



Media Update

5 February 2015

ILO

PRESS RELEASE

Employers committed to implement Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010

ISLAMABAD (ILO News): The Employers Federation of Pakistan reassured its commitment to address sexual harassment at the work place through implementation of the Act for Sexual Harassment at the workplace.

EFP and Federal Ombudsman Secretariat in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries and International Labour Organization Country office for Pakistan organized the 6th seminar on Act of 2010 at Islamabad duly attended by a wide range of stakeholders including employers, workers, academia, media, NGOs and government representatives from Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Speaking on the occasion Justice (retired) Yasmin Abbasey reassured government of Pakistan's commitment to address the work place harassment through effective implementation of the existing legislation. The act currently focuses on sexual harassment at the workplace. She highlighted government vision and commitment to address all forms of workplace harassments. A due multi stakeholder consultative process shall be followed in coming months to prepare the amendments to the current legislation which is applicable on all Government Autonomous Organizations and Private sector. While speaking on the examples she emphasized the need to monitor the workplaces including education institutions to encourage girls and women active participation in the workforce. Human rights are to be fully protected and we need to act together to develop a peaceful and healthier atmosphere for women workers to not only to save our present but the future of the country.

While welcoming the participants President Employers Federation of Pakistan Mr Khawaja Nauman emphasised on the need to raise



awareness on existing laws such as sexual harassment at the workplace among employers for compliance with national commitments and be able to provide a much safer and enabling environment to women workers. Because of EFP's efforts now many of the enterprises and businesses have mechanisms for effective implementation of the act such as inquiry committees.

Country Director International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Pakistan Mr Francesco d, Ovidio reassured ILO's support to FoS and EFP to expand the coverage of the act through awareness raising and continue to support existing implementation mechanisms. The sexual harassment at the workplace is increasingly recognised as an occupational hazard and as a human right violation which undermine equality of opportunity and treatment between men and women in Pakistan. He referred to ILO convention 111 while emphasizing the need for a consistent investment and follow up to ensure actions to be translated into results.

He emphasised on the need to further expand the coverage of the act to the informal economy including domestic workers. He congratulated the FoS and EFP's collective efforts to sensitising employers on the subject and encouraged media to report and give visibility to such an inspiring example and further project Pakistan's efforts of reducing inequalities at the workplace.

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce President Mr Muzamil Hussain Sabri assured their full support to implement the act.

EFP expert Dr Momina Randhawa and Director FoS Mr Shahrukh Abbasi, gave detailed presentations on protection against harassment at workplaces. They said that every employer should establish probe committees to look into such complaints. They encouraged employers to ensure safe and healthy atmosphere at their workplaces, besides providing a vibrant mechanism there, enabling both male and female workers to get the benefits of the Act. At the end, participants asked a number of questions to the presenters and a meaningful dialogue was encouraged.

For further information please contact:

Mr Syed Saghir Bukhari, Programme Officer, ILO Country Office for Pakistan, Tel. +92 51 2276456-8





WFP

NEWS RELEASE
05 FEBRUARY 2015

WFP APLAUDS THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM ITS DONORS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN FOR THE REHABILITATION OF IDPS

ISLAMABAD – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today hosted a commemoration ceremony to welcome the contribution of EUR 1.04 million from the Government of Germany. This contribution will allow WFP to provide food assistance to the families displaced from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

In the past several years, Pakistan has made remarkable gains in becoming a staple food surplus country with sufficient national production to meet the needs of its population. However, the food and nutrition situation in Pakistan remains a key concern and has become a matter of considerable focus with the Government prioritizing food security in its National Agenda for Change alongside the provision of social and productive safety nets for the most vulnerable populations.

The contribution by the German Government will be utilized to twin with 7,000 tons of wheat provided by the Government of Pakistan. This will enable WFP to provide fortified wheat flour to half a million people (85,789 families) for a month.

“We are very concerned about the plight of the IDPs in Pakistan and hope that they are able to return to their homes soon.” H. E. Dr. Cyrill Nunn, the German Ambassador to Pakistan said. “We understand that a need for a coordinated approach exists which means a strong coordination from the Govt. of Pakistan, strong division of labour from the donors, good coordination within the UN system and to use as intelligently as possible the available funding. We know that the situation in FATA will remain



difficult but our focus on both short term and long term development will continue.”

He further said that Germany believes that SAFFRON has a key role in addressing the current challenges being faced in FATA; the prime responsibility for facilitating the return of the IDPs on a political level as well as ensuring that the funds from the Government of Pakistan for the uplifting of wheat and developing a strategic vision of the future of FATA and to look beyond the sheer rehabilitation of the IDPs. Therefore, SAFFRON and WFP are and will remain a key partners for Germany.

WFP's operations are primarily concentrated in the country's North West region including the highly sensitive and volatile border areas (1.6 million IDPs and returnees from conflict affected FATA agencies are being supported by WFP). Addressing the basic food needs of these highly vulnerable groups is not only important for meeting the basic humanitarian principle of averting food insecurity and deterioration of nutritional situation but also has an impact on the peace and stability of the region. Rations cuts have historically led to riots and experience confirms that lack of social support to these vulnerable groups has led to IDPs resorting to negative coping strategies and the destabilization of some districts and agencies in the north of KP and FATA.

Lola Castro, WFP Pakistan Representative and Country Director shared her appreciation. “On behalf of WFP I would like to thank the Government of Pakistan and generous donors such as the German government who are our partners in our fight for a food secure Pakistan.

She said once the returns to Federally Administered Tribal Areas materialize, WFP, upon request from the FATA Secretariat, will expand its comprehensive support through not only relief for the six months after return but nutrition, school feeding and livelihoods interventions to assist in the reconstruction, development and asset creation in the region; leading to short term, medium term and eventually long term food security.

WFP assistance in the country aims to complement the government's efforts in enhancing food security and nutrition amongst vulnerable populations and provide technical support in developing relevant national strategies.



Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFFRON), Mr. Pir Bakhsh Jamali said “now that many of the areas have been cleared and deemed safe, many families have volunteered to return to their homes and with the assistance provided by WFP and other UN agencies, the government of Pakistan intends to aid these returns with dignity and respect after 20th of February.”

He also stated, “in accordance with the vision of the Prime Minister, the Government of Pakistan has committed to make an in kind contribution of 155,000 tons of wheat to WFP to be used for its relief assistance. 30,000 tons from that will be released within this coming week and the rest in the following months as per the need of the World Food Programme. I would like to thank the German Government for its support, WFP for kindly hosting this event and all the efforts they have made in Pakistan.”

The Government of Germany has provided WFP with much-needed support amounting to almost EUR 3.8 million over the past two years. These donations have been critical in sustaining relief food assistance for people affected by food insecurity in Pakistan.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food in emergencies and working with communities to build resilience. In 2013, WFP assisted more than 80 million people in 75 countries.

For more information please contact (email address:
firstname.lastname@wfp.org):

Amjad Jamal, WFP/Islamabad.+92 51 8312270 Mob: +92 300 850 0989

Photo Caption: (From Right to Left): Lola Castro, WFP Country Director, Pir Bakhsh Jamali, Federal Secretary, Ministry of SAFRON and H.E. Cyrill Nunn, German Ambassador to Pakistan, Islamabad.

