

Media Update

2 May 2018

UNDP

Press Release

UNDP Pakistan launches the Pakistan National Human Development Report 2017 – Unleashing the Potential of a Young Pakistan

Investments in the Youth of the country are amongst the best investments that can be made in Pakistan's future

ISLAMABAD 2nd May 2018 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan launched its National Human Development Report (NHDR) – *Unleashing the potential of a Young Pakistan*. This report seeks to understand Pakistan's human development challenges and opportunities from the prism of youth. It focuses on how to improve human development outcomes – by empowering young people, addressing the root causes of the obstacles they face, and by proposing innovative ways to surmount these challenges.

Offering first-rate analysis and evidence-based policy recommendations, this Report looks at three key drivers of youth empowerment: quality education, gainful employment and meaningful engagement. Authored by Dr. Adil Najam, Dean, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, and Dr. Faisal Bari, Associate Professor of Economics, at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), the Pakistan NHDR accentuates the critical role youth's quality education, gainful employment, and meaningful engagement can play in securing human development progress in the country.

This report relies on the Human Development Index (HDI) as the measure of overall achievement, emphasising three main aspects of a nation's polity: people, opportunities and choices. The report focuses on youth primarily because Pakistan currently has the largest generation of young people ever



recorded in its history. 64 percent of the total population is below the age of 30, and 29 percent is between the ages of 15-29 years. It is currently one of the youngest countries in the world and the second youngest in the South Asian region after Afghanistan.

Ahsan Iqbal, the Minister for Interior and Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms said, “It is essential to include young people at all levels of decision-making, because *voice and participation* are a key part of the human development approach and important for long term policy-making.”

Neil Buhne, the UN Resident Coordinator said, “Never have the opportunities for social, economic and political progress been so great. Nor have the challenges facing us ever been more pressing. Being aware of this opportunity, the United Nations in line with the Government of Pakistan’s Vision 2025, has prioritized working with youth as a key pillar of our work across the board.”

Dr, Adil Najam, Lead Author of the NHDR said, “The future of Pakistan – one way or the other – will be determined by those who are between 15 and 29 years of age today. The single most useful thing that the rest of us can do is to create meaningful opportunities in education, employment and engagement that can empower our young to unleash their potential.”

This Nationally-owned report, is formulated under the advice of an Advisory Council with members represented by major political parties, the government and intellectuals. Through its intensely inclusive and participatory process, the Pakistan NHDR 2017 has reached out to nearly 130,000 individuals across the country, 90% of whom were youth, making it essentially a Report “*by the youth, for the youth*”.

Download full report:

<http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/library/human-development-reports/PKNHDR.html>

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یو این ڈی پی پاکستان کی جانب سے "نیشنل ہیومن ڈویلپمنٹ رپورٹ 2017 - جوان پاکستان کو بنائیں قوت کا نشان" کا اجراء

پاکستان کے مستقبل پر بہترین سرمایہ کاری یہی ہے کہ ملک کے نوجوانوں پر سرمایہ کاری کریں

اسلام آباد: 2 مئی 2018

اقوام متحدہ ترقیاتی ادارہ (یو این ڈی پی) پاکستان نے "جوان پاکستان کو بنائیں قوت کا نشان" کے عنوان سے اپنی "نیشنل ہیومن ڈویلپمنٹ رپورٹ (این ایچ ڈی آر)" کا اجراء کر دیا ہے۔ یہ رپورٹ پاکستان میں انسانی ترقی کی راہ میں درپیش مشکلات اور نوجوانوں کے نقطہ نظر سے موجود مواقع کو سمجھنے کی ایک کاوش ہے۔ اس میں انسانی ترقی کے ثمرات کو بہتر بنانے کے طریقوں پر بات کرتے ہوئے زور دیا گیا ہے کہ نوجوانوں کو باختیار بنائیں، انہیں درپیش رکاوٹوں کے اصل اسباب کو دور کریں جبکہ ان مشکلات پر قابو پانے کے لئے جدت آمیز طریقے بھی رپورٹ میں تجویز کئے گئے ہیں۔

براہ راست تجزیہ اور شواہد پر مبنی پالیسی سفارشات پیش کرتے ہوئے اس رپورٹ میں نوجوانوں کو باختیار بنانے والے تین بنیادی محرکین کا جائزہ لیا گیا ہے جن میں معیاری تعلیم، ثمر آور روزگار اور بامعنی شمولیت شامل ہیں۔ پارڈی سکول آف گلوبل سٹڈیز، بوسٹن یونیورسٹی کے ڈین ڈاکٹر عادل نجم اور لاہور یونیورسٹی آف مینجمنٹ سائنسز (امس) میں معاشیات کے ایسوسی پروفیسر ڈاکٹر فیصل باری کی تصنیف کی ہوئی اس رپورٹ میں زور دیا گیا ہے کہ نوجوانوں کی معیاری تعلیم، ثمر آور روزگار اور بامعنی شمولیت ملک میں انسانی ترقی کو بہتر بنانے میں کلیدی کردار ادا کر سکتی ہے۔

