

Media Update

30 January 2018

FAO

Press Release

Project launched to empower landless farmers in Sindh by improving land tenancy

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the financial assistance of the European Union (EU) will work to improve land tenancy for the landless farmers or *haris* under the project 'Improved Land Tenancy in Sindh Province (ILTS)'. *Haris* or landless farmers in Sindh usually have access to land as tenants through verbal agreements between them and the landlords. These farmers often end-up as vulnerable "bonded" workers. This project was launched at a ceremony in Karachi where Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Shah was the chief guest.

4 million Euros will be spent over the next four years to benefit 12,600 households in eight districts of Sindh including Dadu, Jamshoro, Larkana, Matiari, Mirpur Khas, Tando Allah yar, Tando Muhammad Khan, and Sujawal. 4,800 informal tenancy agreements between *haris* and landlords and 504 Farmer Field Schools and Women Open Schools will be conducted to contribute to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty along with ensuring better use of natural resources in the targeted areas.

The guest of honor at the ceremony was Mr Hazar Khan Bijarani, the honourable minister for Planning and Development Board, Government of Sindh. Addressing participants he said: "We hope to see programmes of poverty alleviation all across Sindh. In this connection we appreciate the efforts of FAO and EU for helping us to improve livelihoods in rural areas with a focus on rural women."

Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Jean-François Cautain, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan was also present and said "The European Union is pleased to collaborate with FAO on promoting the establishment in Sindh



of a land tenure system that can sustainably improve the equitable access to, and governance of, land and natural resources, allowing for improvements in agricultural production, food security and nutrition.

Ms Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan appreciated the partnership with EU and Government of Pakistan and said: “The project will implement elements of The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) for unlocking the potential of agriculture and rural development in Sindh. It will enable farmers to improve their livelihoods and adopt climate resilient innovative agriculture practices. It will also promote nutrition education through Women Open Schools (WOS) and nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions”.

VGGT will be used to improve tenure security for farmers taking into account agricultural productivity and gender inequality issues. These guidelines are a set of internationally accepted standards of good practices in relation to tenure governance, which can guide decision making and policy development regarding matters related to tenure security in the context of arrangements between landlords and *haris*.

This project will be instrumental in introduction of governance arrangements leading towards secure tenancy within the framework of the existing legal and institutional framework. It will also help develop capacity of local institutions working to improve life in rural Sindh.

UNICEF

Press Release

UNICEF seeks \$3.6 billion in emergency assistance for 48 million children caught up in catastrophic humanitarian crises

117 million people living through conflict and disaster lack access to safe water

84 per cent of appeal for children in countries affected by violence and conflict.



NEW YORK/GENEVA, 30 January 2018 – UNICEF appealed today for \$3.6 billion to provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance to 48 million children living through conflict, natural disasters and other emergencies in 51 countries in 2018.

Around the world, violent conflict is driving humanitarian needs to critical levels, with children especially vulnerable. Conflicts that have endured for years – such as those in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, among other countries – continue to deepen in complexity, bringing new waves of violence, displacement and disruption to children’s lives.

“Children cannot wait for wars to be brought to an end, with crises threatening the immediate survival and long term future of children and young people on a catastrophic scale,” said UNICEF Director of Emergency Programmes, Manuel Fontaine. “Children are the most vulnerable when conflict or disaster causes the collapse of essential services such as healthcare, water and sanitation. Unless the international community takes urgent action to protect and provide life-saving assistance to these children, they face an increasingly bleak future.”

Parties to conflicts are showing a blatant disregard for the lives of children. Children are not only coming under direct attack, but are also being denied basic services as schools, hospitals and civilian infrastructure are damaged or destroyed. Approximately 84 per cent (\$3.015 billion) of the 2018 funding appeal is for work in countries affected by humanitarian crises borne of violence and conflict.

The world is becoming a more dangerous place for many children, with almost one in four children now living in a country affected by conflict or disaster. For too many of these children, daily life is a nightmare. The spread of water-borne diseases is one of the greatest threats to children’s lives in crises. Attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure, siege tactics which deny children access to safe water, as well as forced displacement into areas with no water and sanitation infrastructure – all leave children and families at risk of relying on contaminated water and unsafe sanitation. Girls and women face additional threats, as they often fulfil the role of collecting water for their families in dangerous situations.

“117 million people living through emergencies lack access to safe water and

in many countries affected by conflict, more children die from diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation than from direct violence,” said Fontaine. “Without access to safe water and sanitation, children fall ill, and are often unable to be treated as hospitals and health centres either do not function or are overcrowded. The threat is even greater as millions of children face life-threatening levels of malnutrition, making them more susceptible to water-borne diseases like cholera, creating a vicious cycle of undernutrition and disease.”

As the leading humanitarian agency on water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies, UNICEF provides over half of the emergency water, sanitation and hygiene services in humanitarian crises around the world.

When disasters strike, UNICEF works with partners to quickly provide access to safe drinking water, sanitation services and hygiene supplies to prevent the spread of disease. This includes establishing latrines, distributing hygiene kits, trucking thousands of litres of water to displacement camps daily, supporting hospitals and cholera treatment centres, and repairing water and sanitation systems. These measures save lives, have long-term impact and pave the way for other important services like health clinics, vaccination programmes, nutrition support and emergency education.

The largest component of UNICEF’s appeal this year is for children and families caught up in the Syria conflict, soon to enter its eighth year. UNICEF is seeking almost \$1.3 billion to support 6.9 million Syrian children inside Syria and those living as refugees in neighbouring countries.

Working with partners and with the support of donors, in 2018 UNICEF aims to:

- Provide 35.7 million people with access to safe water;
- Reach 8.9 million children with formal or non-formal basic education;
- Immunize 10 million children against measles;
- Provide psychosocial support to over 3.9 million children;
- Treat 4.2 million children with severe acute malnutrition.

In the first ten months of 2017, as a result of UNICEF’s support:

- 29.9 million people were provided with access to safe water;
- 13.6 million children were vaccinated against measles;
- 5.5 million children accessed some form of education;

- 2.5 million children were treated for severe acute malnutrition;
- 2.8 million children accessed psycho-social support.

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Notes for Editors:

The appeal overview, photos and multimedia materials are available for download here: <https://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFIRIT3P>

The Humanitarian Action for Children 2018 appeal can be found here: <https://www.unicef.org/HAC2018>

Video and photos are available for download here:

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.

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children, visit www.unicef.org

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