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The United Nations Pakistan Newsletter is produced by the United Nations Communications Group

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The first edition of the United Nations Pakistan Magazine for 2017 focuses on clean innovative technologies that can help counter the issue of climate change across the world. In fact, the ‘Focus on’ section an insight into different innovating ideas brought forward by Pakistani entrepreneurs in various categories including clean and efficient usage of solid waste to power up industry, environmentally friendly leather industry, costless solution to electricity shortfalls, energy-efficient incubators for newborns and reducing X-ray radiation in CT scan machines.

We highlight stories of winners and runners-up of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization’s Global Cleantech Innovation Programme global competition: the good news is that this year, a woman-led Pakistani team of innovators won the award in the ‘Waste Energy’ category.

The United Nations System celebrated World Radio Day in partnership with the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation through a live program highlighting the role radio plays with disseminating information on development issues.

In this issue we share information on many development activities carried forward by different UN agencies to promote of education, health, culture, sustainable tourism, disaster resilience, women’s empowerment and refugees.

In an exclusive interview, Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, shares insights on her mission to Pakistan and on the the SheTrade campaign, an initiative designed to empower women entrepreneurs and to connect them to global markets.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the UN Communications Group and the UN Country Team for their continued support for this magazine and for working in partnership to communicate and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan.

Vittorio Cammarota
Director, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
More than ever, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will focus on very concrete actions to implement its strategic priorities, said UNIDO Director General LI Yong.

In 2015, the 2030 development agenda encompassing 17 SDGs was adopted; it fully recognized the central importance of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), which is at the core of UNIDO’s mandate. In 2016, the need for the organization’s continued contributions were further highlighted when the UN General Assembly entrusted UNIDO with the lead role to implement the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) while the organization also contributed to the G20 work related to the industrialization of Africa and least developed countries.

“Last year re-confirmed the very close connection between UNIDO’s mandate and the global agenda; this will be the foundation of our work in 2017”, said Li. “2017 will also be a year of targeted actions for UNIDO, where we will focus on implementing concrete activities for our strategic priorities; our Member States are facing numerous challenges, and we need to intensify our efforts to foster the industrialization process, particularly in Africa and Least Developed Countries”. The overarching first priority action relates to the implementation of the global goals, for which UNIDO will work even more closely with the international community to achieve all SDGs, with a special emphasis on SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure.

To implement its ISID mandate, which helps UNIDO member states harness the full potential of industry to lasting prosperity for all, the organization will further mainstream its Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) approach: from an initial three pilot countries, the strategic PCP approach will be expanded to include many more countries. Already, the PCP helps leverage more technical and financial support from development partners to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development in targeted countries; as such, an expansion of the PCP will contribute to a successful implementation of IDDA III.

At the same time, UNIDO will strengthen its partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs), in line with the new cooperation framework set in place last year with the World Bank. Accordingly, the organization will further explore programmatic synergies with regional and international financial institutions to develop joint operations for a larger portfolio of activities.

By implementing these three priorities in a concerted manner, UNIDO ensures that there are accumulated benefits for UNIDO’s member states: “They will receive the best possible services and the impact of our work will be elevated to new heights,” Li concluded. “As we have a clear vision, we will be fast, technically-sound and effective. 2017 will be the year of focused actions.”

LI Yong
Director General, UNIDO
Fostering sustainable industrial development in Pakistan

I am glad to have the opportunity to express few words on UNIDO’s sustainable efforts over the years to foster industrial development for this country. Nobody can deny the importance of energy related technologies in this highly globalized world and our government is well aware of the importance of these technologies and their applications at every level, that is why it is doing its best efforts for the promotion and advancement of technology and industrialization in Pakistan while keeping in view the environmental effects of these technologies, and this is where the role of development agencies come.

Our ministry has always been on forefront in taking initiatives and assisting projects with the support of donors in different facets of climate change, including both the adaptation and mitigation aspects, and in accordance with the climate change policy which has been embarked upon by the Government of Pakistan in 2012.

Not-withstanding the fact that Pakistan’s contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is very small, its role as a responsible member of the global community in combating climate change has been highlighted by giving due importance to mitigation efforts in sectors such as energy, forestry, transport, industries, urban planning, agriculture and livestock etc.

We are really happy that UNIDO is working on this very important sector of sustainable energy, through its three ongoing Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project, and providing technical assistance through its vast pool of resources to the ministry of climate change.

UNIDO initiatives are aimed towards promoting of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies for adoption by industrial sector to rationally boost the economic development in the country. It is very encouraging that UNIDO is also striving to introduce and promote business start-ups in the country through its Cleantech innovation programmes. The timely execution of these project by UNIDO will also help to induce interest in industrial sector to take active part towards the success of Sustainable Energy Technologies, which in fact could be a hall mark if we succeed in help mitigating the worrisome shortfall in the power sector.

I can assure you that these UNIDO initiatives will continue to enjoy our ministry’s full support specially through climate finance unit which has extended its all-out support to these projects during fund requesting phases of various GEF projects in Pakistan.

To me it gives a sense of ownership that ministry is among the major partner institutions which are going to work in close collaboration during the implementation phase of all these important projects addressing renewable energy, energy efficiency and cleaner technologies in industrial sector of Pakistan.

Syed Abu Ahmad Akif
Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change
Since the advent of the SDGs in 2016, UNIDO has focused its work on achieving SDG 9, which involves building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. It includes development of human capital through better employment and better-paid jobs, and better management of our natural resources and of the environment. UNIDO strives to achieve shared prosperity and environmental sustainability around the world through the promotion and acceleration of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

UNIDO also aligns with many other development goals, including those related to poverty eradication, creating full and productive employment, protecting the environment, and achieving gender equality. In order to allow for a better life and prosperity for the billions that are still excluded from a dignified human existence, the world needs to grow its industries in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

Pakistan has great potential when it comes to industrial development. The gap however remains in effective mobilization of resources. UNIDO Pakistan has made important strides in creating a modern business environment for private sector development at a level of public-private policy dialogue and strengthening key institutions such as Competition Commission of Pakistan, the apex Trade Dispute Resolution Organization and the Intellectual Property Organization, all of which now meet international requirements. Owing to UNIDO's efforts, Pakistan has now a national quality policy, an accreditation body Pakistan National Accreditation Council, as well as more than 70 product-testing and metrology laboratories that can ensure compliance. Moreover, by increasing compliance and competitiveness, Pakistan has already gained
access to lucrative export markets such as Europe in various sectors like fisheries, Industrial goods, fruits, fans, and surgical equipment.

Currently, UNIDO Pakistan is engaged in several industries, environment, economics, food agriculture and trade related projects addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To combat climate change, UNIDO Pakistan is promoting market-based adoption of modern biomass technologies including gasification for heat and electricity generation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Biomass gasification is the process of producing energy-rich gas that can be used to supply heat or to run engines and generators, providing clean, reliable electricity for villages or factories.

UNIDO is also mainstreaming climate change adaptation through Water Resource Management in the Leather Industry in Sialkot. We are helping shift tanneries to a centralized location to provide common facilities like common effluent treatment plant, and solid waste disposal site.

The GCIP, run by UNIDO, is a global competition designed to foster innovation in water efficiency, renewable energy, waste to energy and energy efficiency, green building etc. The GCIP aims at SMEs and start-up entrepreneurs to maximize their opportunities to achieve sustainable commercial success.

I am proud of the fact that a woman-led Pakistani team of innovators won ‘global category award’ in ‘waste energy’ in Cleantech innovation competition at Silicon Valley in February 2017.

UNIDO strengthens the contribution of the private sector to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) through fostering conducive business and investment environments and through implementing SME support programmes, including those promoting SME clusters and related technology transfer and diffusion.

At UNIDO, we strive to foster efficient and result-oriented solutions to promote economic growth while enhancing social inclusiveness and ensuring environmental sustainability. Our vision is of a prosperous Pakistan where everyone is part of this growth process.

Esam Alqararah
Representative, UNIDO
Providing integrated energy solutions for the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)

Through several past and ongoing projects, the Government of Pakistan and UNIDO have joined efforts to foster clean technology innovation and entrepreneurship as well as to promote the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and services in the industrial sector in Pakistan.

UNIDO has unique technical capabilities to address industrial development needs through a variety of highly specialized services promoting social inclusion, competitiveness and environmental sustainability. At present, UNIDO has a sound energy portfolio in Pakistan mostly financed by the GEF which focuses on safeguarding the environment while fostering industrial development.

For instance, the project promoting sustainable energy production and use from biomass in Pakistan supports the usage of biomass as an alternative energy resource that can strengthen the industrial sector and can help reduce the energy crisis and the ever-increasing energy demand in the country. The project promotes the market based adoption of modern biomass conversion technologies—especially gasification— to power small and medium industries (SMI) and to
electrify rural areas where most of the biomass resources are available. UNIDO has been providing policy advisory services for biomass promotion, setting up biomass-based pilot units in industrial installations and carrying out a series of awareness raising and capacity building initiatives including an international conference on biomass gasification, development of engineering and technical training curricula for biomass, research and academic cooperation between local and foreign universities and targeted training of relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, as the local supply of biomass gasifiers remains underdeveloped and the demand for this equipment is expected to grow, the project aims to locally manufacture biomass gasifiers supporting the development of local productive activities.

As part of the government’s efforts to achieve SDG 9, the project sustainable energy initiative for industrial sector in Pakistan seeks to pursue industrial development while minimizing the environmental negative impacts. The project catalyzes the market-based adoption of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency in industries in Pakistan. The project is supporting the industrial sector to adopt renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies to improve their productivity and competitiveness while reducing their environmental footprint.

Last but not least, a successful flagship initiative in Pakistan is the Global Cleantech Innovations Programme (GCIP) for SMEs and start-ups which is the world’s largest clean technology competition. GCIP focuses on supporting clean technology start-ups and SMEs with innovative ideas on how to address the most pressing energy, environmental and economic challenges.

Besides to attract more women to participate in the competition, a Women Business Growth Centre (WBGC) has been established in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). With sound knowledge on the needs of women entrepreneurs in the country, the WBGC serves as an apex entity to mainstream women in the private sector of Pakistan. This year, the programme launched a new modality, namely the Cleanteach challenge award, in collaboration with the ICCI. The objective of the new award is to identify Cleanteach challenges actually faced by the pharmaceutical and steel industries in Pakistan and then reach out to technology innovators and entrepreneurs to provide adequate solutions that directly respond to the industrial needs. Through capitalizing synergies across disciplines and sectors, GCIP has been able to strengthen the national capacity for clean technologies and to create a local entrepreneurial ecosystem for SMEs in Pakistan.

**Alois Posekufa Mhlanga**  
Project Manager, UNIDO
National Productivity Organization (NPO) Pakistan is a nonprofit company fully owned by Government of Pakistan under ministry of Industries and Production while functioning as a liaison office of Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo-Japan established in 1961 having 20 member countries.

NPO in collaboration with national and international organizations especially with UNIDO and APO Tokyo-Japan is engaged in diverse initiatives to determine techno-economically feasible measures suitable to enhance productivity, efficient consumption of natural resources and reduce per unit production cost.

The green productivity center, NPO is equipped with a team of professionals trained on latest knowledge and measuring tools to promote and disseminate knowledge and best practices on green productivity including water efficiency, material efficiency and energy savings.

Energy drives the economy, add convenience, comfort and enjoyment to our everyday lives. However, in today’s environment another profound transformation is happening i.e. taking us from a carbon-centric, unproductive energy system to one that emphasizes on clean energy production from diverse energy sources like the sun, the current of air, the sea and so on. The future is for green product making an integral part of global trade, as end users are getting aware of climate issues.

The Cleanteach programs objective seems to provide a practical basis for new start-ups based on sustainable development, offer a platform for young researchers particularly to take part in international level competition. Moreover, it has been observed that participants are showing interests to convert their ideas into business model, which in-effect is one of the most impressive aspect of this project.

The updates were shared by UNIDO office Pakistan regarding the 3rd round of the project. The performance showed by the Pakistani team at Silicon Valley amongst the leading international community is remarkable and encouraging; is the depiction of interest and potential of Pakistani researchers.

This initiative is also in compliance with the SDGs especially industry, innovation and infrastructure and Pakistan Vision 2025. The vision is focusing on overall resource efficiency and green productivity, to cope not only with economic challenges but also environmental issues of international concerns for socio-development.

NPO is, therefore in partnership with UNIDO in different projects such as trade related technical assistance programme, GCIP for SMEs and start-ups in Pakistan, sustainable energy initiative for industries in Pakistan and venture capital fund committed to continue its support all the way to keep abreast of new developments in the field of research and to join in finding alternative solutions to current issues such as low level of research, low percentage of new ideas conversion to startup, greenhouse effect, sustainable and clean energy issues.

Abdul Ghaffar Khattak
Chief Executive Officer, National Productivity Organization, Ministry of Industries and Production, Government of Pakistan
Promoting clean technologies innovations

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) is one of the premier trade bodies in the country which was established in 1984. It represents 3,000 business entities and majority belong to SMEs sector. It plays a key role in advocating the interests of the business community highlighting issues that need attention of the policymakers to create an enabling environment for the businesses to flourish.

ICCI makes efforts for significant contribution towards achieving the SDGs, as we believe that better growth of SMEs contributes in reducing unemployment and overcoming poverty.

In order to help support business startups engaging youth, a Young Entrepreneurs Forum (YEF) was created. The forum encouraged youth for entrepreneurial ventures promoting the concept of job creators instead of job seekers. YEF is also a founding member of Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs Asia (CAYE-Asia).

