

# Media Update

9 March 2016

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## UNICEF

Press Release

### PAKISTAN PROGRESSING ON IMMUNISATION EFFORTS

*High level mission praises country's efforts and calls for increased commitment to reach every child*

**ISLAMABAD, 9 March 2016** – Pakistan is making progress in improving its childhood immunisation programme, but sustained commitment at federal and provincial level is required to increase the coverage of services and reach children who today miss out on lifesaving vaccines.

More than 1,000 Pakistani children under the age of five die every day, many of them from diseases that could have been prevented by vaccines. According to WHO and UNICEF estimates, Pakistan's coverage rate with one of the most basic vaccines (DTP3) stood at 73% in 2014 with large variations between the provinces, districts and communities. The most recent Pakistan Demographic Health Survey, from 2013, showed Punjab had 76% coverage while in Baluchistan the figure was just 27%.

This week, a high level mission to Pakistan was led by Anuradha Gupta, Deputy CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, together with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK's Department for International Development, USAID, the Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation, UNICEF and WHO. The visit was a follow up to a similar mission conducted in February 2015. The delegation visited Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi to see the progress made in the last 12 months, understand the challenges that lie ahead, and encourage leaders to reinforce their commitment to end childhood vaccine preventable deaths.

"I have been deeply encouraged by much of what I have seen during this visit," said Ms Gupta. "Coordination at federal and provincial level has clearly



improved and I have seen for myself some of the innovative work at local level to reach children with vaccines. This week's approval of the budget for the new provincial plans, which will kick-start the National Immunisation Support Project, is welcome news as it paves the way for intensified action on routine immunisation. Timely release of funding at all levels will be a critical next step."

Among the initiatives witnessed by the mission was a recently-expanded approach using mobile phone technology and real-time data to monitor vaccinators, identify children missing out on vaccinations, and strengthen accountability. In Punjab this has significantly increased immunisation coverage. Similar approaches are now being initiated in KP and Sindh.

"Accurate and timely information is absolutely vital to ensuring we are reaching children with vaccines," said Dr Michel Thieren, WHO Representative in Pakistan. "We need to see successful initiatives taken to scale so they can benefit children across Pakistan."

The delegation also welcomed the decision by the Chief Minister of Sindh, Dr Qaim Ali Shah, to better support the immunisation efforts of vaccinators and Lady Health Workers by including operational costs in the province's recurrent budget. This decision will help Sindh to reach more of its children with vital vaccines.

"All Pakistani children should have access to lifesaving vaccines, no matter where they live, said Angela Kearney, the UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "We simply must not accept that a child misses out on immunisation because they were born in a remote area or an urban slum. The provision of health services, including immunisation, is a fundamental building block for provinces across Pakistan."

Gavi has committed US\$ 1 billion towards immunisation in Pakistan between 2001 and 2019, making the country the largest recipient of Vaccine Alliance funding. Through this support, Gavi is helping Pakistan to reach its children with the five-in-one pentavalent vaccine – which protects children against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis as well as *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and Hepatitis B – and pneumococcal vaccine, which protects children against the leading cause of pneumonia, the world's leading vaccine-preventable cause of death in children.

Gavi also provides support to the country for measles campaigns and inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), which is crucial to global efforts to eradicate polio. Pakistan is currently preparing an application to Gavi for the introduction of rotavirus vaccine, which is a significant step to protect children from dying of diarrhoea.

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About Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing equitable use of vaccines in lower-income countries. The Vaccine Alliance brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry, technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sector partners. Gavi uses innovative finance mechanisms, including co-financing by recipient countries, to secure sustainable funding and adequate supply of quality vaccines. Since 2000, Gavi has contributed to the immunisation of an additional 500 million children and the prevention of approximately 7 million future deaths. Learn more at [www.gavi.org](http://www.gavi.org) and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is funded by governments (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Spain, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States), the European Commission, Alwaleed Philanthropies, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Majid Al Futtaim, as well as private and corporate partners (Absolute Return for Kids, Anglo American plc., the A&A Foundation, The Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Comic Relief, the ELMA Vaccines and Immunization Foundation, The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW), the Gulf Youth Alliance, JP Morgan, "la Caixa" Foundation, LDS Charities, Lions Clubs International Foundation, UPS and Vodafone).

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# UNIDO

## Press Release

### **Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and UNIDO have launched 'Women Business Growth Centre' and 'Women in Cleantech Campaign' on the International Women's Day 2016**

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organized a ceremony to celebrate the Women International Day 2016. Esam Alqararah UNIDO Representative, Sheikh Pervez Ahmed Senior Vice President, Sheikh Abdul Waheed Vice President ICCI, Ms. Amina Malik, PML(N) Women Wing Punjab Vice President, Ms. Nasira Ali Executive Member ICCI & Chairperson ICCI Women Affairs Committee, Ms. Zeenat Ayesha Chairperson ICCI Women Entrepreneurship Committee, Dr. Shahina Waheed National Program Coordinator UNIDO and many other women entrepreneurs were present in the event. Gender mainstreaming is one of the major focuses of the UNIDO Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP), which employs a competition-based ecosystem approach to identify the most promising entrepreneurs across the country. It works as a local business acceleration programme that supports, promotes and “de-risks” the participating companies and connects them to the potential investors, customers, and partners etc.

