, as well as supporting domestic demand, also ultimately depends on productivity growth.

“Concerted efforts are needed to revive the region’s economic dynamism and more effectively pursue the 2030 Agenda,” said Dr. Akhtar. “Such interventions, particularly through fiscal measures, could support not only domestic demand but also strengthen the foundations for productivity-led



growth, while fostering real demand through social safety nets and wage increases.”

Noting that the Asia-Pacific region has the means and dynamism to revive economic growth, Dr. Akhtar acknowledged that: “Improving the quality of this growth by making it more inclusive and sustainable, will be especially demanding.”

The *Survey* calls for continued rebalancing towards domestic and regional demand, as prospects for export-led growth remain subdued. A confluence of macroeconomic risks including shifts in global financial and commodities cycles has also increased uncertainty. The *Survey* highlights that despite emerging challenges the region’s economic outlook is broadly stable and forecasts a moderate pickup in economic growth in developing Asia and the Pacific to 4.8 per cent in 2016 and 5 per cent in 2017.

The *Survey* notes that progress in reducing poverty is slowing and inequalities are rising in much of the region. At the same time, an expanding middle class and rapid urbanization are posing complex economic, social, environmental and governance challenges. The region also faces increased financial volatility and capital outflows, which have limited the space for monetary policy manoeuvring, despite low overall inflation. Several countries are also experiencing a private debt overhang after rapid increases in household and corporate leverage in recent years.

ESCAP recommends that if the region is to shift to a more sustainable development strategy driven by domestic demand, greater focus must be placed on productivity along with commensurate increases in real wages. According to ESCAP, a productivity-driven, wage-led approach would enable countries to increase their aggregate supply and demand, thereby enhancing well-being.

To boost productivity, the *Survey* recommends a cross-sectoral and integrated approach. It notes that several countries in the region are deindustrializing too early in their development, by shifting from agriculture-based economies to ones in which services play a dominant role. With more than half of the region’s population living in rural areas, and four out of ten workers engaged in agriculture, efforts should instead be strengthened to boost agricultural productivity and foster rural industrialization and urban-rural linkages. The *Survey* estimates that a modest increase in agricultural productivity could lift an additional 110 million people out of poverty by 2030, but that improvements in knowledge and skills will be critical, to enable

absorption of the large pools of surplus labour that are being released in the rural sector.

Identifying the important role of fiscal policy in reviving economic growth and supporting the 2030 Agenda, Dr. Akhtar emphasized that: “Fiscal initiatives should be underpinned by sustained reforms towards an efficient and fair tax system that delivers the necessary revenues and promotes equity.”

Given the Asia-Pacific region’s diversity, the *Survey* also highlights specific policy issues, such as improving female labour participation in South and South-West Asia; enhancing resilience to natural disasters in the Pacific; dealing with population ageing challenges in East and North-East Asia; economic diversification and services sector development in North and Central Asia; as well as tax policy and administration reforms in South-East Asia.

The *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* is being launched simultaneously in 24 countries around the Asia-Pacific region. The year-end update of the *Survey* will be released in November 2016.

For a full copy of the survey visit:

<http://www.unescap.org/publications/economic-and-social-survey-asia-pacific>

ILO

Press Release

Statement by Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organization on the Occasion of the 2016 Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Day, 28th April 2016

This [World Day for Safety and Health](#) focuses on the toll taken on the health and wellbeing of workers worldwide by stress in their working environment.

Target 8 of [Goal 8](#) of the [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable](#)



Development calls for “safe and secure working environments for all workers” - securing safe workplaces extends beyond the protection of workers’ physical safety to their mental and psychological wellbeing.

Work-related stress affects workers in all professions in developed and developing countries alike. It can gravely harm not only workers’ health but also, and all too often, the wellbeing of their families.

Globalization and technological change have transformed work and employment patterns in ways that sometimes contribute to work-related stress. High unemployment levels, particularly in the absence of adequate social protection measures can also have undesirable consequences for the mental health of workers.

Enterprises are not spared and they face the consequences of work-related stress on their overall performance with increased absenteeism, presenteeism and staff turnover, and difficult labour relations.

More data and analysis is needed to fully quantify the financial costs of workplace stress but it is already abundantly clear that the burden is considerable. A recent study cited in the ILO report, [Workplace stress: a collective challenge](#), issued for this day, indicates that more than 40 million people are affected by work-related stress within the EU and that the estimated cost of work-related depression is €617 billion a year.

While much still needs to be done to reduce stress at work, we can say that in recent years there have been welcome developments in understanding the issue. Awareness has increased and in most countries policymakers, social partners and professional networks are becoming more involved in the design of legislation, policy, strategies and tools for the assessment and management of work-related stress.

It is clear that the protection of workers’ mental health must focus on preventive strategies. Assessing and managing psychosocial risks at their origin will help craft the collective and individual measures needed to improve the quality of working life for women and men.

The ILO is committed to work with governments, workers and employers and their organizations around the globe to design and implement effective national, regional and enterprise level policies to prevent and minimise work-related stress.



Secretary-General's Message

New York, 29 April 2016

ON THE OCCASION ON THE REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR ALL VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE

The Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare is an occasion to reflect upon the terrible toll of these weapons and to pay tribute to those who suffered. It is also an opportunity to take stock of our efforts to chart a course to a world without the menace of chemical weapons.