ICCI has developed strong working relationship with UNIDO being one of the key partner organizations in its various initiatives. Mr. Li Yong, Director General, UNIDO visit to ICCI provided the opportunity of developing strategies to support projects that could ensure inclusive, sustainable and environment friendly growth.

The chamber has greatly supported UNIDO in its GCIP, the world’s biggest clean technology competition. Pakistani entrepreneurs came up with the brilliant innovative ideas in the categories of energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste of energy, renewable energy and green buildings. This program is running very successfully in Pakistan because for the last couple of years, not only number of applicants were the highest in GCIP, but also Pakistani teams won global competition twice. The GCIP Pakistan has also attracted the highest number of women applicants.

The investor connect program, which was organized first time in Pakistan in collaboration with ICCI, created tremendous impact, as large number of our members have requested us to hold such events on regular basis. In the event 10-deals were finalized that demonstrates the great achievement of program and interest of investors in clean technology innovations.

Though clean technology concept was not much popular in Pakistan, but Cleantech program has created enough awareness and provided an excellent platform to innovators to exhibit and commercialize their innovative ideas locally and internationally. We strongly believe that Cleantech should remain continue in Pakistan for the larger interest of innovators and investors as well.

ICCI has also partnered with UNIDO in activities including establishment of Women Business Growth Centre at ICCI and launching the campaign of women in Cleantech. The centre is providing guidance and mentorship to women for starting a business and increase outreach to market their products locally and internationally. We hope that by bringing women in Cleantech innovations, their potential can be best utilized in this area as well.

Majid Shabbir
Secretary General, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Partner in Cleantech project: Pakistan Institute of Management

Any type of economic activity, be it industry, agriculture, or more recently the services sector, consumes natural resources like energy, water, mineral or biological resources. However, the process of harnessing natural resources to provide useful goods and services for human beings also results in degradation of the environment. Modern production patterns and the corresponding consumption patterns involved in the satisfaction of human needs are leading to high fossil fuel and mineral resources use and excessive water consumption, leading to polluting emissions, volumes of waste generation and degradation of natural systems. It is therefore, the social responsibility of organizations as well as individuals to extend their support for saving the environment and for minimizing the wastes of natural resources for achieving the goal of sustainable development.

Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) is the pioneer in management development and executives training in Pakistan and specializes in the training and development of managers from the public sector, business and industry. PIM has played a significant role in the development of managerial capability and professionalism in Pakistan. During the last six decades, PIM has conducted over 12,000 training programs and has trained over 185,000 managers from all sectors of the economy.

PIM, being a socially responsive organization always supports the cause of saving the environment. For example, various training programs at PIM include topics related to sustainable development like green productivity, green supply chains, and green purchasing. PIM is also a partner organization in Cleantech project, and has played its role in spreading the seeds of innovation, encouraging and supporting entrepreneurs, and simultaneously saving the environment. PIM is ready to play any role not only for the success and sustainability of this project, but for any project aiming uplift or development of the people or the environment.

We are happy with the success of the project not only in the country but at all international levels and competitions. The success of Cleantech project in Pakistan is mainly because of the project team, its effective planning and sheer efforts. PIM is ready to give any support and be involved in the continuation of the project for making this globe a better place to live especially for the next generations.

Muhammad Abid Hussain
Director, Pakistan Institute of Management
Small businesses are extremely important for Pakistan because they create jobs and boost the overall economic development of the country. UNIDO is currently implementing a Global Clean-tech Innovation Programme (GCIP) for SMEs and Start-ups in seven countries, including Pakistan. The GCIP focuses on fostering innovation in clean technology. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility and supported by Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (PCST), National Productivity Organization (NPO), Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM) and international Knowledge partner - The Cleantech Open USA, since 2014.

The model follows a Cleantech ecosystem approach, including close engagement with the private sector, scaling up the momentum for sustainable industrial development and strengthening the policy framework. By working closely with SMEs, national ministries, academia, industrial associations, provincial governments, potential investors, partner agencies and autonomous research centres in the country, this programme has established an effective awareness campaign and platform to mobilize interest among targeted beneficiaries and ensured the adequate buy-in of SMEs.

A competition-based approach is used to identify the most promising entrepreneurs across the country, whilst a local acceleration programme supports, promotes and “de-risks” the participating companies and connects them to potential investors, customers and partners.

Third cycle of the GCIP Call for Awards 2016 was launched in March 2016 and an extensive advocacy campaign was carried out for around three months. Field visits aimed to sensitize the innovators about the GCIP programme were held in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Topi, Chakwal etc. The goal of these visits was to fast-track the outreach campaign to encourage potential organizations, R&D institutes, academy, and people engaged in the industry to subscribe to GCIP Accelerator Programme as applicants as well as mentors. As a result of this campaign, 592 applications were received. This number was by far the highest number of applications received in any GCIP country so far. All these applications were screened and evaluated by a panel of three independent external judges. The judges spent two days on the decision process and selected 82 teams to go to the semi-finals.

These semi-finalists were trained and mentored extensively. The GCIP team travelled to each region to facilitate them. Activities were held across Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi. A two-day National Academy was conducted online in each region by Paul deGive, the International Trainer of Cleantech Open, San Francisco. The participant learnt how to commercialize their innovation through the academy, specifically learning how to make a viable business model.

After the National Academy, a series of webinars were arranged for the Semi-finalists directly from the Silicon Valley, USA. The innovators attended these interactive sessions online and shared their experiences and challenges.
experiences. Simultaneously, the teams were assigned mentors who personally guided them on improving their business plans.

Once the teams completed their business plans, Business Clinics were held in each region to strengthen the plans through expert advice. The next activity was Mock Judging. This session resembled the final judging; with the only difference that judges identified areas of improvement instead of rating the teams.

After these rigorous exercises and trainings, the final judging activity was held in Islamabad. A total of 34 teams presented to a panel of judges comprising of local and international judges, who decided the winners after thorough deliberations.

UNIDO Cleantech awards distribution ceremony was held in Islamabad on 12th January 2017. A total of five awards were given, comprising of 1 National Winner, 3 Runner ups, and 1 Most Promising Woman Led team awards to the innovators, whose innovations focused on the five categories of renewable energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste to energy and green buildings.

The prize money was US$ 20,000 for the national winner and US$ 15,000 for the 4 runner-ups. The winners proceeded to Silicon Valley, USA for further mentoring and training and to participate in the global Cleantech competition.

The journey of CGIP 2016 demonstrates that this programme has been able to build the national capacity for clean technologies along with a supportive local entrepreneurial ecosystem for SMEs by developing clean energy initiatives and entrepreneurs in Pakistan, while ensuring gender mainstreaming and attracting more women to participate in the competition.

Shahina Waheed, PhD
National Project Coordinator, Cleantech – Pakistan, (UNIDO)

Reducing mortality rate by using creative incubator

Creative innovators revolutionized the typical incubators into a modified portable incubator having many newer features. This all was started by a girl Ayesha Feroz and her friends in the remote town of Mian Channu, Punjab. Ayesha saw many infant deaths due to non-availability of incubators at hospitals in her area. Moreover, due to extreme poverty, most people prefer inadequately trained midwives to perform deliveries at homes, creating complications for babies who require extra care in emergency situations. To add more woes of the patients, frequent electricity breakdowns are impediments in proper utilization of the incubators as they require electricity to run.

Ayesha grew up seeing such miseries for the newborns in her native village before moving to Karachi for her education. While in her final year of biomedical engineering, Ayesha saw the agony and distress of her family as her newborn niece was suffering in neonatal intensive care unit in Multan. That is when she decided to design a portable incubator which is cost efficient, energy efficient and has advance monitoring and controlling parameters. She needed technical assistance for which she met Malik Faizan, an expert of the technology and started working on their first prototype which was ready for use in December 2015.

In 2016 UNIDO provided them the opportunity to participate in GCIP this has been a great learning experience for them, and which has helped them not only to improve their product but also their business model and simultaneously allowed them to fill the skill gaps.
Powering the path to inclusive and sustainable industrial development

UNIDO under its GEF funded project sustainable energy initiative in industries for Pakistan is promoting renewable energy investments in industrial sector and have made contractual arrangements with a number of business entities, supporting them with available funds to install and run solar photovoltaic (PV)/biomass power generation demonstration projects. Shams Power is one such project which will install a number of small - medium scale projects under the contract with a cumulative power generation capacity of 5 MW based on PV solar power technology.

Shams Power is a special vehicle established through joint venture of Pakistan Industrial Trading Corporation (PITCO), Orient and Saba Power for the purpose of implementing this project idea. The partners possess complementary expertise; Saba Power is an investor in independent power producers (IPPs); Orient is an operations and maintenance provider to IPPs. PITCO works with many manufacturing facilities, as consulting company, where small power plants were setup.

The project is being implemented under technical and financial support from UNIDO, under the GEF 5 funding facility. The project aims to help Shams Power as business to business- IPP (B2B-IPP) company which will finance, design and install solar power plants and sell solar electricity through power sale agreements to the industrial sector in Pakistan.

It is estimated that besides bringing enormous economic savings to the industry, a reduction of harmful GHG emission by about 4.25 ktCO2 is expected annually.

The total investment of the whole distributed power project is expected to be around USD 7.15 million. All the small scale PV installations under this project are estimated to be paid back in less than three years. The GEF funding will bring internal rate of return of the project to a comfortable level for the investor and will introduce the new B2B power supply model to industry, by which industry will get power at reduced cost without making major investment for the purpose.
Towards an environment-friendly leather sector

Over the past few years, the demand for leather products in the global market has registered a rapid increase. Pakistan’s exports represent 7.39 percent of world exports for the articles of apparel and clothing accessories of leather. In 2014 Pakistan’s export value of sports and non-sports gloves accumulated to a grand total of US$ 0.5 billion. The growth in leather export is associated with the pre-requisite of international standards which safeguard the environment. The concept of project mainstreaming climate change adaptation through water resource management in the Leather industry in Sialkot was envisaged by UNIDO and financial support from GEF, to is to address environmental issues and to ensure pollution-free atmosphere to the people. The project would help in shifting of tanneries located in and around city to centralized location and to provide various facilities like common effluent treatment plant, solid waste disposal site and common effluent collection system, all of which would ensure an effective water management system for urban development plan. It is an important project ensuring compliance, social responsibility and would be instrumental in systematic growth of this sector while addressing the environmental concerns to minimize the hazards of pollution.

UNIDO would focus on new, more effective urban and development planning process and planning institutions. To ensure the sustainable and climate resilient development and implementation, the project, in collaboration with local government partners, will work on the preparation of a set of recommendations to incorporate measure to include climate change adaptability and gender equality concerns in public policy. After the establishment of Sialkot Tanneries Association Guarantee Ltd under the company’s ordinance, became counterpart with UNIDO and the executing agency of Sialkot Tannery Zone project and selected Khambranwala site for the establishment of the zone. Engineering estimates for different components of the project have been prepared. Demarcation of roads and plots has been completed.

Under this project, UNIDO would support the government’s irrigation department and assist in the development of a flood management plan to optimize effluent discharge drains and sewer systems for the treated discharged water. Other by-products of the leather industry waste will be collected and analyzed and if possible, be used for the agricultural sector. The project will introduce water harvesting and conservation practices like the installation of water meters for each tannery unit to monitor water consumption. The project would also promote and introduce a solar water heating system. It will also focus on dissemination of information and demonstration of safe, affordable and advanced technology for water treatment and water conservation. The project would provide technical assistance, guidance and training for helping leather manufacturers and exporters in adopting Cleaner Production technologies. The project will build local capacities with regards to water management by training the policy makers, district representatives, rural communities, industry representatives, and industry and tannery owners.
Given the significance and contribution of small businesses to the promotion of job creation and overall economic development of Pakistan, the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) aims at developing a sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem, while supporting clean technology innovations. In 2015, after rigorous exercises and training a total of 27 teams from Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Dhar-ki, Rawalpindi, Taxila, Peshawar and Sialkot qualified in the competition and presented to a panel of local and international judges. The teams focused on key issues like electricity and gas shortfalls in Pakistan. Several start-up ideas were developed to deal with the energy crisis. These included portable room coolers, devices monitoring consumption of electrical power, low cost insulation solutions and timers for gas burning household equipment. Some teams focused on renewable energy, including generating battery power through pedaling. Others worked on development of domestic wind turbines and water pumps. One team looked at utilizing a religious practice of reading tasbeeh (beads) to charge batteries. Another looked at generating electricity from the weight of moving cars. Some initiatives sought to produce biodiesel and butanol chemical fuels from algae. Basic low cost ideas like apps to allow automobile drivers to avoid traffic jams for saving fuel. Ways of making air conditioners more efficient by pre cooling the air were also explored. A number of entries proposed ideas for converting waste to energy. One start-up focused on managing solid waste to produce compost. Another team produced a cell to treat polluted industrial water to reduce the concentration of microorganisms for preventing diseases. Some entries focused on water efficiency. Developing a more efficient hydro turbine and a device to create water from air at very low power consumption were also put forward. Other projects included aquaculture and hydroponics for irrigation by using very little water and the use of reverse osmosis procedure to treat saline water.
Energy and environment mission in Multan and Southern Punjab

Pursuing UNIDO approach of ISID and its focus on ‘Leaving no one behind’, a team of UNIDO visited the districts of Multan and Khaneval in the South Punjab for a rapid assessment of extending inclusive and sustainable interventions. The area is known to be underserved by all means and needed to be mainstreamed in UNIDO’s ongoing and pipeline projects. During the mission, UNIDO team members met with diverse stakeholders from academic, public and private sector and visited several industrial units in both cities and surrounding areas.