ICCI & UNIDO has launched “Women Business Growth Centre”(WBGC) to focus on promotion of women entrepreneurship which was the first initiative of its kind in the private sector. At this occasion, UNIDO in collaboration with ICCI also launched “Women in Cleantech Campaign” which aimed at encouraging women entrepreneurs to embrace clean technology products that offered immense potential for business growth.

Speaking at the occasion, Ms. Amina Malik, PML (N) Women Wing Punjab Vice President and Chairman FPCCI International Trade & Investment Committee said women have vital role in the economic development of the country and assured for support in e-training and capacity building programs for women. She said she would try to achieve better funding from the government for projects aimed at women empowerment.



Esam Alqararah, UNIDO Representative said that cooperation between UNIDO and ICCI was achieving positive outcomes for business community as UNIDO in collaboration with ICCI has launched many successful initiatives including Global Cleantech Program for SMEs and Start Ups. He said the launch of “Women in Cleantech Campaign” from the platform of ICCI was another step in the right direction to inculcate the importance of clean technologies in women entrepreneurs that have a bright future. He assured that UNIDO would continue to collaborate with ICCI in initiatives aimed at industrial and entrepreneurship development.

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## UNODC

### Media Advisory

## Government of Japan Contributes USD 6.5 million to UNODC

**Strengthening Border Security against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Transnational Organised Crime in Pakistan**

**At Ambassador Hall, Marriott Hotel, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 10:45 hrs**

The Government of Japan and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will be signing an agreement tomorrow regarding Japan’s contribution of USD 6.5 million in support of strengthening border security against illicit trafficking and related Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) in Pakistan. The agreement will be signed in the presence of leading government officials by the Country Representative of the UNODC in Pakistan, Mr. Cesar Guedes, and by Mr. Junya Matsuura, Charge d’Affaires ad Interim Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Pakistan.

The project aims to build the capacity of Pakistani Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to effectively interdict illicit narcotics entering or leaving the country through air, land and sea. This capacity-building exercise, under the UNODC’s Sub-Programme 1, will enhance the technical skills and knowledge of LEA’s, empowering them to detect illicit narcotics trafficking, thus negatively impacting upon the finances of terrorist organizations. It will also contribute towards strengthening their investigative processes and techniques, in addition to improving the rate of prosecution. The activities will also improve inter-agency and regional cooperation between counterpart LEAs, in order to synchronize real-time information sharing and joint responses



against the threat of drugs and precursors trafficking through land and maritime routes, and other related TOC activities, thus further disrupting the financing of terrorism.

You are cordially invited to attend the signing ceremony at the Ambassador Hall, Marriott Hotel on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 10:45 am.

*For further information and confirmation please contact Ms. Rizwana Asad, Communications Officer, cell: 0301 8564255, email: [rizwana.asad@unodc.org](mailto:rizwana.asad@unodc.org)*

UNODC Islamabad

08 March 2016

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## UNDP

### Press Release

## **Saudi Fund For Development and UNDP partner to provide essential infrastructure for crisis affected people of Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

09 March 2016, SWAT DISTRICT — The first phase of a major project to improve community resilience in crisis-affected areas of Malakand division was celebrated today by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the opening of the Dop Jabba Link Road in Swat district. Over 800,000 people in Malakand have benefitted from access to essential services and improved agriculture following the rehabilitation of 639 infrastructure schemes by UNDP, with an investment of US\$ 6.7 million from SFD. In view of this success, the partners announced the second phase of the project, with an investment of US\$ 5 million from SFD, to rehabilitate 192 additional schemes.



“Together in partnership with UNDP Pakistan we will continue this community infrastructure restoration initiative. We will address the needs of vulnerable people by connecting them with more social and economic opportunities for sustainable development and prosperity. It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate the 9,270 feet long Dop Jaba Link Road in village Manai that will provide more than 11,000 people with an easy access to schools, hospitals, and markets in Kabal, Mingora and other areas of Swat,” said the leader of the SFD delegation, Chief Engineer Abdullah Mohammad Al-Shoaibi.

Marc-André Franche, Country Director UNDP Pakistan, said, “Together with the Saudi Fund for Development, UNDP has helped re-connect the crisis affected people and communities of Swat. Most importantly, these resilient communities have been involved in monitoring reconstruction work in their areas. Community infrastructure has been considerably restored and rehabilitated in Swat in collaboration with the communities.”

Through the partnership between UNDP and SFD, the Community Infrastructure Restoration and Rehabilitation Project involved communities in oversight of the rehabilitation process, ensuring that it met local requirements and building resilient communities. The leadership of the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was instrumental in designing and monitoring the project.

In 2008–2009, Swat district, Malakand division, was badly affected by insecurity which resulted in massive population displacement. The situation was further aggravated by floods in 2010. As a result, basic infrastructure was damaged, livelihoods severely affected, and communities were deprived of access to services.

In the first phase of the Community Infrastructure Restoration and Rehabilitation Project, the partnership between UNDP and SFD worked with local communities and provincial government to rehabilitate 639 link roads, street pavements, irrigation and drainage channels, small bridges, and culverts. These have enabled communities to easily access essential services such as hospitals and schools, and rebuild livelihoods through better irrigation for agriculture and improved access to markets.

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