Sadly, instead of being consigned to history, chemical weapons have re-emerged as a tool of war. We have witnessed new allegations of their use and have seen painful new evidence of the suffering they inflict upon their victims. This cannot and should not become the new normal. We have come too far to go back.

In the past year, two new States Parties have joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, bringing the total to 192. The destruction of the world's declared chemical agents has risen to 90 percent. The United Nations has created a Joint Investigative Mechanism with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to help ensure that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic are held accountable.

On this Remembrance Day, let us renew our efforts to rid the world of these and all other weapons of mass destruction. Only by working together, can we realize a world free of chemical weapons.



Note to Correspondents on the Adoption of Resolutions on the Peacebuilding Architecture in the General Assembly and the Security Council on 27 April 2016

New York, 27 April 2016 – In a rare bicameral event, the General Assembly and the Security Council today adopted substantively identical resolutions on the UN Peacebuilding Architecture, providing renewed momentum for the focus on ‘sustaining peace’ within the UN system.

UN peacebuilding activities directly affect millions of people in dozens of conflict-affected countries, including in the 27 countries where the Peacebuilding Fund sponsors initiatives to strengthen a fragile peace or prevent renewed conflict from breaking out, such as the salary payments of police and gendarmerie in the Central African Republic, the release of more than 700 child soldiers in Myanmar, the construction of cantonment camps for thousands of combatants in northern Mali or the network of women groups mediating in more than 5,000 local conflicts in Burundi.

It also means the UN will look to access all its peace and security, development and human rights engagements more coherently, both at Headquarters and around the world, to reduce the high human cost and suffering brought about by so many simultaneous security and humanitarian crises. Peacekeeping operations and UN country teams will make peacebuilding a more integral part of their work.

The new resolutions are part of a wide-ranging refocusing of how the UN system should deal with conflict situations. They adopt a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, encompassing conflict prevention, development, human rights and peacebuilding. Activities addressing all stages of the conflict cycle will involve the whole UN system, such that traditional siloes will be further broken down. The principal organs and the overall UN system must accordingly work more in this manner.

These are the most comprehensive resolutions on peacebuilding ever adopted by the UN. They define the central concept of ‘sustaining peace’ as both a goal and a process, one which is owned by national stakeholders but which needs sustained international attention and assistance. “Sustaining peace” means that activities are aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, and that they would address the root causes of conflicts.



The resolutions reaffirm the role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in bringing a strategic approach and coherence to peacebuilding efforts. The PBC, a subsidiary body to the General Assembly and the Security Council, provides a platform for a coordinated approach to sustaining peace, involving all actors, including the countries under discussion, regional member states and organizations, international financial institutions and civil society.

The resolutions emphasize that the PBC should work more flexibly and serve a bridging role among the General Assembly, Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The broad Membership also encourages the PBC, whose members represent a smaller subset of the overall Membership, to focus more on regional developments and consider more cross-cutting issues than it has done to date. This will make its services both more accessible to countries that are not necessarily on a regular “agenda” and more valuable to the principal organs.

The resolutions call for closer coordination and cooperation between the PBC and the Security Council on peacebuilding issues. They further call for stronger roles for the ECOSOC, the Human Rights Council and the UN development system to sustain peace.

The resolutions offer a range of options to the Secretary-General and the PBC for cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders. The resolutions particularly request the Secretary-General to explore options for strengthening UN-World Bank collaboration. It stresses the need for cooperation with regional organizations, specifically mentioning the African Union.

The resolutions emphasize the role of women, youth, and the civil society in sustaining peace.

The resolutions underline the importance of predictable and sustained resources to peacebuilding efforts, and the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Fund as a rapid, flexible and catalytic fund.

The next Secretary-General is invited to report back to the 72nd General Assembly session on efforts to implement the stipulations. The resolutions also call on the General Assembly and the Security Council to create new agenda items on “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace” and organize a high-level follow-up meeting at the 72nd session of the General Assembly.

Background to the Peacebuilding Architecture and the 2015 review

The so-called United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture was created in 2005, at which time the Peacebuilding Commission, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund were established. The trifacta was created to respond to the concern of former Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, that there was “a gaping hole in the United Nations institutional machinery: no part of the United Nations system effectively addresses the challenge of helping countries with the transition from war to lasting peace.”

Ten years later, a review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture offered an opportunity to assess the original vision and purpose and its effectiveness in conjunction with the rest of the UN system with a view to strengthening it. A report by a seven-member Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) was delivered late June 2015. In July, the Permanent Representatives of Angola and Australia were appointed to serve as co-facilitators of an intergovernmental consultative process. This concluded in March 2016 with the submission of substantively identical proposed resolutions to the General Assembly and the Security Council, respectively, for the two bodies' consideration and appropriate action. Both bodies then decided to adopt the resolutions, in parallel, on 27 April.

Contact:

Gianluca Rampolla

rampolla@un.org

w: [\(917\) 367 5568](tel:(917)3675568)

Felicia Gordon

gordonf@un.org

w: [\(212\) 963 4668](tel:(212)9634668)