The team visited many industries to identify marketing and testing linkages for the relevant Cleantech innovators and industrialists with established business groups in the area. Seminars with group of industries in Jhania, Multan and industrial sector of South Punjab were focused on how UNIDO can build public private partnership with SMEs and large scale industries were conducted with emphasis on including women in Industries. UNIDO team also visited sites for energy plants, pesticides and PET bottle factories and Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture to launch the next call for awards in Cleantech Innovation in agriculture sector.

Visits of site for operational biomass plant at a rice mill, cotton weaving factory, research centre, and home textile and hosiery units to meet industrial workers to know their problems Multan industries.

A meeting with Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, handicraft association and cotton industrialists was held at the Multan chamber. Khawaja Jalaluddin Roomi, president of the chamber stressed the importance of innovation in clean technology to mitigate the harmful impacts of climate change and support sustainable industrial development and ensured that Multan chamber will always extend all support to UNIDO’s initiatives in Multan specially to promote women he said UNIDO’s Initiative like ‘women in green industry’ in Pakistan to eliminate environmental pollution, adding that women can prove to be the best pro-environment agents. He said Multan chamber will enjoy the cooperation of UNIDO in Cleantech Innovation Programme. He mentioned that UNIDO should set-up treatment plants in Multan and ensured his cooperation to establish energy units in Multan.
A Pakistani woman-led team of innovators which the UNIDO had selected to take part in international competition has won the ‘global category award’ in the category of ‘waste to energy’ at Silicon Valley, USA.

This innovators ‘Green Team’ won this award among seven countries including India, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, South Africa and Turkey. They were honoured at the 2017 Cleantech week in San Francisco.

This global competition is part of the GCIP for small-and medium-sized enterprises and top entrepreneurs from the U.S. and around the world to celebrate the progress, achievements and successes of clean technology innovations.

Five teams of innovators from Pakistan were selected by UNIDO to participate in this annual event.

The GCIP takes a competition and accelerator approach to select the best Cleantech entrepreneurs across seven countries and support them in developing their innovative technologies into full-fledged market-ready products.

Selected start-ups in each country participate in a rigorous and competitive national acceleration programme that trains, mentors, promotes, and connects them to potential investors, customers and partners. Philippe R. Scholtès, UNIDO Managing Director congratulated the participants via a video message and reaffirmed the vision of building an innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem for clean technologies around the globe.
Providing lights when sun goes down: a comprehensive renewable lighting solution

Currently there are over 1.5 billion people in the world who have no reliable access to electricity. These people rely, instead, on biomass fuels (mostly kerosene) for lighting once the sun goes down. Infinity Light is a comprehensive and low cost solution, developed by young Pakistani innovators to provide lighting to people in dire need of basic electricity. Infinity light is a technology startup aiming to provide a renewable source of lighting to millions of poverty stricken people in Pakistan that either have no access to the electrical grid or cannot afford the cost of electricity. This start-up provides a solution to the problems of 780 million women and children who are inhaling smoke in the process of lighting up their homes; this smoke is equivalent to smoking two packets of cigarettes every day. The burden of light generation traps people in a vicious cycle of subsistence; buying cupsful of fuel for their daily needs, as and when they can. The burning of kerosene for lighting also produces 244 million tons of carbon dioxide annually. To mitigate the effects of carbon dioxide UNIDO finalists of GCIP 2016 came up with an innovate idea to deal with the problem of lighting. Aspiring Cleantech entrepreneur Saad Abdullah expressed that the young university students wanted to use their talents to give back to the people and the country. He added that being engineers, the team was aware that more than half the population in Pakistan was deprived of electricity and that’s how their journey began. Infinity light’s first prototype is a generator mounted on a wooden frame, which is driven with the help of a pulley system and a weight. It takes only a couple of seconds to lift the weight to a height of 10 ft. This powers an LED bar, creating 20 minutes of light on its descent, without costing anything. Recounting the experience, Saad Abdullah said that UNIDO provided them with an opportunity to participate in GCIP, allowing them to learn from the ‘gurus of Cleantech start-ups’ - Paul deGive, Rex Northern and Kevin Braithwaite. The training was insightful and directional for the team members who were able to fine-tune their business plan to cater to target market through seminars and webinars. These Cleantech innovators started their journey in 2015 by lighting up the lives of people residing in the remote areas in Thar and Sukkur in Sindh. These innovators are on the verge of launching their idea of producing clean free light, with just the lift of a weight.
focus on

Making medical imaging safer

Computed Tomography (CT) is an imaging procedure that uses special X-ray equipment to create detailed pictures or scans of areas inside the body. Although this scanning procedure is used widely in Pakistan, there is little or no awareness of the radiation hazards of this scanning procedure thus little efforts have been made to mitigate the effects of the radiation.

The product “Gen.Ro.CT” (generic radiation optimized CT) evolved with the desire of the team to contribute towards humanity by innovation in the field of Bio-medicine. It is an efficient CT scanning solution that significantly reduces the hazardous X-ray radiations involved in conventional scans, without degrading the image quality. This cost-and-energy-effective solution extends the effective lifespan of a standard CT scanner. It offers 50% lesser radiation and energy consumption and enhances the productivity and throughput of the scanner.

The start-up contributes to the local medical industry by upgrading old scanners used in Pakistani hospitals with little or no hardware modifications. These upgraded scanners, with special emphasis on radiation dose reduction, are extremely cost effective because they conserve electricity. Gen.Ro.CT provide virtually no shipment delays and cost, and can potentially double the scanner lifespan. The team behind Gen.Ro.CT hopes to contribute to the global green-tech innovation market by developing the world’s first software defined CT scanner.

In 2016, UNIDO provided a platform to maximize the reach and potential of Gen.Ro.CT through GCIP. The experience at UNIDO-GCIP 2016 was thoroughly engaging. It boosted the confidence of the team to chase its dream of becoming successful entrepreneurs while serving humanity. The UNIDO-GCIP experience helped the team learn the nuances of entrepreneurship and product market reach. Overall it gave them the tools to convert their idea into successful business plan. With the help of guidance provided by UNIDO through webinars, mentoring, mock judging and other activities; the team was able to polish the product and eventually be the national winners in Pakistan. UNIDO provides an excellent platform to entrepreneurs to maximize their potential, reach and productivity.
Cooperating for industrial development

Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) provides SME specific policy input to various tiers of government agencies and institutions, SME associations, industrial clusters/sectors and individual entrepreneurs by conducting in depth regulatory research and publications of various research reports. It advocates on behalf of SMEs for creating a conductive business environment for SMEs in Pakistan. SMEDA is also the author and custodian of first ever SME policy of Pakistan.

SMEDA initiated an industry support program with the objective to transfer technical expertise and knowledge to local industries through involvement of international and local experts. SMEDA successfully introduced various programs under ISP towards reducing energy inefficiencies and improving production efficiencies with the support of various international development agencies like Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), German International Cooperation (GIZ), Training and Development Centres of the Bavarian Employers Association (bfz), Germany and UNIDO. With the international development agencies, SMEDA has facilitated various SMEs sectors including textiles, auto parts, foundry, fan, marble, sports goods and food processing.

SMEDA and UNIDO having same agenda of industrialization are creating synergies through different initiatives, like cluster development, introducing concept of renewable energy and energy efficiency, biomass gasification technology. Besides, an investment promotion unit has been established at SMEDA that reflects UNIDO’s determinations for promoting investment in SME industrial sector in Pakistan and to enhance performance and competitiveness of the local SME sector by means of industrial cooperation with foreign counterparts.

Capacity building is another important function of SMEDA, which organizes training programs, seminars, and workshops across Pakistan for SMEs. These need based and affordable training programs are aimed at improving knowledge, skills and competencies in various disciplines.

SMEDA through its information resource centre and website, effectively disseminate information to SMEs stakeholders from public and private sectors. The resource centre serves as an information repository for entrepreneurs, researchers, academicians and other stakeholders.

SMEDA is one of the major partners of UNIDO under its GEF funded projects titled sustainable energy initiative for industries in Pakistan and promoting sustainable energy production and use from biomass.
Towards sustainable industrial solutions

in Pakistan. SMEDA's industry support cell is playing an active role to support UNIDO in achieving intended objectives under these projects by utilizing its strong links within the SME sectors, channelizing the available resources.

SMEDA and UNIDO are also co-working for harnessing support from industrial sector to co-finance renewable energy demonstration projects, initiated under these projects. Both the entities are also facilitating each other in successful completion of various studies on renewable energy and for local industrial sectors such as sectoral study on opportunities and potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency in industry and policy framework review for industry based policy on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Journey of Hempco began with the realization that an abundantly available natural resource had been going to waste. The humble hemp plant native to the Indo-Pak region has over 4,000 documented uses, including paper, textile, bio, and plastics, yet its potential has not been realized. Hempco aims to pioneer a new industrial sector in Pakistan. Being a water stressed country, Pakistan needs to think how its industry could move to more efficient alternatives. Hemp needs four times less water for paper production and two times less water for textile.

Hempco's first product hempcrete is a highly insulative carbon-negative insulation material with 27-times better insulation than the typical brick-masonry structure. The use of indigenous hemp has been optimized in construction and insulation after years of research. Not only does hempcrete offer superior indoor-quality but its light weight also makes it suitable for rapid development. In the near future we aim to construct pre-fabricated insulated modular housing that can enable affordable housing for the masses, with low initial-running costs.

Industrial hemp has the potential to generate millions in revenue and thousands of jobs, the hemp plantation can be incorporated in the crop cycle as its nitrogen restoring properties make it excellent for the soil. China already has established a hemp research center in Beijing and it plans plantations over 1.3 million hectares.

National runner-up award winner Hassam-ud-Din claimed that challenging the status quo in construction sector was an uphill challenge but UNIDO, through its vision of sustainability and industrial development enabled his team to reach the audience and mentorship required. He praised the GCIP summit at San Francisco, which he believed was a knowledge packed experience as innovators form all over the world tried to address the most pressing of issues.

Hassam-ud-Din opined that hempco still had a long journey for the realization of its vision to make Pakistan green and productive and the help of organizations like UNIDO Pakistan was taking Cleantech innovators closer to fulfillment of that dream.
Creating a carbon smart future

The Green Team begun its journey towards a cleaner tomorrow in 2011 when it decided to come up with a solution for reducing the increasing incoming waste at a plant site. The idea was to convert waste into energy which could replace the diesel generator that was used at the plant during electricity short falls.

The initiative started at a lab scale where different waste materials were grouped according to their calorific value. The challenge, however was that ingredients with high calorific value produced more hazardous emissions along with more energy while less hazardous ingredients did not produce adequate energy! Finally, an optimal formula was developed.

The grouping had allowed for a palletization technology that provides easier and better handling of fuel after crushing and grinding pallets made of waste material such as rice husk, bagasse, cotton sticks and saw dust. The moisture in the municipal solid waste was reduced by the addition of different concentration of organic matter. Parameters like: moisture contents, ash, volatile matter, fixed carbon, percentage of carbon, hydrogen, total sulfur, gross and net calorific value were considered. The formula was sent to Pakistan council of scientific and industrial research (PCSIR) national laboratory for testing and soon after tests were conducted, the officials invited the Green Team for working together on modification of the formula. The officials also offered the team to work as a public private partner and showed interest in submitting this work to Pakistan science foundation for a research project. The team continuously worked for the development of the technology and its use in boilers in an effort to combat the energy crisis in Pakistan.

The team distributed prototype boilers textile industry owners near Lahore and they received their first order of 30 tonnes of formula waste product per day. However, mass production was not yet possible for the team despite easy availability of raw material in huge quantity. To convert their idea into a proper business model, the team interacted with UNIDO representatives, who immediately suggested that the team should take part in the GCIP competition.

Zillay Mariam, a member of the Green Team sharing her experience of the competition said that the adventure begun right from the national academy and continued to webinars, business clinics, mock judging to the final judging and the award ceremony. Zillay praised UNIDO for providing them an opportunity to improve skills for commercializing their clean technology and raising investment for their innovation. She was also obliged for once in lifetime opportunity of visiting the Silicon Valley which was a great learning and networking opportunity. She opined that the visit gave the team the much needed exposure on international best practices as well as seeking investment to scale up their business idea.
Clean technology innovators and start-ups in Pakistan receive UNIDO Innovation Awards

The five winners of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) Pakistan 2016 have been announced at an award ceremony attended by 250 high-ranking officials and dignitaries, including Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister for Climate Change.

The GCIP Pakistan is part of a global programme funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The GCIP for small and medium-sized enterprises leverages the power of technology innovation to address challenging energy, environmental and economic problems. By enhancing emerging Cleantech startups and bolstering the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and policy framework, the GCIP delivers both environmental benefits and economic vitality.

During the third cycle in 2016, 82 innovators and startups in Pakistan, focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste-to-energy and green buildings went through a comprehensive and extensive programme of mentoring, training, access to investors, judging and showcasing opportunities. At the awards ceremony in Islamabad in January.

Five winners were presented with monetary prizes and the opportunity of a funded visit to attend the Global Cleantech Forum in Silicon Valley, USA, where they will receive further mentorship and training, and will interact with potential global investors.

The overall winner was the SSUETIANS team from Karachi, which developed an innovative technique that reduces the radiation dose released and the energy used during computed tomography CT scans, while also enhancing the quality of images produced.

The three runners-up were: VegA’s, which developed a wastewater flow treatment mechanism, based on the use of gravity and eliminating the need for an electricity supply; the Green Team, which developed a technology that converts municipal solid waste into pellets which can be burnt and used to produce energy; and the HempCo, which developed a way to use hemp as a carbon-negative insulation material for use in building construction.

An award for the most promising women-lead business was presented to a team of biomedical engineers from Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi which designed an innovative energy-efficient incubating blanket which can replace the traditional baby incubator.

