

Media Update

29 August 2017

UN Women

Press Release

UN agencies join hands to implement global program for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – Pakistan: Under the leadership of UN Resident Coordinator Neil Bhune, UN Women, UN Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday, signed contracts to roll out the joint global program on Essential Services Package (ESP) for women and girls subjected to violence in Pakistan.

The program aims to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi -sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Pakistan has been selected as the pilot country for Phase II of the global program on ESP.

The activities under this initiative will be jointly implemented by UN Women, UNODC, UNFPA and WHO in 2017-2018 with UN Women as the coordinating agency. During Phase I of the program (2013-2016), global guidelines and tools for multi-sectoral services for GBV survivors were developed. These will now be tested in pilot countries as part of Phase II. In his opening remarks, UN Resident Coordinator, Neil Bhune appreciated the joint initiative to end violence against women in Pakistan. 'Violence against women is not only a travesty of women's dignity and rights but also a tragic cost to families, communities, and countries. Preventing that violence and providing services to those who are affected, is both a necessity and a modest investment to help women have more opportunities so that no one is left behind.'

Speaking on this occasion, UN Women Country Representative, Jamshed Kazi, said the provision of essential services to gender-based violence



survivors is a step towards ensuring their protection and rehabilitation and preventing violence from reoccurring. “These services, with the support of legal reforms and policies, can result in a transformative change by addressing the root causes of violence to bring about women empowerment and gender equality in the country.”

WHO Country Representative, Dr. Mohammad Assai Ardakani, welcomed the partnership and said that the joint UN initiative is an opportunity for UN agencies to contribute and work together in ending violence against women. “The SDGs are centered on the idea of ‘leave no one behind.’ We cannot have women left behind in health, development and the well-being because they are experiencing violence, discrimination, poverty and gender inequality. Together we can address this serious public health problem and improve the health and well-being of women and girls.”

Officer Incharge UNODC, Danilo Campisi, said that Police have a primary role to play in preventing violence against women and promoting access to justice. “UNODC welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with UN agencies for strengthening the rule of law and improving Police services for survivors of gender-based violence.”

Deputy Representative UNFPA, Sarah Masale, said that UNFPA supports countries to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and to realize sexual and reproductive rights of women, adolescents, and youth. “Central to this mission is to ensure gender equality, empowerment of all women and girls, and reproductive rights, by ending GBV and harmful practices in development and humanitarian settings. We consider, the global standards for essential services for women and girls subjected to violence, a vital tool for ensuring these rights,” she said.

About Essential Services Package (ESP): The ESP comprises five modules - overview and introductions, health, justice and policing, social services, and coordination and governance of coordination, along with a sixth module, a companion “implementation guide” intended to assist in the implementation of the package.

Overall, the program identifies the need for providing essential services within health, social services, police, and justice sectors as well as guidelines for the coordination of essential services and the governance of coordination processes and mechanisms.

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UNICEF

Press Release

More than 180 million people lack basic drinking water in countries ravaged by conflict or unrest – UNICEF

Children living in fragile situations are four times more likely to lack access to basic drinking water

NEW YORK/STOCKHOLM, 29 August 2017 – More than 180 million people do not have access to basic drinking water in countries affected by conflict, violence and instability* around the world, UNICEF warned today, as [World Water Week](#) gets under way.

“Children’s access to safe water and sanitation, especially in conflicts and emergencies, is a right, not a privilege” said Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF’s global chief of water, sanitation and hygiene. “In countries beset by violence, displacement, conflict and instability, children’s most basic means of survival – water – must be a priority.”

People living in fragile situations are four times more likely to lack basic drinking water than populations in non-fragile situations, according to a recent UNICEF and World Health Organisation [analysis](#). Of the estimated 484 million people living in fragile situations in 2015, 183 million lacked basic drinking water services.

In Yemen, a country reeling from the impact of over two years of conflict,



water supply networks that serve the country's largest cities are at imminent risk of collapse due to war-inflicted damage and disrepair. Around 15 million people in the country have been cut off from regular access to water and sanitation.

In Syria, where the conflict is well into its seventh year, around 15 million people are in need of safe water, including an estimated 6.4 million children. Water has frequently been used as a weapon of war: In 2016 alone, there were at least 30 deliberate water cuts – including in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Raqqa and Dara, with pumps destroyed and water sources contaminated.

In conflict-affected areas in northeast Nigeria, 75 per cent of water and sanitation infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed, leaving 3.6 million people without even basic water services.

In South Sudan, where fighting has raged for over three years, almost half the water points across the country have been damaged or completely destroyed.

“In far too many cases, water and sanitation systems have been attacked, damaged or left in disrepair to the point of collapse. When children have no safe water to drink, and when health systems are left in ruins, malnutrition and potentially fatal diseases like cholera will inevitably follow,” said Wijesekera.

In Yemen, for example, children make up more than 53 per cent of the over half a million cases of suspected cholera and acute watery diarrhoea reported so far. Somalia is suffering from the largest outbreak of cholera in the last five years, with nearly 77,000 cases of suspected cholera/acute watery diarrhoea. And in South Sudan, the cholera outbreak is the most severe the country has ever experienced, with more than 19,000 cases since June 2016.

In famine-threatened north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, nearly 30 million people, including 14.6 million children, are in urgent need of safe water. More than 5 million children are estimated to be malnourished this year, with 1.4 million severely so.

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Notes for editors:

According to the World Bank Harmonized List of [Fragile Situations](#)



About UNICEF

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

Photos and video available for download here:

<http://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFLPXK4D>

More information about UNICEF's WASH work in emergencies is available here: <http://uni.cf/waterandfamine>

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