

Media Update

30 January 2019

UNICEF

PRESS RELEASE

UNICEF condemns killing of nine-year-old boy in *Kabirwala*

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, 30 January 2019 – UNICEF expresses its deep concern at the brutal killing of a nine-year-old Pakistani boy in *Kabirwala*, a town of Khanewal District in the Punjab province of Pakistan.

According to several media reports, the boy went to a madrassa on Monday evening and never returned. His body was found in fields; the police has since arrested a neighbor on charge of raping and killing him.

“UNICEF strongly condemns this vicious attack on a child” said Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. “We offer our deepest condolences to the family and the community affected by this senseless act. Those responsible must be brought to justice, and greater efforts made to protect all girls and boys from sexual abuse.”

Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF will continue to work with federal, provincial authorities and communities to put in place effective, preventive mechanisms to ensure that children are safe and protected.

###

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, visit:

www.unicef.org/pakistan

Follow UNICEF Pakistan on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

For more information, please contact:

Catherine Weibel, Chief of Advocacy and Communication, UNICEF Pakistan
Mobile: +92 300 500 2595, Email: cweibel@unicef.org

A. Sami Malik, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Pakistan Country Office
Mobile: +92 300 855 6654, Email: asmalik@unicef.org

UNDP

MEDIA ADVISORY

Dialogue between Youth and Parliamentarians/ Policymakers

When: **Thursday, 31 January 2019, 1:00-4.30 p.m.**

What: Dialogue between Youth and Parliamentarians / Policymakers

Where: Sheesh Mahal Hall, Serena Hotel, Islamabad

Who:

- Mr. Usman Dar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs
- Ms. Wajiha Akram, MNA; Parliamentary Secretary on Federal Education and Professional Training
- Ms. Shandana Gulzar, MNA; Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce
- Ms. Kanwal Shauzab, MNA; Parliamentary Secretary for Planning
- Mr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, MNA
- Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, MNA; Former Federal Minister
- Ms. Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, MNA
- Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, MNA
- Dr. Darshan, MNA
- Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA; Former Federal Minister

- Senator Qurat-ul-Ain Marri
- Senator Krishna Kohli
- Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali, MNA
- Ms. Kishwer Zahra, MNA
- Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT
- Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director, PILDAT
- Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan
- Mr. Ignacio Artaza, Resident Representative a.i., UNDP Pakistan

Moderator: Honourable Mr. Asad Qaiser, MNA, Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan

To RSVP, please contact: Hamza Hasan, hamza.hasan@undp.org
or Fatima Ahmed, fatima.ahmed@undp.org

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations. www.undp.org

UNICEF

PRESS RELEASE

UNICEF appeals for \$3.9 billion in emergency assistance for 41 million children affected by conflict or disaster

Millions of children without access to critical child protection services

GENEVA/NEW YORK, 29 January 2019 – Millions of children living in countries affected by conflict and disaster lack access to vital child protection services, putting their safety, well-being and futures at risk, UNICEF warned today as it appealed for \$3.9 billion to support its work for children in humanitarian crises.



UNICEF's *Humanitarian Action for Children* sets out the agency's 2019 appeal and its efforts to provide 41 million children with access to safe water, nutrition, education, health and protection in 59 countries across the globe. Funding for child protection programmes accounts for \$385 million of the overall appeal, including almost \$121 million for protection services for children affected by the Syria crisis.

"Today millions of children living through conflict or disaster are suffering horrific levels of violence, distress and trauma," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore. "The impact of our child protection work cannot be overstated. When children do not have safe places to play, when they cannot be reunited with their families, when they do not receive psychosocial support, they will not heal from the unseen scars of war."

UNICEF estimates that more than 34 million children living through conflict and disaster lack access to child protection services, including 6.6 million children in Yemen, 5.5 million children in Syria and 4 million children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Child protection services include all efforts to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation, trauma and violence. UNICEF also works to ensure that the protection of children is central to all other areas of the organisation's humanitarian programmes, including water, sanitation and hygiene, education and other areas of work by identifying, mitigating and responding to potential dangers to children's safety and wellbeing.

However, funding constraints, as well as other challenges including warring parties' growing disregard for international humanitarian law and the denial of humanitarian access, mean that aid agencies' capacity to protect children is severely limited. In the DRC, for example, UNICEF received just a third of the \$21 million required for child protection programmes in 2018, while around one-fifth of child protection funding for Syrian children remained unmet.

"Providing these children with the support they need is critical, but without significant and sustained international action, many will continue to fall through the cracks," said Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF Director of Emergency Programmes. "The international community should commit to supporting the protection of children in emergencies."

2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the landmark Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 70th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, yet today,

more countries are embroiled in internal or international conflict than at any other time in the past three decades, threatening the safety and wellbeing of millions of children.

UNICEF's appeal comes one month after the children's agency said that the world is failing to protect children living in conflict around the world, with catastrophic consequences. Children who are continuously exposed to violence or conflict, especially at a young age, are at risk of living in a state of toxic stress – a condition that, without the right support can lead to negative life-long consequences for their cognitive, social and emotional development. Some children impacted by war, displacement and other traumatic events – such as sexual and gender-based violence – require specialized care to help them cope and recover.

The five largest individual appeals are for Syrian refugees and host communities in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey (US\$ 904 million); Yemen (US\$ 542.3 million); The Democratic Republic of the Congo (US\$ 326.1 million); Syria (US\$ 319.8 million) and South Sudan (US\$ 179.2 million).

###

Notes to editors:

In total, working alongside its partners, UNICEF aims to:

- Provide 4 million children and caregivers with access to psychosocial support;
- Provide almost 43 million people with access to safe water;
- Reach 10.1 million children with formal or non-formal basic education;
- Immunize 10.3 million children against measles;
- Treat 4.2 million children with severe acute malnutrition.

In the first 10 months of 2018, as a result of UNICEF's support:

- 3.1 million children and caregivers received psychosocial support;
- 35.3 million people had access to safe water;
- 5.9 million children accessed some form of education;
- 4.7 million children were vaccinated against measles;
- 2.6 million children were treated for severe acute malnutrition.

Photos and multimedia materials are available for download here:
<https://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFI7QW8B>

Humanitarian Action for Children 2019 and individual appeals can be found here: https://uni.cf/HAC_2019

ABOUT UNICEF

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

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

For more information or for interview requests please contact:

Christopher Tidey, UNICEF New York, Tel: +1 917 340 3017, ctidey@unicef.org

Joe English, UNICEF New York, Tel: +1 917 893 0692, jenglish@unicef.org
Marixie Mercado, UNICEF Geneva, +41 79 559 7172, mmercado@unicef.org