Federal Minister Zahid Hamid stressed the importance of innovation in clean technology to mitigate the harmful impacts of climate change and support sustainable industrial development.

Alois Mhlanga, UNIDO Industrial Development Officer and Project Manager, highlighted the significance of innovation in clean technologies and noted that, during last three cycles calling for contestants for the awards, GCIP Pakistan had mobilized the public and private sector, along with academia and civil society.

Esaam Alqararah, UNIDO Representative to Pakistan shared his agency’s vision of energy and environment and its efforts to promote renewable energy and clean technologies in Pakistan.
Cleantech innovators sign agreements with investors

UNIDO organized an investor connect under the auspices of Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs and start-ups in Islamabad to help start-ups and entrepreneurs to grow and commercialise their ideas at large scale. The Cleantech innovators met with investors and got an opportunity to sign agreements to commercialise ten start-ups during the first ever investor connect in clean technologies.

The event is part of UNIDO’s GCIP global competition aimed at promotion of innovations in clean technologies. This competition is simultaneously carried out in twelve countries around the world. The competition aims to foster innovations in renewable energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste to energy and green building.

Chief guest of the event, Syed Abu Ahmed Akif, Federal Secretary of Climate Change and Alois Mhlanga from the UNIDO HQ inaugurated ‘industry challenge award’ to resolve industry specific issues of pharmaceutical and steel industry in Pakistan.

Niel Buhne, the Resident Coordinator of United Nations in Pakistan marked this day as a landmark in the history of industry-academia linkage for commercialization of innovative technologies. He wished that this effort goes a long way in promoting this culture and will help in the growth of entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

The event provided an opportunity to the women participants and change agents of the delivering results together fund project to present their green industry focused innovations to the investors. Alois Mhlanga highlighted UNIDO efforts in bringing gender parity in the industrial sector by raising awareness and empowering women. He distributed certificates to the women completed their training in green industry start-ups. Esam Alqararah shared that more than 50 investors from all five categories of clean technologies dedicated their time to assess potential of GCIP innovators for possible investments and joint ventures. He highlighted that based on the joint interest of supporting start-ups in Pakistan, UNIDO and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce decides to organize such investor connect together in future on regular basis.
Boosting nutrition, relief and livelihood activities in Pakistan

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Pakistan has signed a landmark, three-year agreement to research and identify the most cost-effective strategies to improve the nutrition status of children between 6 and 23 months of age who are covered through social protection systems. The agreement was signed by WFP, the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Punjab’s Primary and Secondary Health Department.

The 2011 National Nutrition Survey shows that 44 per cent of Pakistan’s children under five years of age are stunted, a condition that impedes mental and physical development and hinders the capacity to learn. The Government of Pakistan has declared nutrition a national emergency and includes nutrition in its Vision 2025.

The research will be conducted in the Rahim Yar Khan district of Punjab province to compare the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of different nutritional interventions, including cash-based transfers through the BISP-run social protection scheme, enhanced behavioural change communication and spe-
cialized nutritious foods supplied by WFP.

Stephen Gluning, Interim WFP country director informed that it was the first time such research was being done in the context of an existing social protection scheme, rather than a specially-created research project.

Ms. Cecilia Garzón, Head of Nutrition for WFP Pakistan expressed that the research would give solid proof for evidence-based programming that can change the nutritional situation of the most vulnerable people of Pakistan and thus the country’s future.

BISP is the largest safety net programme in Pakistan and plans to use the findings to help inform its programmes for the future. This initiative is also strengthening partnerships among different government departments that collaborate to improve nutrition in the country.

WFP has been addressing acute malnutrition and stunting by implementing nutrition programmes in Pakistan since 2008. By partnering with BISP and the Government of Punjab, WFP hopes to ensure assistance will have the greatest impact on the poorest of the poor.
The Government of Pakistan remains the largest host government donor for the World Food Programme (WFP) worldwide with its recent contributions of wheat totaling 50,000 metric tonnes, valued at approximately USD 19.9 million, to WFP operations in Pakistan.

Wheat is a staple food item in Pakistan and it plays a vital role in the food security and nutrition of its people. To maximize its nutritional value, the donated wheat flour is fortified with an enhanced vitamin and mineral mix at local mills in Peshawar and Multan as part of the National and Provincial Fortification Alliance.

Finbarr Curran, WFP Country Director welcomed recent contributions and continued commitment of the government and reiterated WFP’s commitment to working with Pakistan in its recovery and development activities to achieve its Vision 2025 and the SDGs.

The partnership aims to ensure the success of government-led efforts to improve food and nutrition security, including stunting prevention and capacity augmentation, among vulnerable communities affected by law and order operations alongside other vulnerable population groups across the country. These activities aim to complement the government of Pakistan’s reconstruction and development efforts, contributing to the establishment of peace, stability and social cohesion in the region.

The in-kind contributions are supporting people who remain displaced, and returnees for six months following their resettlement. WFP’s relief and recovery programmes include livelihoods/disaster risk reduction, and nutrition/education support for displaced and returnee populations.

Pakistan donated 174,000 metric tonnes of wheat in 2016 and is the largest host donor and second largest donor, after the United States to WFP in Pakistan for the past four years.
Comprehensive assessment of Pakistan’s marine fisheries resources 2015

A meeting chaired by Hasil Khan Bazinjo, federal minister for Ports and Shipping, and attended by Patrick T. Evans, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative in Pakistan along with representatives from various federal and provincial government fisheries and marine life institutes and departments discussed the status of marine fisheries resources. The fisheries resource appraisal in Pakistan project final report on the status of marine fishery resources concluded that though very productive, the resources were over-exploited and not scientifically managed. It also emphasised that regulation of fishing effort was essential, and for that the increase in fishing needed to be curtailed and significant reductions in fishing effort should be made. The report estimated that a reduction of fishing effort by 50% will result in doubling of the economic value of the fisheries resource.

The federal minister appreciated the efforts of FAO in compilation of the report and said that fishermen need to be involved in the efforts aimed at improving the situation of marine fisheries resources in Pakistan.

Patrick T. Evans gave an overview of the main features of the project. He said that the report encompassed data from previous surveys in the 1970’s, 1980’s, 1990’s as well as in-depth surveys conducted from 2009 through 2015. He added that the clear trend for all commercial species was that they were being seriously overfished and the long term viability of the resource was in jeopardy.

The fisheries resource appraisal in Pakistan project was initiated in 2008 through a Unilateral Trust Fund project of the FAO and the Government of Pakistan through the then Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock.

Main components of the project included a programme of fisheries-independent data collection through fisheries surveys, addressing the size of the fishing fleet, amount of fishing effort exerted and the catches landed from it and training and capacity building for data collection, survey operations, fisheries analysis and stock assessment.
Artwork on ‘zero hunger’ exhibited in Karachi

An exhibition highlighting the art pieces of young artists from five Pakistani art schools, that qualified in the “We the Peoples, We the Arts” competition, traveled to Karachi. The initiative was co-partnered by the Swiss Agency from Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Embassy of Switzerland with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) to mark the 50th year of SDC’s cooperation with Pakistan and to prepare the SDGs.

Students were invited to develop sculptures, miniature paintings and paintings on the theme of “Zero Hunger.” Phillipe Crevoisier, Consul General of Switzerland in Karachi opined that through the exhibition, Switzerland joined hands with the United Nations to promote zero hunger, the second most important goal for the United Nations efforts to achieve sustainable development by 2030. He added that Switzerland and Pakistan enjoyed long, strong, and cherished bilateral relations, which allowed the SDC to efficiently work in close cooperation with the relevant Pakistani ministries, all major global partners such as the United Nations as well as with local and international NGOs.

Benedikt Hürzeler, Deputy Head of Cooperation SDC highlighted the importance of the competition and said that Switzerland aimed to bring in limelight the creative, artistic and innovative skills of the Pakistani youth through the art competition. Benedikt added that the competi-
A total of 64 art pieces were received for this competition out of which 23 were selected for the final exhibition, which aimed to provide Pakistani students a unique opportunity to gain visibility at the international level.

Aline Rumonge, Head of the WFP office in Sindh expressed her pleasure on the successful completion of the competition which presented the work of young Pakistani artists who were helping to promote the theme of zero hunger as the UN aimed to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Aline added that young people were innovative and creative problem solvers and they were the key to helping communities and improving the long-term wellbeing of all citizens. She further said that initiatives encouraging engagement and empowerment of youth must continue as youth were a source of social cohesion, that will help Pakistan navigate difficult times and achieve a better future for all.

A jury comprising Swiss and international art experts, the Embassy of Switzerland and the United Nations selected a winner for each category. A total of 64 art pieces were received for this competition out of which 23 were selected for the final exhibition, which aimed to provide Pakistani students a unique opportunity to gain visibility at the international level.
Malnutrition costs Pakistan US$7.6 billion annually

The consequences of malnutrition — including lost labourers, healthcare expenses and lower productivity — cost Pakistan US$7.6 billion, or 3 percent of GDP, annually, said a report launched by the Pakistan Scaling Up Nutrition secretariat in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP). Labelled, the economic consequences of under-nutrition in Pakistan: An assessment of losses, the report used economic modelling to review 15 nutrition indicators from the 2011 National Nutrition Survey and the 2013 Pakistan Demographic Graphic Survey.

The report concluded that more than 90 million cases of diarrhea and respiratory infection among children were attributed to poor breastfeeding practices and zinc deficiencies each year costing healthcare systems and families more than US$1 billion. It also mentioned that more than two-thirds of Pakistani children suffering from stunting, anemia or iodine deficiencies would suffer deficits in mental and physical development, leading to lower school performance and lower productivity as adults, depressing GDP by US$ 3.7 billion annually. Furthermore, it was learnt that more than 10 million working adults with anemia experience chronic weakness and fatigue, reducing economic output in industry, agriculture and other manual jobs by more than US$657 million annually.

WFP Deputy Country Director Stephen Gluning maintained that malnutrition was a heavy burden for the mother of a weak baby and also for the country’s economy. He stressed on working together with local communities for overcoming the side effects of malnutrition. A declaration of Scaling Up Nutrition Pakistan was signed in 2013 to enhance coordination, collaboration and partnerships in the fight against malnutrition. Since then, various networks have been formed and are working under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, and the Scaling Up Nutrition secretariat, linking government, donors, UN agencies, civil societies, business community and academia. The Scaling Up Nutrition movement is led by the government and supported by organizations and individuals to promote collective actions to ensure that every child, adolescent, mother and family can realize their right to food and nutrition, reach their full potential and shape sustainable and prosperous societies. WFP facilitates the work of Scaling Up Nutrition at the federal and provincial levels and supports the National and Provincial Fortification Alliances across Pakistan.
Eco-tourism opportunities in support of the Kalasha

The beautiful Kalasha valleys in Pakistan’s north-western area of Chitral have been experiencing an overwhelming growth of domestic tourism over the past years. However, lack of basic infrastructure, delicate eco systems, and limited resources pose a threat to the Kalasha valley and its people.

Keeping these threats in mind, UNESCO and the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) held a consultative workshop in January 2017 on sustainable eco-tourism practices in the Kalash.

The aim of this workshop was to engage Kalasha representatives with a wide spectrum of relevant stakeholders including government representatives, civil society, academics and experts to explore opportunities for eco-tourism within the valleys. During this two-day workshop, stakeholders discussed sustainable eco-tourism practices within a framework of inclusive community-based development. Cross-cutting themes as human rights based approaches, gender equality and women empowerment, and disaster risk management were considered throughout the deliberations and recommendations under the overarching theme of promoting eco-tourism in Chitral with specific emphasis on empowering the Kalasha community.

Government representatives and private stakeholders joined plenary discussions and working groups with the Kalasha themselves who provided valuable inputs on their experiences and concerns. Group brainstorming sessions were held with the aim of pinpointing specific issues and coming up with viable solutions.

The workshop concluded with the formation of a Kalash working group and a productive discussion that specified goals for upcoming Kalash projects.

Steps will be taken in partnership with the government and the Kalasha community to create a viable eco-tourism plan to boost overall sustainable economic growth and employment generation while raising awareness of the protection, promotion, and preservation of Chitral’s biodiversity and Kalashas’ cultural heritage.

Social cohesion, youth engagement and empowerment, meaningful partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector will strengthen Chitral and the Kalasha making a strong competitive for sustainable eco-tourism in Pakistan.
UNESCO Islamabad, in collaboration with its headquarters and the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), organized a three-day national workshop to raise awareness and understanding on the concepts Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education. Aimed at ensuring that all learners are provided with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to promote sustainable development and global citizenship, the workshop gathered representatives from the ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, provincial/area education officials, civil society, researchers, academia, and youth. During discussions, participants underscored the importance of SDG 4, target 4.7 and agreed that students must develop the knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviours to work individually and collectively to create peaceful, inclusive and tolerant societies both nationally and globally.

Participants commended the timing of the workshop, as the ministry is reviewing the National Education Policy (2016) and the provincial ministries are engaged in streamlining their education sector plans with SDG-4 targets and indicators. The workshop concluded with the following recommendations:

Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education should be included in the new education policy along with an action plan to guide their implementation in Pakistan. Both concepts need to be included in teachers’ training, curricula, and assessment, while dissemination mechanisms must be outlined to create better understanding of these concepts among a broader community. Curriculum developers need to be sensitized on the issues of both concepts and review curricula accordingly. Meanwhile, a wide ranging consultation process must be carried out to ensure more inclusive and needs-based curricula. The National Curriculum Council proposed to play an active role to coordinate support from the provinces.

