



Media Update-2

19 February 2015

United Nations

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

WORLD DAY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE 20 February 2015

World Day for Social Justice comes at a pivotal moment for people and our planet. Around the world, there is a rising call to secure a life of dignity for all with equal rights and respect for the diverse voices of the world's peoples. At the core of this movement lies the need for social justice.

This year's commemoration focuses on the scourge of human trafficking and the plight of approximately 21 million women, men and children in various forms of modern slavery. New instruments such as the ILO Protocol and Recommendation on forced labour and human trafficking are helping to strengthen global efforts to punish perpetrators and end impunity. We must continue to do more. We simply cannot achieve development for all if we leave behind those who are socially and economically exploited.

In this crucial year for global development, as Member States work to craft a post-2015 agenda and a new set of sustainable development goals, let us do our utmost to eradicate all forms of human exploitation. Let us strive to build a world of social justice where all people can live and work in freedom, dignity and equality.





UNODC

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of Report

The socio-economic impact of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan

19th February 2015 - UNODC Office in Pakistan in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency published a research report on “The Socio-economic impact of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan” at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad.

Pakistan is a source, transit and a destination country for human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The problem manifests itself within the country and across borders. Internally, Sindh and Punjab remain a source of concern with high instances of bonded labour in agriculture, brick making and other industries.

This report was commissioned in order to develop an in-depth understanding of the socio-economic patterns and trends related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan. The findings of the report aim to highlight the important relationship between the socio-economic conditions and irregular migration.

UNODC Representative Mr. Cesar Guedes stated that “millions are smuggled across borders every year, for reasons of work or asylum, and some unfortunately perish in this long and arduous process, as recent tragic events in the Mediterranean have reminded us. Approximately 927 million USD are generated in profits by the criminal syndicates, weakening licit economy and contributing towards fuelling corruption”.

The recommendations provided in the report would assist the relevant ministries and the law enforcement agencies in Pakistan to effectively plan and allocate resources towards the high migration areas while developing mechanism for effective interagency communication and international cooperation, said Mr. Guedes.



The launch of the publication was attended by senior government officials including the Additional Director General FIA Mr. Qudratullah Khan, Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Mr. Peter Heyward along with representatives from various Embassies and High Commissions.

UNODC is grateful to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of the Government of Australia for the financial support in conduct of this research and publication.

For further information kindly contact Rizwana Asad, Communications Officer via 0301-8564255 and/or rizwana.asad@unodc.org

WHO GAVI UNICEF

PRESS RELEASE

IMMUNISATION LEADERS CALL FOR INCREASED POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR IMMUNISATION IN PAKISTAN

High-level mission shines spotlight on challenges facing immunisation services in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 19 February 2015 – Childhood immunisation in Pakistan is at a crossroads and strong political will is required to ensure that the lives of millions of children are not put at risk, three global health leaders warned today.

Almost three million children miss out on a full course of the most basic vaccines every year in Pakistan, leaving them vulnerable to life-threatening diseases. Immunisation coverage rates across the country vary widely with some districts seeing very few children protected against diseases such as diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and bacterial pneumonia.

A high-level mission including Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr Ala Alwan, Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean region at the World Health Organization, and Dr Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF is meeting with leaders in Islamabad to set out their concerns and offer their support to Pakistan moving forwards.



“It is a tragedy when any child dies from a vaccine-preventable disease,” said Dr Berkley. “The lives of millions of children across Pakistan are at risk because of limited access to vaccines. We have delivered a strong message to leaders that we are ready to work with them to drastically improve this situation and strengthen routine immunisation across Pakistan.”

“Deaths among under five years children attributable to vaccine preventable diseases constitute up to 25% of the total deaths among this age group in developing countries, including Pakistan,” said Dr Ala Alwan, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean. “Pakistan is not on track for achieving MDG4 which aims at reducing child mortality by two thirds by 2015. Increasing routine vaccination coverage will significantly contribute to decreasing infant and child deaths and achieving MDG4.”

“The need to improve routine immunisation coverage in Pakistan cannot be overemphasized,” said Ms Geeta Rao Gupta, the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. “We realise the challenge Pakistan faces regarding immunisation and are determined to make 2015 a turning point for the country in terms of immunising all children, especially those living in marginalized communities and hard to reach areas. The fact that nearly 400,000 children under the age of five die in Pakistan every year from diseases which can be prevented through vaccine is simply not acceptable. These precious lives can and must be saved.”

The delegation will meet with Prime Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, to highlight the importance of political will in ensuring immunisation coverage rises across all regions and districts in Pakistan. There are wide regional variations in coverage across the country’s four main provinces with Punjab seeing a 76% coverage rate while in Baluchistan the rate is just 27%.

The delegation calls for stronger collaboration between the federal and provincial level to tackle the variations in vaccination coverage across the country. Accountability of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) is seen as critical to increase access to routine immunisation as well as recruitment and training of qualified EPI personnel coupled with improved reporting systems.

Gavi currently supports pentavalent vaccine which offers protection against five diseases (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenzae type b) as well as pneumococcal vaccines as part of Pakistan’s routine schedule. Gavi also funds measles vaccination campaigns. With Pakistan planning to introduce the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in the coming months, routine immunisation will be more important than ever as protection against polio is given to babies along with the antigens against other diseases. By the end of 2015, up to 73 Gavi-supported countries plan to have introduced IPV, which is seen as a key part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative’s endgame strategic plan.

“Pakistan has a choice to make for its children,” added Dr Berkley. “Routine immunisation is the bedrock for access to vaccines against many illnesses, including





polio, so by strengthening these systems Pakistan will be making an investment of political will which will benefit many generations to come.”

Notes to editors

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 access to immunisation in poor 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 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, the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, 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, JP Morgan, Kuwait Youth Committee, “la Caixa” Foundation, LDS Charities, Lions Clubs International Foundation, UPS and Vodafone).

Media contact

Rob Kelly

Tel. +41 22 909 29 78

Mob. +41 79 745 20 31

Email: rkelly@gavi.org

Fred Tissandier

Tel. +41 22 909 2968

Mob. +41 79 300 8253

Email: ftissandier@gavi.org

