

Media Update

15 Oct 2018

WORLD FOOD DAY - 2018

16 October 2018

United Nations

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In our world of plenty, one person in nine does not have enough to eat.

About 820 million people still suffer from hunger.

Most of them are women.

Some 155 million children are chronically malnourished and may endure the effects of stunting for their entire lives.

And hunger causes almost half of the infant deaths worldwide.

This is intolerable.

On World Food Day, let us commit to a world without hunger -- a world in which every person has access to a healthy, nutritious diet.

Zero hunger is about joining forces.

Countries and companies, institutions and individuals: we must each do our part towards sustainable food systems.

Today, we renew our commitment to uphold everyone's fundamental right to food and to leave no one behind.

Thank you.



FAO

PRESS RELEASE

A collection of photos telling stories of men, women and youth associated with agriculture in Pakistan went on display in Islamabad.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized this exhibition in Islamabad to mark the completion of 40 years of its Representation in Pakistan.

The exhibition tells stories of Safia, Chaudhry Jameel and Rosaline among others. They all rely on agriculture for their livelihood, food security and nutrition of their families. Farmers can be seen learning climate resilient agriculture techniques at FAO Farmer Field Schools and then using these techniques in the field.

Photographers Srosh Anwar, Jawad Yousafzai, Shahid Ahmed and Waqas Rafique spent days with farmers in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Chitral, Khyber and North and South Waziristan.

Inaugurating the exhibition, FAO Representative in Pakistan Ms Minà Dowlatchahi said: "FAO's commitment to supporting the country's food security and agriculture sector continues as the representation celebrates its 40th anniversary, and the partnership between FAO and Pakistan is stronger than ever. Every image is a reminder of the hard work that the men, women and youth associated with agriculture put in to ensure that food reaches our table. In return we must play our role to ensure that they are not left behind." The exhibition will continue at PNCA, lobby area till October 19 and open 9am-5pm.

WFP

Message by Finbarr Curran, Representative and Country Director, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Pakistan

**"OUR ACTIONS ARE OUR FUTURE.
A #ZERO HUNGER WORLD BY 2030 IS POSSIBLE."**



Asalam Alykum!

And Good Morning to you all.

World Food Day is an opportunity to take stock of the progress we have made in our shared journey toward Zero Hunger — one of the 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by 193 countries. The SDGs commit us to work together to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030, here in Pakistan and around the world.

The day calls on us to renew our commitment to end hunger for every child, women and man - saving countless lives and helping build a brighter future. Ending hunger means creating a world where everyone, everywhere, has access to adequate affordable nutritious food.

The 2018 State of Food Security report, published in September, revealed that 821 million people around the world are still suffering from chronic hunger: 60% of these are women, which means that the misery of hunger will inevitably also be felt by their children. In fact, 45% of infant deaths worldwide are related to undernutrition. Globally, 151 million children under the age of 5 are affected by a condition known as stunting, where the child is too small for their age. Stunting is caused by chronic under-nutrition during the most critical periods of growth and development in early life.

The world produces enough food for everyone - but the devastating effects of conflict and climate change, unequal access to food, and food wastage mean that after a decade of progress the global hunger rate has started to rise once again. While most countries have achieved significant gains in the last 25 years in reducing hunger and undernutrition, progress in the majority of nations affected by conflict has stagnated or deteriorated. At the same time, one-third of all the food produced in the world is lost or wasted, at an estimated cost of USD 2.6 trillion.

Despite improvements in many areas, Pakistan still faces significant challenges. Between 2004-2016, undernourishment fell from 23.3% to 19.9%, but in the same period the number of undernourished people rose from 35.7 to 37.6 million. Pakistan's Prime Minister has noted that stunting is a key concern of his government, given that Pakistan has the world's third largest population of stunted children, with a 44% prevalence rate, and a similar



proportion of chronically malnutrition children aged between 6-59 months. In 2013, 40% of women across the country were overweight, while 18% of women of reproductive age were underweight.

One of the major challenges faced by Pakistan is not so much the lack of food, but rather the lack of nutritious food. Pakistan is a large producer of rice and wheat, but this alone cannot guarantee a nutritious diet for her citizens. It is for this reason that the World Food Programme and the government of Pakistan, with the aid of international donors, have worked together to introduce locally developed specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) to improve the population's nutritional intake.

The government of Pakistan is making significant efforts to tackle food and nutrition security and accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Vision 2025 – its national development programme. WFP is committed to collaborating with the government and all our other partners – including NGOs, civil society, academia, private sector and other UN agencies - to achieve these shared ambitions for a better future.

I am confident that, working together, we will find lasting solutions to the root causes of malnutrition in Pakistan and banish hunger to the history books once and for all.

Thank you.

UNICEF and WHO

PRESS RELEASE

UNICEF and WHO join forces to support Pakistan's mass measles immunisation campaign

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – Oct 15, 2018: Today the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) joined the Government of Pakistan in kick-starting a nationwide measles campaign to vaccinate more than 32 million children – one-sixth of the population.