اس رپورٹ میں ملکی معاشرت کے تین اہم پہلوؤں یعنی لوگ، مواقع اور انتخاب کے راستوں پر زور دیتے ہوئے مجموعی کامیابی کی پیمائش کے لئے ہیومن ڈویلپمنٹ انڈیکس (ایچ ڈی آئی) تیار کیا گیا ہے۔ رپورٹ میں نوجوانوں کو اس بناء پر بنیادی حیثیت دی گئی ہے کہ پاکستان کی پوری تاریخ پر نظر دوڑائیں تو اس وقت ملک میں نوجوانوں کی تعداد کسی بھی دور کے مقابلے میں سب سے زیادہ ہے۔ کل آبادی کا 64 فیصد اس وقت 30 سال سے کم عمر افراد پر مشتمل ہے جبکہ 29 فیصد آبادی 15 سے 29 سال عمر کے افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ پاکستان کا شمار اس وقت دنیا کے سب سے کم سن ممالک میں ہوتا ہے اور جنوبی ایشیائی خطے میں افغانستان کے بعد یہ اس لحاظ سے دوسرے نمبر پر آتا ہے۔ منصوبہ سازی، ترقی و اصلاحات کے وزیر احسن اقبال نے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ نوجوانوں کو ہر سطح کی فیصلہ سازی میں شامل کرنا انتہائی ضروری ہے کیونکہ آواز اور شمولیت انسانی ترقی کی کسی بھی سوچ میں بنیادی کردار ادا کرتے ہیں اور طویل مدتی پالیسی سازی میں بھرپور اہمیت کے حامل ہیں۔

اقوام متحدہ کے ریزیڈنٹ کوآرڈینیٹر نیل بوہنے کا کہنا تھا کہ سماجی، معاشی اور سیاسی ترقی کے مواقع اتنے شاندار کبھی بھی نہیں رہے اور نہ ہی ہمیں درپیش مشکلات پہلے کبھی اتنی شدید تھیں جتنی یہ آج ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ انہی مواقع سے آگاہی کی بنیاد پر اقوام متحدہ نے حکومت پاکستان کے وژن 2025 کی روشنی میں نوجوانوں کے ساتھ کام کرنے کو ترجیح دی ہے جو ہر سطح کی سرگرمیوں میں بنیادی ستون کی حیثیت رکھتے ہیں۔

این ایچ ڈی آر کے قائد مصنفین ڈاکٹر عادل نجم نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے مستقبل کا تعین کسی نہ کسی انداز میں وہی لوگ کریں گے جن کی عمریں آج 15 سے 29 سال کے درمیان ہیں۔ ہم سب دیگر لوگ واحد انتہائی مفید کام یہ کر سکتے ہیں کہ تعلیم، روزگار اور شمولیت کے ایسے بامعنی مواقع پیدا کریں جن کے ذریعے ہم اپنے نوجوانوں کو اپنی قوت کا نشان بنا سکیں۔

نیشنل ہیومن ڈویلپمنٹ رپورٹ دراصل پوری پاکستانی قوم کی رپورٹ ہے اور پوری پاکستانی قوم اس کی مالک ہے کیونکہ یہ رپورٹ ایک مشاورتی کونسل کی مشاورت سے تیار کی گئی ہے جس کے ارکان میں بڑی سیاسی جماعتوں اور حکومتی نمائندوں کے علاوہ دانشور طبقے کی سرکردہ شخصیات شامل ہیں۔ معاشرے کے تمام طبقات کی بھرپور شمولیت کے ذریعے پاکستان این ایچ ڈی آر 2017 کے سلسلے میں ملک بھر کے تقریباً 130,000 افراد تک رسائی حاصل کی گئی جن میں سے 90 فیصد نوجوان تھے جس کی بناء پر یہ رپورٹ "نوجوانوں کی طرف سے، نوجوانوں کے لئے" تیار کی گئی ایک رپورٹ ہے۔

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UNICEF

Press Release

Parliamentarians from across South Asia discuss the need for stronger investment in children and adolescents

Islamabad: May 2, 2018 – UNICEF is hosting parliamentarians from the entire South Asia region in an effort to increase investment in children and young adults, bringing about much needed change for millions of poor and improving the prospects for healthy economic growth in the region.



The South Asia Parliamentary Platform for Children (SAPPC) being held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 02 – 03 May 2018 aims to strengthen opportunities for children in the first two decades of their lives. Lawmakers from all eight countries in South Asia will meet to prioritize, promote, and safeguard children's rights and discuss the prospects for further investment in Early Childhood and adolescent years.

Senator Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani, is representing Pakistan at the SAPPC. Prior to be elected as member of the Senate of Pakistan, Senator Roghani had served as the Minister for Health and Special Advisor to the Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and also as the first ever woman Deputy Speaker of the KP Assembly.