Curriculum reforms must begin with formal education and gradually increase its ambit to include non-formal streams, such as madrassas for instance. Similarly, teacher training curricula, both pre and in-service, need to be harmonized with education policy and new curricula guidelines and benchmarks. Pakistan, being a multicultural country, is a good example of global citizenship. This diversity should be appreciated and similarities must be found in this diversity so that a national citizenship can be recognized as a catalyst to promote global citizenship.

Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan, speaking at the inaugural session, stressed the importance of learning skills and attitude for living together, acceptance and tolerance within the changing world. She called upon the provincial and area governments to identify and integrate – in curriculum and teacher training – the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to shape a sustainable peaceful future for all. Vibeke Jensen also stressed that it was important to create school environments that not only talk about education for sustainable development and global citizenship but also practice it in all aspects of school life.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Utak Chung, Director of APCEIU emphasized the importance of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education in this interconnected world. He highlighted that given the geographical and cultural diversity in Pakistan, educators and government officials have to assume more responsibility in facilitating learners to become global citizens and for this, we need collaborative efforts and partnerships.
Developing Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) Framework

The Government of the Punjab province in Pakistan requested the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Islamabad office to assist them reviewing their science policy. A joint UNESCO mission from Islamabad and Jakarta met with relevant provincial stakeholders in Lahore to discuss the status and role of SETI framework in the sustainable development of Punjab. The objective of this meeting was to assess and review the existing strategies and policies of the relevant departments of the provincial government and to develop the SETI policy and an implementation pathway.

For sustained improvement in living standards, a SETI policy framework needs to be based on improved linkages between government, industry, and private sector for employment opportunities, more exports, and a regionally balanced and environmentally sound society.

In order to boost the sustainable development of Punjab, the UNESCO team adopted a wide-develop-
UNICEF and the Department of Planning and Development (P&D), Government of Punjab, organized a media workshop in Lahore on stunting, one of the most pressing issues of Pakistan that affects more than one out of three children in Punjab alone.

Stunting is the physical manifestation of underlying, persistent and severe nutritional deficiencies, and severely hinders the growth and development of a child. It is associated with suboptimal brain development, which may have long-lasting harmful consequences for cognitive ability, school performance and future productivity.

The Punjab Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014 shows that every third child in the province suffers from chronic malnutrition (stunting). While stunting has shown a downward province-wide trend since 2007, this masks serious problems in some districts. In the worst-affected Dera Ghazi Khan district, the stunting rate is as high as 50.9 per cent.

Dr. Shehla Zaidi, program director at the Department of Community Health Sciences, Agha Khan University Karachi explained that stunting may begin whilst a child is still in the womb; thus, the nutritional status of the mother is critical for the future health of the child.

Angela Kearney, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan argued that simple actions during pregnancy and the first two years of life can prevent stunting. She maintained that exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months and provision of wheat, oil or salt fortified with vitamins and minerals and use of vitamin supplements for pregnant women and children can prevent stunting.

Innovative ideas suggested during the workshop included the use of mobile phone communication platforms such as Ureport- PakAvaz or social media for regular exchange on data and facts, as well as the collaboration on producing compelling media content to tell how badly stunting affects the development of children.

Dr. Shabana Haider, member of (P&D) announced that a full-fledged “stop stunting” campaign will be rolled out to improve the nutrition indicators in the province.
Building disaster resilience in Pakistan

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) inaugurated a two-day provincial consultative workshop on disaster risk reduction in Multan. Provincial minister for Disaster Management Maher Ijaz Achlana and various public sector stakeholders attended the inaugural session. Under the Department of International Development (DfID) funded building disaster resilience in Pakistan programme, FAO together with UNDP, WFP and with consortium partner Concern Worldwide and WWH CLEANTECH will work to improve resilience of crisis-affected communities through risk assessment, planning, mitigation, preparedness measures and emergency response.

This inception workshop provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to come together and share their experiences and knowledge and highlight the exact needs of the communities.

Maher Ijaz Achlana reiterating the government’s support for the successful implementation of BDRP in Punjab said that agriculture was widely affected by natural disasters in Pakistan and there was a growing need to understand and mitigate risks in this hazard prone country.

The workshop was attended by provincial and district government officials along with representatives of the community. Razi Latif, advisor on climate change and disaster risk reduction from DfID and Francisco Gammaro, deputy FAO Representative were also present in the workshop.
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented its USD 70 million Country Programme II (2016-19) under the title “developing solutions for drugs and related challenges in Pakistan.” The new programme will help enhance the skills and knowledge of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in overcoming the multi-facet threats posed by transnational organized crime and would foster greater cooperation amongst neighbouring countries to effectively find common solutions.

Aldo Lale-Demoz, Deputy Executive Director UNODC said at a ceremony organized by the Narcotics Control Division and UNODC Country Office that the Country Programme II was based on principles of national ownership, upstream policy and human rights based approach. He added that Pakistan has demonstrated notable achievements in many areas of cooperation, owing to the national leadership and political commitment.

César Guedes, UNODC Representative Country Office Pakistan presenting an overview of the programme said that assistance in the next four years envisioned to working together against illicit trafficking, drug use and crime, while promoting the rule of law for a safer society for all in Pakistan.

Guedes emphasized that it was an opportunity to further advance Pakistan’s strategy on counter-narcotics, strengthen regional cooperation and streamline collective efforts to promote the rule of law, good governance and public health.

Talking on the occasion, Baleegh ur Rehman, minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Interior and Narcotics Control said that it required more concerted efforts of international community to effectively tackle this menace. He reaffirmed the political will of the government to stemming out the menace of drugs from the region.

Lale Demoz thanked Baleegh ur Rehman and Ajaz Ali Khan, secretary narcotics control division for representing Pakistan’s continued and new commitment. He said the day marked another important milestone in combating illicit trafficking, drug use and crime in the country.

The new Country Programme has been developed through a participatory process involving UNODC experts and relevant Pakistani institutions, the international community, and civil society.

UNODC presented mementos to the donors, which are Australia, Canada, Denmark, EU, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America for their financial contributions to the previous and the present country programmes.
Capacity building programme for Pakistan’s border management agencies, police and prosecution services

The Government of Denmark signed a DKK 4 million partnership agreement with UNODC Pakistan. The agreement was signed by the Ambassador of Denmark, CLEANTEC H.E. Ole Thonke and Cesar Guedes, country representative UNODC. The agreement is about a programme that aimed at improving the capacity of Pakistan’s border management agencies, police and prosecution services.

On the occasion, Ole Thonke said that Denmark fully supports Pakistan in its efforts to enhance security and rule of law in the country, as both were a must for development.

Ambassador Thonke said that the Danish government is very happy to extend support to this vital programme which is led by UNODC in collaboration with the government of Pakistan. He added that his government believe that through this support, the institutions would be strengthened to protect the population, thereby increasing trust in government and contributing to overall stability within Pakistan and at its borders.

He also emphasized that Denmark strongly supports the on-going efforts to develop consensus for peace, security, stability, development in the region and underlined Denmark’s commitment to strengthen this cooperation.

One of the programme components focuses on improving the capacity of Pakistan’s border management agencies and their cooperation with Afghanistan using an integrated border management system based on cross-border collaboration. By providing knowledge, training, equipment and support to collaborate with Afghanistan, the programme is expected to strengthen Pakistan’s border agencies to cope with the threats in border areas and enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan border management agencies.

The Danish funds will provide support in to strengthen investigation and prosecution.

Guedes, thanked the government of Denmark for the support and highlighted the importance of building capacity of law enforcement agencies operating in border regions of Pakistan and the border management agencies of Pakistan and Afghanistan.
Data Centre launched to tackle money laundering and terrorism financing

A new Data Centre, fully equipped with state of the art IT equipment to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing was launched by the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, the British High Commissioner, and the Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU) in Karachi.

The Data Centre is the result of the 3 year joint efforts among the UK Department for International Development (DFiD), FMU, and the UNODC with a vision to tackle money laundering and terrorism financing in Pakistan. It will be the main integrated mechanism to operationalize the goAML system in the future.

The goAML system is an integrated software solution developed by the UNODC as one of the strategic responses to combat money-laundering. It enables monitoring collecting, analysing any suspicious financial transactions in a speedy, efficient, and intelligent manner and facilitates the rapid exchange of information among banks, industries, law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities.

Cesar Guedes, Country Representative UNODC said that the inauguration of the system was another step towards combating corruption and monitoring suspicions financial transactions. He highlighted the need to enhance the capacity of the relevant stakeholders to make goAML system fully operational through the new Data Centre in the future.

Ashraf Mahmood Wathra, the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan expressed high hope that the new Data Centre along with the implementation of goAML system in the future will lead to a better integrity of the overall financial system in Pakistan.

Tom Drew, the UK High Commissioner, appreciated the inauguration of the new Data Centre as a great chance to increase business opportunities for Pakistan by gaining wider confidence in the financial transaction system.

The new Data Centre is expected to draw further attention on the importance of joint efforts against money laundering and terrorism financing in Pakistan.
School art contest held in Bahawalpur

A prize distribution ceremony for a school art contest, organized jointly by the High Commission of Canada in Pakistan and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), was held at the Government Girls Sadiq Model High School in Bahawalpur.

The High Commissioner of Canada, Perry John Calderwood, and the UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Angela Kearney distributed prizes among the winners of the competition.

The competition was aimed at providing young girls and boys the opportunity to demonstrate their artistic creativity around the theme: ‘How does the elimination of violence and use of technology positively affect the lives of girls and boys and their families?’ The theme reflected two important elements of the Sustainable Development Goals for national development.

Angela Kearney thanked the Canadian people for their commitment to the cause of children in Pakistan and said that the UNICEF and the children of Pakistan know that we can always count on the continuous support of Canada.

The contest was second of a series organized to acknowledge the generous support of Canadian Dollars 41.4 million from the Government of Canada to UNICEF for implementing its programmes polio eradication, support for Temporarily Displaced Population and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools in Pakistan.

A total of 90 students of primary to secondary level from three schools of South Punjab, two from Rajanpur and one from Bahawalpur district, participated in the contest.

An art kit including colour pencils, crayons, markers etc. was given to each student by CHC and UNICEF prior to the contest. The selected artwork from the contest has been used to develop a joint CHC/UNICEF table calendar and wall planner 2017 and distributed amongst participating schools, students and respective partners.

Perry John Calderwood, High Commissioner of Canada, surprised the pupils by partly speaking in Urdu. He congratulated the students participating in the poster competition, adding that the posters demonstrated great artistic creativity and the keen interest of the students to contribute to progress in their communities and country.
Enhancing capacity of the women parliamentary caucus of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) signed a one-year partnership agreement to enhance the capacity of the Women Parliamentary Caucus of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (WPC-KP) to integrate a gender perspective in new provincial laws, policies and review of existing laws.

The project “capacity enhancement of the WPC-KP for gender integration in provincial laws”, will enable members of the WPC-KP to identify and reflect on the principles of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in legislative reviews and propose amendments thus ensuring ‘gender’ principles are reflected. Additionally, the WPC-KP will seek to guide and assist legislators, policy-makers and other key partners to analyse and interpret legislation through a gender lens.

The agreement was signed by Stefanie Burri, Head of Cooperation, SDC and Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan.

Jamshed Kazi said that the agreement will give new impetus to the efforts to integrate the rights of women and gender justice elements in the laws and policies of the province. She added that the UN Women has a strategic interest in the stability, prosperity and capacity development of women parliamentary caucus of KP.

Kazi added that the initiative will support female members KP to undertake research and propose gender-responsive laws and policies which will bring a positive change in the lives of women, girls and the vulnerable segments of the society. Stefanie Burri expressed that the SDC, as part of the Swiss Embassy, is pleased to support the important work of the women parliamentaryarians in KP through UN Women. She added that the SDC considered access to knowledge, information and strong institutions as crucial for participation in the opinion building process.

Stefanie further said that the SDC responds to KP government appeal for supporting laws and its implementation which focuses on women and children. SDC is looking forward to achieve quick and sustainable results. This will require hard work from all the stake holders, putting our ‘hands and energies’ together.

Meraj Humayun, chairperson, women parliamentary caucus -KP welcomed support from the UN Women and the SDC for strengthening the WPC-KP by saying that the project will also enhance coordination amongst women parliamentarians and build consensus on gender priorities.
Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and Anthony Lake, Executive Director United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in a joint statement on International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation have said that genital mutilation irreparably damages girls’ bodies, inflicts excruciating pain and causes extreme emotional trauma that can last for a lifetime. They said that the mutilation increases the risk of deadly complications during pregnancy, labour and childbirth that endangers both mother and her child, adding that it robbed girls of their autonomy and violates their human rights.

The statement further states that the mutilation reflected low status of girls and women and reinforced gender inequality, fuelling intergenerational cycles of discrimination and harm. The female genital mutilation and cutting exists despite all the progress the world has made towards abolishing this violent practice, millions of girls, many under the age of 15 are forced each year to undergo it, the statement further mentioned. An estimated figure suggested that almost 200 million girls and women around the world were living with the damaged genitals, which has affected their communities.

At least 2,900 communities, representing more than 8.4 million people living in countries where UNFPA and UNICEF work jointly to end female genital mutilation/cutting, have declared they had abandoned the practice in 2016. “In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals recognized the close connection between FGM/C, gender inequality, and development – and reignited global action to end FGM/C by 2030.”

The statement demanded a faster action in 2017 to build on the process of abandoning the practice, calling on governments to enact and enforce laws and policies that protect the rights of girls and women and prevent genital mutilation and cutting.

The two executive directors also said that families and communities should be able to take action themselves and refuse permitting their girls to endure violation of female genital mutilation.

Dr Babatunde Osotimehin and Anthony Lake urged to make the current generation, the one that abolishes female genital mutilation and cutting once and for all and make the world a healthier place for all by doing so.

