

Media Update

9 March 2017

WFP

Press Release

Government of Japan announced USD 7 million to UNHCR, WFP

Islamabad, 9 March 2017: The government of Japan has announced a contribution of USD 7 million to UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme (WFP) to support the Afghan Refugees and host communities in Pakistan.

The official announcement was made by the Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Lt. Gen. (Rtd) Abdul Qadir Baloch and the Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai during a press event held in Islamabad.

The Acting UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, UNHCR Assistant Representative (Protection) Ms. Tracey Maulfair, WFP Country Director and Representative Mr. Finbarr Curran, and Representatives from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Secretariat and KP Government were also present at the occasion.

The Government of Japan has allocated USD 3 million to UNHCR for implementation of its priority interventions in the provision of legal assistance to refugees in the country and its programmes in the areas of education healthcare and vocational training. This generous contribution by the Government of Japan will, in addition to providing legal assistance to an estimated 22,500 refugees in Pakistan, support an estimated 50,000 persons from the refugee population and the communities hosting them in accessing health care and education, as well as some 210 youths who will be undergoing vocational training courses throughout Pakistan.

The Government of Japan has allocated the remaining USD 4 million to WFP to support 82,389 beneficiaries including 42,874 children of 6-59 months of age and 39,515 pregnant and lactating women over the period of six months.



It will enable WFP to procure a total of 1,097 metric tons of locally produced quality “Ready-to-Use supplementary foods” (*Acha Mum* and *Maamta*) that will be distributed in four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province i.e. Peshawar, Nowshera, Hangu and Kohat, identified as the districts hosting the highest number of Afghan refugees and host communities.

Speaking at the occasion, the Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Lt. Gen. (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch said that “the interventions are in line with the Government of Pakistan’s priorities to ensure adequate nutritious food provision to Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan is committed to maintain food security and protection of the Afghan population living in Pakistan. The Government of Japan has been an active partner of the Government of Pakistan in supporting the refugees and returns which contributes to the peace and stability in the region. The Ministry of SAFRON will be working in close liaison with UNHCR and WFP to provide continuous support to Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan”.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador of Japan, H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai said “the Government of Japan attaches great importance to supporting Afghan refugees and their host communities which have provided shelters so much needed to them for more than three decades. With this grant from people of Japan, assistance will be provided to host communities as well as Afghan refugees. I am sure that this assistance will significantly alleviate the burden on them. Japan has been assisting Afghan refugees in Pakistan and their host communities for more than ten years with the grant aid of more than USD 200 million. I hope this grant aid will be fully utilized and put positive impact, particularly, on the young generations and thus the future of Afghan refugees and host communities”.

The Acting UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Indrika Ratwatte expressed gratitude to the government and people of Japan for demonstrating their commitment and supporting the uprooted people. “Japan has always been a strong supporter of the global humanitarian efforts,” Ratwatte said, adding with this contribution, WFP and UNHCR will be able to provide meaningful support and assistance to those in need”.

WFP Country Director and Representative Mr. Finbarr Curran said that “the Government of Japan has been a key partner in ensuring food security and nutrition for temporarily displaced Pakistanis as well as Afghan refugees. This contribution will provide timely support for the triparty agreement, between Governments of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, for the sustainable return of

Afghan refugees to their country of origin. WFP foresees that the investment in nutrition will have a positive long term impact on the economic development of both countries”.

Pakistan has been home to millions of Afghans for more than 37 years and continues to host the world’s largest protracted refugee population.

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UNITED NATIONS

Press Release

Photo exhibition on the Sustainable Development Goals opens in Peshawar

Peshawar, 9 March 2017: The United Nation Information Centre in partnership with the Directorate of Tourism and Culture of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa opened a photo exhibition, “Pakistan Sustaining Development: Human Stories through Photography” at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar. The exhibition looks at the lives of Pakistani people through the lens of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It includes 102 photos from all over Pakistan, organized in 17 collections, according to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Jointly organized by Agence France-Presse (AFP), the European Union and the United Nations with support from the Embassy of France in Pakistan and UK Aid, the exhibition aims to raise awareness about SDGs and UN's efforts for development in Pakistan and will remain open for public until March 17.

Mushtaq Ahmed, Managing Director Tourism Corporation said: “The projects like the “Pakistan Sustaining Development: Human Stories Through Photography” provides an ideal forum for the emerging photographers, artists



from different regions, to work together devotedly and provide great inspiration to aspiring new artists to try new techniques, tools and ideas in their work”. He further added that I am amazed at the beauty of these pictures, they are so powerful and portray what the SDGs are and what they mean to the people of Pakistan.

Amélie Herenstein, Bureau Chief Agence-France Press for Pakistan and Afghanistan said: “It is a great honor for AFP Pakistan to present, for the first time, our photos directly to the Pakistani public.” She further maintained that “We have deliberately chosen to focus on the human angle of the story, showing the reality of life as it is now for millions of Pakistanis, be they shopkeepers, teachers, farmers, children, or immigrants abroad. It also documents the extraordinary resilience of ordinary Pakistanis in the face of tragic events like floods.”

Talking to the audience, Muhammad Luqman, Director General Sustainable Development Goals said: “Attainment of sustainable development goals is the responsibility of everyone of us to salvage our population from the dire miseries of poverty, inequalities, and climate pitfalls. Together with academia, civil society, students and the private sector, the public sector can materialize this dream. Government of KP has already started efforts and will endeavor to seize every opportunity to make implementation of SDGs a success. SDGs is a spirit. It's a mission, therefore it needs priority in the development portfolio”.

Andrè de Bussy, Counselor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs stated: “The exhibition reflects beautifully the diversity of Pakistan but it also visualizes the common humanity and spirit of all people here. We are working closely with the government of Pakistan and United Nation in Pakistan and we will continue this partnership to ensure that our assistance contributes to Pakistan achieving the SDGs for the benefit of each citizen of this country”.

Speaking at the event, Vittorio Cammarota, Director of the UN Information Centre expressed: “Sometimes words fail us. Feeling pain and sharing the joy of the other is an experience only the eyes can capture and photography is an ideal visual language. The exhibition gives a human face and feel to the issues”.

“We are honoured to bring this outstanding exhibition to Peshawar, it provides people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with an unprecedented



opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of development in Pakistan, Vittorio further added.

The Sustainable Development Goals represent a common agenda, adopted by the world leaders to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. These 17 goals comprise 169 targets which focus on economic inequality, innovation, climate change, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among others. Promotion and raising awareness about SDGs is a top priority for UN system in Pakistan.

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