“While South Asia is home to one fourth of the world’s population, its share of global income is just 4%. This fact underlines one of the biggest challenges for South Asia’s progress on the social and economic front: namely the lack of investment in its largest asset, its Human Capital – and especially the young within the society,” said Ms. Jean Gough, Regional Director of UNICEF South Asia.

This year’s meeting focused on the region’s commitment to increased investment in children. 300 million children in South Asia are so-called multi-dimensionally poor with too little to eat, a high risk of falling sick from preventable disease and a very slim chance of ever going to school.

Evidence shows that investment in the young pays strong dividends to society. One dollar invested in quality Early Childhood Development will give a return of between 6 and 17 dollars. If low- and middle-income countries ensured preschool enrollment to half of the country’s children, the result could be cumulative lifetime earnings gains of \$15 - \$34 billion. The urgent, timely and adequate investments in early childhood and adolescent years will lead to well-developed brains and a highly productive workforce.

UNICEF South Asia is honored to bring together law makers to discuss the increased need for investment in favor of the most marginalized children.

“There are very good chances for bringing about radical and important change: in most countries in the region, children and young people make up a large part of society and even smaller investments now will give good results for children and South Asian societies”, said Ms. Jean Gough of UNICEF South Asia.



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. Follow UNICEF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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UNICEF

Press Release

Over 140 million children at greater risk of illness as they miss life-saving vitamin A supplements

UNICEF urges immediate action as vitamin A coverage declines alarmingly, most starkly in West and Central Africa

NEW YORK, 2 May 2018 – Over 140 million children are at greater risk of illness, hearing loss, blindness and even death if urgent action is not taken to provide them with life-saving vitamin A supplements, warns [UNICEF in a new report](#) released today. Two doses of vitamin A every year can save thousands of children's lives, yet as the report finds, the coverage of this low-cost intervention fell alarmingly in 2016.

Vitamin A boosts the immune system and protects young children from potentially fatal diseases like measles and diarrhea. But in 26 countries with the highest rates of child mortality – where vitamin A supplementation programmes are needed most – 61 million children missed vitamin A supplements in 2016, triple the number missed in 2015.

“The future of this low-cost, high-impact intervention hangs in the balance, and with it the survival, health and development of the most vulnerable children,” said Victor Aguayo, Chief of UNICEF's global nutrition programme.



“This steep decline is an unprecedented situation and a cause for alarm, as it threatens to undermine decades of progress.”

The worst-affected region is West and Central Africa, where coverage went down from 78-90 per cent between 2009 and 2015, to 79 per cent in 2015 and 54 per cent in 2016.

In this region, vitamin A supplements are traditionally delivered during polio immunization campaigns. With most countries now polio-free, the polio eradication programme is starting to ramp down in terms of infrastructure and funding, which may lead to further dips in vitamin A supplementation coverage.

Other regions, such as Eastern and Southern Africa and South Asia, did not experience similarly stark decreases in coverage between 2015 and 2016. However, many countries in these regions still face challenges in consistently achieving high coverage over time.

The decrease and inconsistency in vitamin A supplementation coverage is a severe blow to efforts to reduce child mortality. In addition, the most affected countries are already grappling with fragile health systems to deliver life-saving services to immunize children, promote nutrition and prevent malaria. In the report, UNICEF calls for routine ways to deliver life-saving interventions to the most vulnerable children. The report recommends improving coverage by:

- **Calling for greater commitment** from national governments and their development partners to reach every child with a vitamin A dose, twice per year.
- **Building stronger systems** so that health services, including vitamin A supplements, are delivered regularly and equitably.
- **Gathering and sharing knowledge** on ways to deliver vitamin A supplements, through routine immunization and other routine services for children.
- **Tracking every child**, through better use of child health cards and booklets to know which children receive two vitamin A supplements yearly for full protection

The report also appeals for improved nutrition for children and the expansion of support for breastfeeding in the first two years. At the same time, the report notes that until children have access to nutritious and safe diets that protect

them from vitamin A deficiency, vitamin A supplementation programmes remain essential in many countries.

Download photos [here](#)

The report is [based on data](#) from UNICEF Global Databases, 2018.

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United Nations

Message of the Secretary-General

World Press Freedom Day 2018

A free press is essential for peace, justice and human rights for all. It is crucial to building transparent and democratic societies and keeping those in power accountable. It is vital for sustainable development.

Journalists and media workers shine a light on local and global challenges and tell the stories that need to be told. Their service to the public is invaluable.

Laws that protect independent journalism, freedom of expression and the right to information need to be adopted, implemented and enforced. Crimes against journalists must be prosecuted.



On World Press Freedom Day 2018, I call on governments to strengthen press freedom, and to protect journalists. Promoting a free press is standing up for our right to truth.

Watch Secretary-General video message on World Press Freedom Day here:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/downloads2.unmultimedia.org/public/tv/SGM_WP_FD_ENG_CLEAN_WM.mp4