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director, UNFPA

and

Anthony Lake
Executive Director, UNICEF
Pakistan’s first-ever ‘Izhar by Film Fellowship’

Pakistan’s first-ever ‘Izhar by Film Fellowship’ (IBFF) programme - an initiative of Morango Films, with support of UN Women held a four-day filmmaking course in Islamabad in February.

The organisers received 200 applications in which 60 candidates 18 years of age and above were selected from across Pakistan.

The first IBFF on ‘social and political rights of women’ focuses on four areas: (i) harassment-free workplaces/educational institutes; (ii) women’s access to safe public spaces; (iii) internet safety for women; and (iv) women’s political rights.

In using filmmaking as a tool to positively impact in redressing gender inequality, renowned music video and commercial film Directors Amena Khan and Sohail Javed will provide training and mentorship sessions to the selected trainees.

Jamshed Kazi, country representative, UN Women Pakistan said that what we see on-screen reflects the off-screen realities of women lives all too well, whilst media images continue to form a strong impact on our perceptions.

The UN women country representative added that with a new generation of aspiring filmmakers benefiting from the fellowship programme, we look forward to seeing a move beyond tired stereotypes that constrain women’s access to and participa-
tion in social and political activities, a move that simultaneously inspires public action against gender inequalities.

Abrar Ul Hassan, founder, Morango Films said that Izhar is more than just a fellowship programme. The youth will be able to use filmmaking as an agent of change to advocate women’s social and political rights. The message will stretch out not just in Pakistan but beyond.

Top three position holders will get scholarship grants. The best films will be screened at a national-level event in Islamabad, next month.

This collaboration between UN Women and Morango Films falls under the UN Women’s project on Women’s Peace, Security, Rights and Voice: safe public spaces, community outreach and empowerment, and political awareness and advocacy with support of the Government of Australia.

Supported by the LEGO Foundation to drive increased awareness about the importance of the first 1,000 days of a child’s life and the impact of early experiences on the developing brain. During this critical period, brain cells can make up to 1,000 new connections every second — a once-in-a-lifetime speed. These connections contribute to children’s brain function and learning, and lay the foundation for their future health and happiness. A lack of nurturing care — which includes adequate nutrition, stimulation, love and protection — can impede the development of these critical connections.

The campaign kicks-off with #Eat-PlayLove — a digital and print initiative aimed at parents and caregivers that shares the neuroscience on how babies’ brains develop. #EatPlayLove assets explain the science in a straightforward, visually interesting way to encourage parents and caregivers to continue to make the most of this unrivalled opportunity to provide their children with the best possible start in life.

By engaging with families, the initiative also aims to drive demand for quality, affordable early childhood development services and to urge governments to invest in programmes targeting the most vulnerable children.

According to a recent series in The Lancet nearly 250 million children in developing countries are at risk of poor growth due to stunting and poverty. But the need for greater investment in early childhood development is not limited to low-income countries. Disadvantaged children living in middle- and high-income countries are also at risk. UNICEF estimates that millions more children are spending their formative years growing up in unstimulating and unsafe environments, putting their cognitive, social and emotional development at risk.

One 20-year study showed that disadvantaged children who participated in quality early childhood development programmes as toddlers went on to earn up to 25 per cent more as adults than their peers who did not receive the same support.

UNICEF is calling for governments to increase investments in early childhood, expand health and social services offered to young children, and strengthen support services for parents and caregivers.

This campaign is part of UNICEF’s broader programme on early childhood development, supported by CLEAN-TECH and M Foundation, The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, ALEX AND ANI, and IKEA Foundation.
Humanity is on the verge of one the greatest public health achievements in the history – eradicating polio. In 2016, few cases of polio reported as compared to previous year globally, and in Pakistan. Despite numerous challenges faced by the polio programme, Pakistan has made strides towards stopping transmission of the virus and has come close to achieving the goal of eliminating the scourge in 2017.

In 2016, thanks to the support of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Pakistan Assistance Programme’s Emirates Polio Campaign Phase-III, more than 10.6 million children across Pakistan’s high-risk districts were reached with the most vital health intervention for protection against polio: two drops of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV).

The generous contributions of the UAE towards polio eradication in 2016 cannot be underestimated and has contributed significantly to the turnaround seen in Pakistan since 2014 in which the country reported 306 polio cases.

Transmission was widespread across the country with all of Fata, most of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, parts of Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab reported several cases. In less than 18 months, a reinvigorated programme has helped tackle the chronic underlying challenges to virus interruption and eradication.

A fundamental paradigm shift towards reaching and vaccinating most of the missed 37 million children help reduce the cases to historic low number.

With the financial support of UAE, the highly committed and dedicated anti-polio workers reached out to high-risk areas, help drop the cases.
United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) organized the screening of Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy’s Oscar-winning documentary ‘A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness’ at The Millennium University College, Islamabad. The screening was part of UNIC’s efforts to create a debate on human rights through cinematography and was followed by a panel discussion with Sangeeta Thapa, Deputy Country Representative UN Women, Anne Marchal, Deputy Head of Delegation of the EU to Pakistan, Tahira Abdullah, human rights activist and Vittorio Cammarota, Director UNIC.

Expressing her views, Tahira Abdullah said that a girl’s honour is not in others hands nor is it in the bodies of the girls, the honour is inherent and intrinsic and the girl’s honour resides in their minds and souls and that is the place others can never reach.

Anne Marchal said that the documentary gave young people clues to decide what kind of society they want to live in. Sangeeta Thapa informed the audience that UN Women works closely with authorities to widen access to justice for women and girls, support legal and policy reform and promote zero tolerance for violence against women in Pakistan.

The film tells the story of 18-year old Saba who was attacked and injured by her father and uncle for marrying the person of her choice. The 40-minute documentary follows Saba after she survived an attempted honour killing. She refused to forgive her attackers, but later buckled under family pressure, which allowed them to return home. Students took keen interest in the documentary and appreciated the efforts of the UN and partners for protecting and highlight human rights.
UNIC Islamabad, in collaboration with the High Commission of Canada, organised workshops for school children, between the ages of 11 and 14, in Islamabad on human rights. 97 students learnt about Human Rights through interactive sessions and games. Students from Mashal Model School, The International Grammar School, Roots School System and Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Children (SPARC) participated in the workshop. The event started with opening remarks from Vittorio Cammarota, director UNIC. He talked about how the ideas associated with Human Rights can be translated into concrete action. Following that, James Clark, from the High Commission of Canada talked about multiculturalism and human rights in his country. Specialists from SPARC and UNDP talked briefly about the importance of knowing your rights.

The students then divided into groups of ten for the activities. They explored what it means to be human and what are the things needed to enhance, protect and develop those abilities. They then discussed what rights mean. They learned several important concepts like dignity, equality, diversity survival, and universality over the course of 90 minutes. The main message of the workshop was that Human rights belong to all people regardless of their sex, race, colour, language, national origin, age, class, religion, or political beliefs. These workshops aimed to showcase a positive image of the Pakistani youth while providing an opportunity for increasing their knowledge of human rights.
Pakistan’s tripartite stakeholders including the government, employers and workers reviewed progress on provincial labour legislation after the 18th constitutional amendment. Moreover, constituents discussed actions at federal and provincial level to complete and adopt first cycle of labour legislation and subsidiary legislation and effective implementation of labour laws.

It was learnt that the Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh have almost completed the legislation process or labours while the process in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) is in different levels of completion.

Decision about labour laws in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) will be taken after its merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) has organised the two-day national consultation.

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Provincial and regional tripartite stakeholders from the four provinces, Fata, GB, AJK and ICT along with the Pakistan Workers Federation, Employers Federation of Pakistan, both members of the Federal Tripartite Consultative Committee attended the event.

The consultation was part of the project ‘promoting international labour and environmental standards in Pakistani SMEs funded by European Union (EU).’

Shoail Amir, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development highlighted the role and responsibilities of stakeholders in the framing laws and its implementation.

Dr Amaury Hoste, Head of Section, EU Delegation in Islamabad said that increased number of unionized workers, strengthening labour inspection system and capacity building of institutions involved in the oversight mechanisms are areas needed improvement.

Ingrid Christensen, ILO Country Director Pakistan, highlighted the importance of International Labour Standards as guiding principles while formulating labour laws. She also emphasized on the need for effective implementation of labour laws at workplaces and the role of employers and workers in this process.

The participants agreed to continue the dialogue process to ensure that the provincial laws are aligned with international labour standards and with economic and social policies of Pakistan.
The International Labour Organization (ILO) organized a capacity building workshop for the existing trade unions of Pakistan administered Kashmir (PaK) in Mirpur in collaboration with Pakistan workers federation. Zahoor Awan, general secretary, Pakistan workers federation, guided the participants on promoting trade union movements in PaK on sustainable basis.

The workshop discussed various challenges faced by workers in PaK as more than 60 delegates from 11 trade unions of PaK participated in the workshop.

With 4.6 million population in PaK, the labour force participation rate stands at 22.8%. As per government records, there are 1,970 industrial units and six small and micro-industrial estates in 10 districts of PaK.

Saad Gilani, senior programme officer ILO said that the Federal Tripartite Consultative Committee for decent work in Pakistan held in January 2016, decided that the special regions including PaK, Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad Capital Territory should receive further attention in terms of labour related issues.

The Department of Labour and ILO initiated joint interventions starting with a dialogue on ‘future of work’ and a detailed ‘situation analysis of labour administration in PaK’ study. The situation analysis study specifically highlighted the weak structure of trade union movement in PaK, among other things, and recommended for its strengthening. The study also identified the need for further capacity development to achieve a functional and effective labour administration system.

The workshop helped trade union representatives to understand the international standards on ‘freedom of association and collective bargaining’ in context of ILO Conventions 87 and 98. The participants identified key challenges faced by workers in PaK.
New government policy for Afghans welcomed

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) welcomed the federal cabinet of Pakistan’s decision to adopt a national policy relating to the management of refugees and Afghans nationals in Pakistan.

The decision to extend the validity of the proof of registration cards to some 1.3 million registered Afghans refugees until the end of 2017; a pledge to document Afghan nationals who currently have no identification; a commitment to adopt a national refugee law; and a visa regime for different categories of Afghan nationals was approved at a cabinet meeting.

Indrika Ratwatte, UNHCR representative in Pakistan said that the announcement is a step change for Afghan refugees and those Afghans without documentation living in Pakistan. He added that the introduction of a visa regime has a potentially transformative impact on people’s daily lives.

Indrika Ratwatte further said that UNHCR appreciates the government of Pakistan’s support to Afghan refugees for nearly four decades. He maintained that the UNHCR will continue to seek robust international support for voluntary repatriation and more equitable responsibility-sharing to fully support Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan.
Skills training for Afghan and Pakistani youth

The UNHCR and the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) launched a skills development programme to empower Pakistani and Afghan refugee youth across Pakistan.

The pilot project costing Pakistan Rupees 30 million (USD 300,000) will train over 700 young people up to the age of 25 years old in all four provinces over the next three months.

Based on a skills survey for Pakistan and Afghanistan various trades and professions will be taught at technical and vocational centres in refugee-populated districts of the country.

Vocational training will be offered to young women and men in professions, including beauticians, tailors, plumbers, electricians, stone masons and fridge, mobile phone, solar panel repair technicians.

The launch at the advanced government technical training centre in Peshawar was attended by Arbab Shahzad, Federal Secretary SAFRON, Indrika Ratwatte, UNHCR Representative for Pakistan, Dr. Imran Zeb, Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees and Yakub Mahsud, Chief Coordinator, Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) Secretariat.

Indrika Ratwatte emphasised the need to recognise and build on young people’s capacities and the valuable contributions they are already making to their family and community’s wellbeing.

Ratwatte said that the pilot project will empower youth and is an investment in the future human capital of Afghanistan as such education and skills training programmes have a tangible impact. He added that the courses will provide many young people with a set of practical skills to help them make a living.

Arbab Shahzad expressed that such skills development projects have a strong impact on peaceful co-existence within communities. He said the courses taught in the training will enable Afghan and Pakistani youth to create livelihoods for themselves and secure gainful employment.

The participants of these three-month training courses will receive a small monthly stipend as well as the tools of their chosen trade helping them to establish an immediate source of income after completion of their training. After a review later this year, the programme aims to roll-out on a longer-term basis.
Statement on refugees returns from Pakistan to Afghanistan

The UNHCR shares concerns of Human Rights Watch regarding the pressures on Afghans in the late summer which affected the repatriation last year, but does not agree with the conclusions of its new report. More than 370,000 Afghan refugees returned home from Pakistan last year – a 12-year high – and up from 58,000 the previous year. The multiple drivers behind this surge are complex and influenced by shifting regional dynamics and relations between the two countries. They include pressures by authorities amidst broader security operations, changing attitudes among host communities, uncertainty about the renewal of refugee ID cards, economic hardship, stricter border controls disrupting trade and family ties. There was also a campaign by the Afghan government in Pakistan to encourage Afghans to return home.

Throughout 2016, UNHCR has informed Afghan of their rights, intervened in cases of unlawful arrest and detention and worked closely with authorities at all levels when reports of harassment were received. We intervened in some 5,900 reported cases of arrest, securing the release of almost all, and the instance of arrest and detention declined significantly by the end of 2016.

UNHCR welcomes the measures announced by the Government of Pakistan on Tuesday, 7 February 2017 which go a long way to help in the management of the voluntary repatriation programme and improve the situation for those Afghans who decide to stay. Those measures include extending the validity of the Proof of Registration cards for some 1.3 million registered Afghans until the end of 2017; pledges to document Afghans without identification; a new visa regime for different categories of Afghan nationals; and a commitment to adopt a national refugee law.