During the two weeks of campaign, all children between nine months and five years of age will be targeted for vaccination against the deadly measles virus which attacks the respiratory tract and is exceptionally contagious.

“In line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, we are paying special attention to the health and wellbeing of mothers and children in Pakistan,” said Mr. Aamer Mehmood Kiani, Honourable Minister for National Health Services regulations and Coordination. “I urge all parents to vaccinate their children against measles virus during the nationwide anti-measles vaccination campaign being launched by the government.”

More than 110,000 professionals are mobilised across Pakistan to help eliminate measles -- a disease that can be prevented with a simple vaccine. More than 32,000 suspected cases of children infected with the virus have been reported in the country since the beginning of the year.

“Since 2000, the safe measles vaccine has saved more than 20 million children’s lives in the world. Every death or disability caused by this disease is now an unacceptable tragedy,” said Dr. Nima Saeed Abid acting WHO Representative in Pakistan. “This mass measles campaign will help to stop the current measles outbreak and show the strong political commitment of Pakistani Government toward the global measles elimination for the benefit of all children in the world,” he added.

Measles remains a leading cause of death among children, with survivors often left with life-long disabilities such as blindness, deafness or brain damage.

“From the Ministry to front-line workers on the ground, from the north-western mountains to the southern coastline, everyone is mobilised to ensure that no child is left behind,” said Ms. Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. “Every child, including those living in hard-to-reach and remote communities, will receive the vaccine thanks to the exceptional efforts of health workers and social mobilisers working in fixed sites, but also in outreach or mobile teams,” she added.

The USD 30 million mass immunisation campaign is taking place in all provinces and areas of the country between 15 and 27 October 2018. It is funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and the government of Pakistan.

The campaign will contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, which aims to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age by 2030.

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About the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

About the World Health Organisation (WHO)

WHO's works together with policy-makers, global health partners, civil society, academia and the private sector to support countries to develop, implement and monitor solid national health plans. In addition, WHO supports countries to assure the availability of equitable integrated people-centred health services at an affordable price; facilitate access to affordable, safe and effective health technologies; and to strengthen health information systems and evidence-based policy-making.

UN Women

LETTER

A letter to girls from Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, on International Day of the Girl Child



This is a critical time for the girls of our world. It is a time for the protection and assertion of rights, a time to listen hard and speak louder, no matter how difficult; to call out the continuing imbalances of power; to band together and take a stand on the changes that must happen so that girls and women are heard and their experiences are taken seriously. It is a time to act, together with men and boys, on the issues that will determine a lived equality for all, central to which is the ending of violence against women and girls.

We see over and over again how hard it is as an individual to raise your voice in defense of rights and how easily authority figures can discount, trivialize or silence it.

It should not be difficult to complain about the violation of rights, but it is, especially in situations where shame has become normalized, as is often the case for example with the experience of sexual violence. A study in 28 European Union countries showed that 35 per cent of women kept silent about their most serious incident of sexual harassment, with only 4 per cent seeking help from the police.

We are working to shift the burden of shame to those who commit the abuse, and to stop the stigmatization and silencing of the survivor. Survivors must be at the centre of any response; and their experiences must be listened to and acted on to end the culture of impunity. We urge all institutions, public and private, to do the same, whether a school, a place of worship, a sports club, a transport company or any employer or political leader. Young people also have a responsibility to hold leaders to account and to call on them to put survivors at the centre, upholding the highest standards of respect, with zero impunity.

During the 73rd UN General Assembly, UN Women presented a report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. That report made it clear that such acts of violence are a systemic violation of human rights in all settings, including in public spaces and online. It urged all global leaders and organizations to take specific actions to address issues like the unequal power relations between men and women, the social norms that condone and perpetuate violence, the strengthening of laws and judicial processes, and the provision of victim support, especially given that it is the most marginalized women and girls who are at greater risk of violence and harassment.

Solidarity matters. We have seen the power of solidarity to resist and counter silence. National and international movements against violence and sexual harassment like '#MeToo,' '#TimesUp,' '#BalanceTonPorc,' '#NiUnaMenos and UN Women's #HearMeToo, have brought momentum, scale and visibility to public calls for an end to impunity. This solidarity must continue so that we can end the impunity not only of individuals but also of institutions.

The marches of protest and online mobilization that have marked many of these public movements have included women and men, girls as well as boys. These demonstrations of inclusivity, of equality, of shared values, are deeply significant because they are the only way to fight those who seek to limit rights and suppress voices of dissent. They provide a counter narrative to the versions of new order emerging today in countries across the world.

Ending violence against women and girls is at the heart of our work and a central part of fighting for gender equality. On this Day, we stand with girls everywhere as they inspire, innovate and take charge of their own future. We celebrate the strength and the potential of the 1.1 billion girls in today's world who are challenging the status quo, raising their voices against violence, innovating technology to solve global challenges, standing up for the environment, and preparing to lead.
