

# Media Update

8 May 2018

## UNFPA

### Press Release

#### “A Day of honouring midwives marked by UNFPA in Pakistan”

Those who help women to become mothers and deliver their babies deserve a special day to celebrate themselves for saving lives and making childbirth a safe experience. Globally 5<sup>th</sup> May is marked as “International Day of the midwife” for highlighting the work of midwives. This year United Nation Fund for Population (UNFPA) Pakistan in collaboration with Midwifery Association of Pakistan has commemorated the International Day of Midwives (IDM), in line with the global theme of Quality, Equity and Leadership: “**Midwives leading the way with quality care**”.

UNFPA has been a strong supporter of midwifery globally since 2008, supporting midwifery programmes in over 120 countries. In Pakistan, UNFPA has been providing support to the MoNHSRC and the Midwifery Association of Pakistan to strengthen Midwifery Regulations and Education. The effective engagement of midwives in capacity building and midwifery led care are crucial to decrease maternal mortality and safe motherhood.

Leading midwifery voices from all over the country including FATA, providing their services as Midwives, were gathered at Marriott Hotel Karachi who shared their stories of successes and challenges while serving the community. Policy makers, UN agencies representatives, Government Officials were also present at the event.

At the event Ms. Ana Maria Leal-Programme Specialist UNFPA, spoke on behalf of UNFPA emphasized on the three strategic pillars of quality of care for mother and new borns, equal treatment of Midwives as skilled professionals and giving leading role in health care facilities to Midwives. Underscored further at the event by Ms. Leal “Women caring for women are suffering from gender penalty in the male dominant society are treated unequally. UNFPA will be focusing more on strategic education for midwives in Pakistan by involving



open consultations with leader and policy makers to work collectively as network to bring genuine lasting change”.

Chief guest of the event Dr. Asad Hafeez, Director General of Ministry of Health said that the country needs more than half a million midwives to meet the current need of Pakistan’s populations’ health care and with the current schools and colleges for midwifery cannot produce enough of the midwives force in coming fifteen years. Expressing the ministry’s will to initiate the dialogue with stakeholders with the support of UNFPA, Dr.Asad said “The challenge can be overcome only by increasing the existing number of schools for midwives and raising the standard of midwifery and nursing schools to BScM to bring them equal to the level of other professional graduates. Nursing Council and the Federal Ministry are cognizant of the fact that midwifery and nursing need upgradation and regulations”.

Highlighting the challenges of over increasing population, Dr. Adeela SRH Program Analyst from UNFPA shared the alarming situation of huge vacuum at community level from their experience of working at KP and FATA where midwives are required to be trained for providing 90% of the health care at grass root level.

The community midwives also spoke at the event who came from challenging grounds where they were seldom exposed to any practices of health care during their certification courses and yet dealing the complicated cases of pregnant women and newborns, saving their lives as front line force for community, serving them day and night by providing health care at their door steps.

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## UNIDO

### Press Release

## UNIDO trains industry professionals and trainers on energy management systems in Karachi

UNIDO under its ongoing GEF funded project titled “Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries in Pakistan” successfully conducted a round of two



back to back training sessions on Energy Management Systems Implementation and Training of Trainers for energy auditors and energy managers in Karachi. These trainings were specially designed and conducted by an international expert from Denmark to produce a critical mass of competent professionals on the implementation of energy management systems (EnMS) in industry. During the trainings, participants learned about the fundamentals of EnMS, Energy Performance Indicators and Measurement & Verification as well as other advance techniques. The training included interactive sessions where participants presented case studies on the implementation of EnMS. Moreover, the Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions aimed at building the knowledge and skills of current and potential trainers to sustain the knowledge at the local level and support the dissemination efforts. The trainings were attended by around hundred professionals including a sizeable number of women. The participants were top managers from various industrial sectors, energy efficiency consultants and representatives from public and private sector organizations.

Speaking as Chief Guest during the opening session of Energy Management System implementation training, Mr. Tariq Malik, Chairman of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) in Karachi, highlighted that in order to compete with the international market, it is vital for the local industries to reduce their energy costs through implementing energy efficiency, conservation measures and adopting renewables which will maximize the profitability and will reduce the CO2 emissions. As such, he applauded UNIDO for its efforts in enhancing local industrial human resources through specialized trainings.

Mr. Masroor Ahmad Khan, National Project Coordinator for the Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries in Pakistan, on behalf of UNIDO Country Representative, Ms. Nadia Aftab, welcomed the participants and highlighted UNIDO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG9) under the policy of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID). Moreover, he thanked the active collaboration and support of key partners like NEECA, AEDB, SMEDA and NPO while recognizing the generous contribution made by Ministry of Climate Change, through its Climate Finance Unit.

One of the training participants, Mr. Atif Khan –an energy consultant– mentioned that the intensive course on Training of Trainers on Energy Management supported the participants in becoming effective trainers by learning new skills and knowledge on technical subjects. Other participants also appreciated UNIDO's efforts in promoting EnMS and emphasized that these trainings will greatly help them to start implementing measures to improve the energy systems in their respective organizations.

After the successful completion of the trainings, participants were granted participation certificates.

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