UNHCR does not promote returns to Afghanistan given the enduring conflict in different parts of the country and its limited absorption capacity. At the same time, the agency does help those who decide to return based on the options available to them. UNHCR is concerned that the pace of returns to Afghanistan in 2016 far outstripped the capacity to help people reintegrate after so many years in exile. UNHCR calls on the international community and the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan to ensure that refugee repatriation is voluntary, gradual and aligned with development programmes as well as efforts to bolster peace and security.
Representatives of Pakistan, Afghanistan and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) underlined the importance of moving expeditiously from policy to implementation to support the needs of Afghan refugees. Afghanistan has recently formed a high-level displacement and return executive committee to prioritise assistance needs and reintegration prospects of internally displaced people and returnees under the Afghanistan’s national peace and development framework.

Similarly, Pakistan adopted a national policy relating to the management of Afghan refugees and Afghan nationals living in the country. This provides a comprehensive, predictable and sustainable response to managing refugee and migration issues in Pakistan. The government of Pakistan hosted the 28th Tripartite Commission – a high-level meeting in Islamabad. Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Lt. General (Retired) Abdul Quadir Baloch, Afghanistan’s Minister of Refugees and Repatriation Sayed Hossein Alimi Balkhi, Deputy Minister of Finance of Afghanistan, Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor, Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal and other senior government officials attended the meeting. The UNHCR was represented by country representatives based in Pakistan, Indrika Ratwatte and in Afghanistan Ms. Fathiaa Abdalla.

Expressing his views, Lt. General (Retired) Abdul Quadir Baloch said that the protracted Afghan refugee crisis shouldn’t be forgotten and more practical steps need to be taken in Afghanistan for the sustainable reintegration of returnees.

Detailing Afghanistan’s preparedness for the reintegration of repatriating refugees, Sayed Hossein Alimi Balkhi said that their government was taking practical measures to implement reintegration and integration projects to ensure access to basic services for returnees.

Indrika Ratwatte underscored the importance of youth empowerment through education, skills and livelihoods to build the resilience, self-reliance and human capital of future generations. He said access to education of Afghan children in Pakistan as well as of returnee children in Afghanistan was crucial and that more effort was needed to resolve academic certificate equivalency issues for returnee children and youth.

Fathiaa Abdalla emphasized the importance of sustainable return and reintegration as a national priority and complement to the cash grant. She added that facilitating self-reliance of returnees included access to land, shelter, social services, livelihood opportunities and representation in a community-based approach.

An extension until 31 December 2017 of the Tripartite Agreement between the two governments was signed at the meeting. The Tripartite Commission is the formal body that governs the stay and return of Afghans since 2002. Under this agreement some 4.1 million Afghan refugees have gone back to Afghanistan.
Despite huge challenges and setbacks, Pakistan has indeed made progress towards promoting social justice in recent years. More women and girls have opportunities to realize their potential, and legislation is enacted to reduce violence against women. The evils of child labour are brought forward and debated with renewed commitment. Politicians, policy makers and people are taking more initiatives to increase employment, and especially decent work. There is higher recognition of minority rights and the need to protect them, including the needs of the transgender community. But there remains a long way to go for Pakistan to become a society in which all persons can exercise their rights equally, free from stigma and violence. For there to be social justice, we in Pakistan need to explore more often, and more openly, issues of ethnicity, gender, disability and other social inequalities.

If Pakistan is going meet the goals it has set for itself in Vison 2025 and the SDGs, there is a need for collective work on strengthening social justice. The categorization of people into groups makes the hurdles they need to cross much higher if they are not to be “left behind”. Meeting the targets in SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) are necessary building blocks for all the development goals to be met. If Pakistan does not reduce inequalities, it will not be able to meet all the SDGs.

Ending such inequalities is a prerequisite for human development. Jinnah captured this already 70 years ago:

“No nation can ever be worthy of its existence that cannot take its women along with the men. No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men. There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a great competition and rivalry between the two. There is a third power stronger than both, that of the women.”

A good way to mark World Social Justice Day is to take stock of how far we have come in achieving what was envisioned by Jinnah.

Pakistan is ranked 121st of 155 countries by the Gender Inequality Index; the Global Gender Gap Index ranks Pakistan 144th of 145 countries; only 19.3% of women in the country attain a secondary education, as opposed to 46.1% of men; similarly, women’s participation in the labour market is a mere 24.6%. Women earn 23% less than men for equivalent work. Extremely few women (0.3%) hold managerial positions.

The level of gender inequality is the most widespread human rights concern in Pakistan. It not only affects women and girls but also the well-being of all in Pakistan.
are several reasons for this, many social and cultural, but the primary one is inequality of opportunity for girls, especially from poorer families, whether in terms of health, education or voice. The more than 40% difference in income between men and women is because of gender stereotypes, lower levels of education among women, unpaid care work, and direct or indirect gender-based discrimination. Women bear a burden of unpaid work which is globally estimated to be three times greater than the burden borne by men. But in Pakistan it is ten times greater, according to a study by UN Women Pakistan.

Despite progress on education for women and girls, and women’s increasing involvement in political and administrative roles, Pakistan lags behind other countries in terms of substantially advancing women’s rights. Though there a number of women who have played a prominent role in Pakistan including Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, they have generally been the exception. So while there is progress (e.g. In 2002, 54 women ran for seats in the National Assembly, a figure which rose to 161 in the 2013 election), very few women serve in elected roles. Though Pakistan will soon be one of the few countries in the world with a woman serving as Foreign Secretary, we have among the lowest proportions of women in public service in South Asia, currently only 5%. The overwhelming majority of public servants are men (95%).

The year is 2017 and because we are so far only taking baby steps to address the pervasive inequalities across Pakistan, too many Pakistanis are missing out on the opportunities they have the right to have. Current good policies to end this social injustice are going in the right direction, but too slowly for those who continue to be discriminated against, and who live on the periphery. But Pakistan can pick up the pace; with collective efforts by government, private sector and civil society centered on eliminating discrimination and violence, and empowering the disadvantaged with the tools to improve their lives. Ending social injustice is also about individual action: If we call out even one unfair act, we have contributed to a just society.

Neil Buhne
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Pakistan
Interaction with foreign media

The United Nations Communication Group in Pakistan had a chance to meet and have a detailed discussion with Amélie Herenstein, Agency France-Presse (AFP) Bureau Chief for Pakistan and Afghanistan about the best practices for interaction with foreign media.

Amélie informed about AFP’s system of gathering and verifying information from various sources and means from across the globe. She also detailed different assignments she had covered while working with the AFP.

The UN communication officers and Amélie Herenstein had a thorough discussion about reporting about issues related to the UN SDGs, particularly about human rights, gender equality and equal opportunities. Ways of sharing information with foreign media were also discussed before the question answers session in which the communication group asked the AFP bureau chief questions about neutral reporting, safety of the reporters and sources and establishing new sources.
Radio has an audience of 33 million people in Pakistan, making it one of the most powerful communication tools in the country. The public station Radio Pakistan broadcasts daily programs in 23 regional and local languages, while the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority has issued over a hundred FM radio licenses across the country.

With the power to reach the furthest corners in media-dark areas, to transmit information to the literate and illiterate, and to remain a dynamic medium through the use of technology while leaving no one behind, radio represents everyone. Radio is appealing to anyone. Radio is You.

Celebrating the World Radio Day on 13 February, UNIC and the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation organized a live event themed ‘Radio is You’. Discussions included the role of radio in disseminating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims at economic prosperity while leaving no on behind.

Radio is You was attended by a variety of participants, including Maryam Aurangzeb, Pakistan’s Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, the chief guest. She appreciated the efforts of Radio Pakistan in raising awareness about the SDGs, which showed its appreciation for its relationship with the UN. Ms Vibeke Jensen, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative to Pakistan, shared the Director General’s message for the day and stressed the importance of including audiences and communities in the policy and planning of radio broadcasting.

Representatives of other UN agencies, including Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Ignacio Artaza, Country Director UNDP, Daniel Timme, Chief of Communications of United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Vittorio Cammarota, Director of UNIC also attended the event.

Jeannette Seppen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pakistan and Anne Marchal, Deputy Head of the European Union (EU) delegation in Pakistan were also present next to over 150 students and media professionals.

A live talk show organized at 101 FM was later joined by Vibeke Jensen and Vittorio Cammarota. Ms Jensen highlighted the important role of radio for disaster management and as a tool to empower the most disadvantaged people such as the illiterate, the disabled, women, youth and the poor.

Finally, she encouraged all radio stations in Pakistan to rally around this medium and make the most of it as a force for social inclusion, intergenerational dialogue and social change.
Radio journalists learn about SDGs on World Radio Day

Each year, the United Nations celebrate the world radio day on 13 Feb. This year, the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in collaboration with the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation organized a training session for producers of Radio Pakistan. The training aimed to familiarize radio journalists with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations along with the work of UN agencies and their programmes in Pakistan. Vittorio Cammarota, Director UNIC told participants that the UN attached great importance to radio as a tool of reaching out to the public. The workshop kicked off with the screening of short videos on SDGs and UNs’ work around the world. Later, representatives of various UN agencies and offices, including Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization and United Nation Resident Coordinator’s Office gave individual briefing sessions to the participants and answered their questions. The training ended with a lecture by Naveed Ahmad Chohan, manager programs at Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation academy, which trains radio broadcasters.
United Nations communication group members gathered at the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) premises in Islamabad on February 2 for the annual retreat. This retreat offers an opportunity for the group comprising of communication personnel from all the UN agencies operating in Pakistan to come together and contribute their ideas, share lessons learnt during the past year and discuss ways to improve the way they communicate in with stakeholders.

The retreat session began with a round of introductions to familiarize the group with one another and to welcome new group members. Group activities were also arranged for the members to encourage team building. The attendees of the meeting were divided into groups and each group was assigned a communication objective to come up with recommendations on achieving their respective objective. Promoting SDGs, improving synergies within the UN system, strengthening relationship with media and raising the profile of the UN agencies were the objectives assigned.

Groups were formed to carry out the communication objectives. The groups then presented their recommendations to other communication group members for discussion, feedback and suggestions. Following the feedback session, communication strategy for the next year was devised under the guidance of Vittorio Cammarota, Director UNIC. Work on implementing this strategy has already begun by translating the UN logo in Urdu and by establishing a WhatsApp group with UN communication groups as its members to stay updated and create linkages.
Empowering women through trade

Arancha González, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) officially launched SheTrades initiative in Islamabad on 1 February in collaboration with the Federal government.

Part of the ITC’s Women and Trade programme, the SheTrades initiative aims to connect one million women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses around the world to markets by 2020, with the help of a mobile phone and web application (www.shetrades.com).

UN Pakistan magazine talked to the Executive Director about the initiative during her visit to the UN Information Centre office in Islamabad.

What motivated the International Trade Centre to launch SheTrades?

There is a prevalence of women in the micro category enterprises, which are very often informal, non-remunerated and have poor working conditions. They are smaller in size because either the [unfavorable] laws, or the way the laws are applied in practice, or the lack of access to finance or the lack of access to networks keeps them small. In order to respond to this, last year we launched an initiative called SheTrades. Large buying companies want to source goods and services from women-owned companies, but were unable to find these companies. Women can register their companies as well as the goods and services they provide on this app.

What other steps are being taken to bring women to the economic mainstream?

The ITC is focusing on ownership rights for women, obtaining gender segregated data about companies, inclusion of women among suppliers of government procurement sector, gender analysis of trade policies and connecting buyers and female suppliers, among other important steps.

How many women have been connected through this app?

The way we work is either businesses, institutions or governments make commitments. The commitments are signed and sent to us and we put them on a database where we track regularly what happens. For example, Barkley’s Bank in Kenya said we’re going to give access to credit to 10,000 women in Kenya. The Tony Elumelu Foundation in Nigeria said we’re going to give entrepreneurial skills to 10,000 women. When the institutions send their commitments, we track and trace. For the moment, we have tracked 800,000 such commitments. We think we can get one million commitments this year. But there’re one billion women. One million is a drop in the ocean. Once we have achieved this target, may be at the end of this year, we can revise our target for 2020.

Has the Pakistan government made any such commitments?

The Pakistan government felt we had to do it in two steps: one, come and explain; two Pakistan’s Ministry for Commerce will organize a pledging conference to collect these commitments and send them to us. There is a large number of women in Pakistan who can benefit from this initiative.
Inclusive and sustainable industrial development

Esam Alqarah, UNIDO Representative in Pakistan, Dr. Shahina Waheed, National Programme Coordinator of GCIP, Ali Yasir, National Programme Manager – promoting biomass gasification technologies in Pakistan, joined news and current affairs channel of Radio Pakistan and spoke about inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Pakistan.

UNIDO representative informed the audiences that the organization started working in Pakistan in 1968. UNIDO begun its work in the leather industry and is now also actively working in artillery, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The experts expressed that industrial development could not be achieved without energy and Pakistan was doing well in the sector, in particular on the sophisticated side of the technology. They opined that there was more space for improvement in innovation and the organization was working with government and relevant institutions to improve and commercialize innovative ideas. The speakers opined that Pakistan was blessed immensely in biomass and renewable energy as they gave details about a new UNIDO feature investor connect which invited investors from all sectors of clean technology to interconnect with each other. It was learnt that 12 new companies were established since the last year's launching of the feature.
Youth engagement

Harald Thorud has been working on youth engagement issues, specifically United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s youth employment project which has trained youth from troubled neighbourhoods in Karachi and helped find them work in the garment industry. Other efforts in youth engagement have been youth voices for the national human development report and the establishment of community centres. He spoke of Pakistan’s youth bulge, explaining that over 30 percent of the country’s population is aged 15–30 years. This bulge is a challenge in terms of creating sufficient jobs, but also an opportunity in that it can form the backbone of the future economy. Herald said UNDP believed that youth should be a key priority in the coming years.

Establishing the rule of law, strengthening state institutions

Amir Goraya heads the Democratic Governance Unit which is concentrating heavily on promoting the rule of law by supporting the justice and security sectors in Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project aims to improve and deepen ongoing efforts to secure peace and stabilization by enhancing justice and sectoral processes.

Major activities include institutional and capacity development for rule-of-law institutions and engaging with KP’s judiciary, Police, local government, prosecution, bar associations, jirgas (village councils) and civil society organizations. The project is supporting sustainable peace through improved access to justice for women and men in the Malakand division through effective and accountable justice and security service delivery.
Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, Director United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan stressed on the importance for a greater participation of audiences and communities in the policy and planning of radio broadcasting.

The talk show was organized at 101 FM to commemorate World Radio Day in Pakistan. Ms. Jensen also highlighted the important role of radio in times of disaster management, and a tool to empower the most disadvantaged people such as the illiterate, the disabled, women, youth and the poor.

They encouraged all radio stations in Pakistan to rally around this medium and make the most of it as a force for social inclusion, inter-generational dialogue and social change.

Women’s role in eliminating poverty through economic empowerment

Talking to Radio Pakistan in an exclusive interview, Arancha González, Executive Director of International Trade center emphasized on women’s active role in eliminating poverty through economic empowerment. She was visiting Pakistan to launch “She Trade”, which is a global movement to connect women to economy. She encouraged women to participate in all fields of life to achieve economic stability.
UNIDO’s investor connect and award ceremony events were recognized by Pakistan Television (PTV) in its Diplomatic Enclave programme. Esam Alqararah, UNIDO Representative in Pakistan, Alois Posefka Mhlanga, Project Manager from UNIDO headquarters, Dr. Shahina Waheed, National Programme Coordinator GCIP, Hammad Saeed, project expert GCIP, Paul deGive, Cleantech international trainer and Ayesha Feroz, GCIP women led-team award winner were the guests during the programme.

Esam Alqararah detailed about UNIDO’s activities in different areas of Pakistan. Alois Mhlanga gave an overview of the GCIP programme and its impact, specifically its success in Pakistan.

Similarly, Dr. Shahina Waheed informed about the awards ceremony in which one award each was given to the national winner and most promising woman-led team while three runners-up awards were given to innovations focused on the five categories of renewable energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste to energy and green buildings.

Hammad Saeed gave detailed information about the winners, their innovations and the possible positive impact of the winning innovative technologies on the lives of people as well as on economy. Ayesha Feroz explained her innovation, a low powered, carry-on infant incubator that could save lives of countless new-borns in rural areas of many under-developed countries.

Paul deGive described the role and importance of ‘Cleantech Open’ as a knowledge partner of the Cleantech programme.
Powering youth and paving a path to bring innovation and solutions to deal with energy challenges in Pakistan

Esam Alqararah, UNIDO Country Representative and Alois Poseku-fa Mhlanga, Industrial Officer from UNIDO-HQ joined a live show on power radio FM 99 with Fahad Abbasi to discuss the programmes of UNIDO in Pakistan. UNIDO believes in the importance of involving youth in global initiatives and collaborating with likeminded organizations to create a wider impact in the world. Esam Alqararah shared UNIDO’s vision of energy and environment with listeners of power radio FM 99. Highlighting UNIDO’s efforts to promote renewable energy and clean technologies in Pakistan, Esam said that by enhancing emerging Cleantech start-ups and bolstering the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and policy framework takes stock of industry’s contribution to economic growth and social prosperity whilst recognizing its impact on global greenhouse gas emissions.

Alois Mhlanga shared his experience with Pakistani young entrepreneurs and said that Pakistan has a huge potential and talent which needed to be flourished. He detailed how UNIDO can help in advancing sustainable and resilient infrastructure by promoting young innovative entrepreneurs. Alois mentioned that the GCIP delivers both environmental benefits and economic vitality. He discussed with different callers in live show that how industrialization has lifted millions out of poverty, created jobs, advanced technology and increased social prosperity in countries around the world. Alois also mentioned UNIDO’s inclusive and sustainable approach which proclaims that sustainable development can be extensively achieved when grassroots innovation and eco-friendly technologies are promoted because inclusive green growth creates sustainable jobs.

It is hoped that greener technology that conserves the environment and creates jobs will be extensive-ly realized in the least developed countries. A large number of calls and messages were entailed, callers from SMEs and innovators called in show to discuss innovative ideas and biomass gasification technologies and call for awards to promote innovations were also entertained.
Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) paid her first official visit to Pakistan

Arancha Gonzalez, the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), a development agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation, paid her first official visit to Pakistan from 30 January to 2 February 2017. She visited three cities in Pakistan: Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. During her visit to Karachi on 30 January, she met Syed Murad Ali Shah, chief minister Sindh, to discuss the work of ITC. The two dignitaries also discussed regional priorities, including key areas like investment in agri-processing, e-commerce and services.

The Executive Director had a chance to meet over 60 Karachi business people from the federation of Pakistan chamber of commerce and industry and women chamber of commerce at a dinner hosted by the chief minister and the acting governor Sindh, to discuss trade and investment issues with a particular focus on small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) and women entrepreneurs.

The following day, Arancha delivered an interactive talk to students at the Institute of Business Administration. It merit mentioning that discussions are ongoing about integrating ITC’s SMEs trade academy into the curriculum.

The delegations also met the chairperson and officers of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and signed an agreement allowing the ITC to work to help the trade authority to benchmark and improve their services to SMEs in Pakistan. The Executive Director also had a television interview for Economy in Focus and a print interview for Dawn newspaper. In Islamabad, the Executive Director met Khurram Dastagir Khan, Minister of Commerce and Secretary Commerce. The discussion focused on e-commerce, support to Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and the importance of supporting open markets and the multilateral trade agenda. Arancha Gonzalez and Khurram Dastagir Khan also met a high-level panel including Anusha Rehman, Minister of Information, Communication and Technology. Pakistan SheTrades initiative, which highlighted the importance of supporting and investing in women entrepreneurs and connecting women owned business to global markets was launched after the panel meeting. During her meeting Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Arancha Gonzalez had high level discussion on trade related priorities for the country and the role that ITC could play in assisting the government to implement these priorities. The visiting delegation then met with Jean-François Cautain, European Union (EU) Ambassador in Islamabad to discuss collaboration between the EU and the ITC in delivering trade-related capacity building in the country. The Executive Director met Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab during her visit to provincial capital Lahore. A roundtable discussion of around 40 persons including ministers of commerce, finance, industry and women’s affairs. The discussion focused on exploring ways of promoting business models and SMEs in Punjab in agriculture, livestock, textile and leather sectors.

The Executive Director visited the National School of Public Policy and addressed the under training civil servants of Pakistan. Her talk was focused on building their capacity for undertaking tasks of policy formulation and implementation at tactical, operational and strategic levels. The Director also disseminated her presentation on women’s economic empowerment, including SheTrades, at the Kinnaird College for Women. She also visited the Lahore School of Fashion Design to explore possibilities for partnership. The governor of Punjab then hosted the Executive Director to a discussion and official dinner with leading business people of Lahore.
I thank all of you for coming together to take on the challenge of anti-Muslim discrimination and hatred. Anti-Muslim hate crimes and other forms of bigotry are on the rise. The same applies to xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism. In addition, many people are victims of intolerance and suspicions that may not appear in statistics – but degrade people’s dignity and our common humanity. In times of insecurity, communities that look different become convenient scapegoats. We must resist cynical efforts to divide communities and portray neighbours as “the other”. Discrimination diminishes us all. It prevents people – and societies – from achieving their full potential. Let us draw strength from the values of inclusion, tolerance and mutal understanding that are at the heart of all major faiths and the United Nations Charter. As the Holy Quran states: nations and tribes were created to know one another.

Video remarks to high-level event on combating anti-Muslim discrimination and hatred
17 January
People everywhere need to feel that their cultural identities are valued – and at the same time to have a strong sense of belonging to the community as a whole. As societies become ever more multi-ethnic and multi-religious, we need political, cultural and economic investments in cohesion, so that diversity is rightly seen as a richness, not a threat. The United Nations is launching an effort to promote respect, safety and dignity for all. We call it the Together campaign. Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights. Together, let us build bridges.

Statement on Refugees

On my way back from Ethiopia, the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa that for decades has been keeping its borders open to hundreds of thousands of refugees from its neighbours, many times in dramatic security situations, I want to state the following: Countries have the right, even the obligation, to responsibly manage their borders to avoid infiltration by members of terrorist organizations. This cannot be based on any form of discrimination related to religion, ethnicity or nationality because:

- that is against the fundamental principles and values on which our societies are based;
- that triggers widespread anxiety and anger that may facilitate the propaganda of the very terrorist organisations we all want to fight against;
- blind measures, not based on solid intelligence, tend to be ineffective as they risk being bypassed by what are today so sophisticated global terrorist movements.

I am also particularly concerned by the decisions that around the world have been undermining the integrity of the international refugee protection regime. Refugees fleeing conflict and persecution are finding more and more borders closed and increasingly restricted access to the protection they need and are entitled to receive, according to international refugee law.

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust- January 27

The theme for the Holocaust remembrance and education activities in 2017, including the Holocaust Memorial Ceremony, is “Holocaust Remembrance: Educating for a Better Future”. It emphasizes the universal dimension of Holocaust education as a platform for building respect for human rights, increasing tolerance and defending our common humanity.

The Holocaust was a defining point in history and its lessons have much to teach about the danger of extremism and the prevention of genocide today.
World Cancer Day – February 4

“We must do more to end the many tragedies that cancer inflicts. About one third of cancers can be prevented, while others are curable if diagnosed and treated early. And even when cancer is advanced, patients should benefit from palliative care,” Ban Ki-Moon. Each year on 4 February, WHO and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) supports Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to promote ways to ease the global burden of cancer. Taking place under the tagline ‘We can. I can.’, World Cancer Day 2016-2018 will explore how everyone – as a collective or as individuals – can do their part to reduce the global burden of cancer.

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation – February 6

“Sustainable development demands full human rights for all women and girls. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises an end to this practice by 2030.” — UN Secretary-General 2017 Theme: “Building a solid and interactive bridge between Africa and the world to accelerate ending FGM by 2030.” Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science – February 11

“On this International Day, I urge commitment to end bias, greater investments in science, technology, engineering and math education for all women and girls as well as opportunities for their careers and longer-term professional advancement so that all can benefit from their ground-breaking future contributions.” — UN Secretary-General, António Guterres

Over the past 15 years, the global community has made a lot of effort in inspiring and engaging women and girls in science. Unfortunately, women and girls continued to be excluded from participating fully in science. According to a study conducted in 14 countries, the probability for female students of graduating with a Bachelor’s degree, Master’s degree and Doctor’s degree in science-related field are 18%, 8% and 2% respectively, while the percentages of male students are 37%, 18% and 6%.
World Day of Social Justice – February 20

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

On the occasion of this Day, I launch an appeal for the potential of multilingual education to be acknowledged everywhere, in education and administrative systems, in cultural expressions and the media, cyberspace and trade.” — UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova

2017 Theme: Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education.

World Radio Day – February 13

Radio is still the most dynamic, reactive and engaging medium there is, adapting to 21st century changes and offering new ways to interact and participate. Where social media and audience fragmentation can put us in media bubbles of like-minded people, radio is uniquely positioned to bring communities together and foster positive dialogue for change. By listening to its audiences and responding to their needs, radio provides the diversity of views and voices needed to address the challenges we all face.

Radio informs us and transforms us, through entertainment, information and audience participation. Having a radio means you are never alone – you always have a friend in radio.

On 14 January 2013, the United Nations General Assembly formally endorsed UNESCO’s proclamation of World Radio Day. During its 67th Session, the UN General Assembly endorsed the resolution adopted during the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference, proclaiming 13 February, the day United Nations Radio was established in 1946, as World Radio Day.

This year the theme is ‘Radio is You’.

International Mother Language Day – February 21

“On the occasion of this Day, I launch an appeal for the potential of multilingual education to be acknowledged everywhere, in education and administrative systems, in cultural expressions and the media, cyberspace and trade.” — UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova

2017 Theme: Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education.

To foster sustainable development, learners must have access to education in their mother tongue and in other languages. It is through the mastery of the first language or mother tongue that the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy are acquired. Local languages, especially minority and indigenous, transmit cultures, values and traditional knowledge, thus playing an important role in promoting sustainable futures.
The United Nations has a long-standing partnership with the people of Pakistan in support of national development goals. The United Nations has also been providing humanitarian assistance in case of natural disasters and crises. Led by the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations works in all eight administrative areas of Pakistan through 19 resident organizations. Straddling humanitarian assistance and sustainable development, the work of the United Nations in Pakistan includes key areas such as education, health, water and sanitation, nutrition, economic growth, employment and livelihoods, resilience against disaster, governance, gender equality and social justice.

The One UN Programme for Pakistan, United Nations focuses on accelerating progress towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals, reducing poverty, promoting opportunities for youth as well as advancing gender equality and human rights both at national and sub-national levels.

United Nations encourages economic growth in Pakistan through supporting policies and programmes that link small farmers to markets, improving working conditions for women and supporting home-based and domestic workers. It will also assist the Government in strengthening democratic processes and institutions at the federal, provincial and local levels. Tackling the effects of climate change and reducing Pakistan’s vulnerabilities to natural disasters features especially prominently in the work of the United Nations in Pakistan.