

Media Update

10 July 2018

UNDP

Press Release

SDC and UNDP Collaborate to Foster Evidence-Based Development Policy in Pakistan

Islamabad, 10 July 2018 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) today signed an agreement that will help ensure that Pakistan’s efforts to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals are guided by evidence, research and open policy dialogue.

The two-year cost-sharing agreement, amounting to US\$500,000, will support the publication of National Human Development Report and UNDP’s quarterly publication, Development Advocate Pakistan, which showcases high-quality research-based analysis.

UNDP Country Director Ignacio Artaza said, “Sustainable development depends upon high-quality evidence-based research. The agreement with SDC will create a platform for policy dialogue to support Pakistan’s achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Dr. Stefanie Burri, Head International Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan, said, “As we celebrate half a century of development cooperation with Pakistan, the SDC welcomes this opportunity to showcase the hard-won lessons we have learned over the years, and to ensure Pakistan’s impressive bank of knowledge and expertise is deployed in support of its development goals.”

Building on the success of the ground-breaking National Human Development Report focusing on youth concerns and prospects in Pakistan published in May this year, the next issue of the report will focus on the persisting inequality that hampers social mobility and sustainable



development. The report will examine in detail inequality of opportunity in Pakistan, whilst also reflecting on income and consumption inequality.

Development Advocate Pakistan, launched in 2014 and published quarterly ever since, has consistently provided informed analysis and commentary on key national issues such as civil service reform, water security, and FATA mainstreaming. In 2018, the periodical will focus on technology and development, the agenda for the new government, drivers of inclusive growth, and urbanization.

Dr Adil Najam, the lead author of the National Human Development Report on Youth, and Shakeel Ahmad, Assistant Country Director Development Policy Unit UNDP, also spoke on the occasion.

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

Download link to the photographs: <https://we.tl/5mc0p3rPC1>

UNDP

Press Release

UNDP collaborates with HUM TV Network to promote empirically informed dialogues on the development challenges confronting Pakistan

July 10, 2018: Today, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HUM TV Network Private Limited to promote empirically informed dialogues on the development challenges confronting Pakistan. Under the MoU, UNDP and HUM TV Network will collaborate to produce public interest programming that promotes informed dialogue on the development challenges confronting young people in Pakistan; propagates values of peace, tolerance, and inclusiveness among young people and improves their capacity for informed critical thinking and; analyse the Government of Pakistan's funding priorities in different sectors through an empirical analyses of the provincial public sector development funds (2013-2018).

The partnership will help UNDP and HUM Network to achieve their shared goals of empowering youth to work towards a just, peaceful, and inclusive society as envisioned in Goal 16 of the SDGs and Government of Pakistan's Vision 2025 and strengthen the democratic process in Pakistan through informed debate and evidence based analysis. Furthermore, the partnership is in line Goal 17 of the SDGs which calls for strengthening partnerships (including public-private partnerships) for achieving SDGs.

Speaking on the occasion, Ignacio Artaza, Country Director UNDP Pakistan stated, "UNDP will support HUM TV in producing public interest programming to strengthen democracy, young people's social and economic empowerment, and social cohesion in Pakistan. I am confident that this partnership will leverage the strengths of our organizations to achieve common objectives of youth empowerment, social cohesion, and democratic strengthening in Pakistan."

The partnership will allow HUM TV to benefit from UNDP's on ground experience of implementing development interventions throughout Pakistan; and its empirical knowledge base of information on the existing and emerging development challenges confronting the country. This will help in producing top quality public interest television programming that can provide an accurate snapshot of the political, economic, and social landscape of Pakistan. Similarly, HUM TV will provide UNDP will a reliable platform to reach key influencers in the government and civil society and galvanize them to take effective policy actions.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ather Viqar Azeem, Senior Executive Vice President HUM Network Limited stated, "Non-sensationalist and informed information dissemination is the need of the hour. It is even more important in the context of Pakistan's youth bulge with millions of young people looking for



accurate information on political, social, and economic issues. We are glad to be working with UNDP Pakistan towards these ends.”

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About HUM TV Network

Hum Network is Pakistan’s premier broadcast entertainment provider with an extensive international footprint. Hum Network is presently running three television channels focussing on lifestyle and entertainment. In April 2018, HUM Network launched a news channel to promote informed debate and dialogue on political and social issues of Pakistan.

Download link to the photographs: <https://we.tl/HvN7D4G5NC>

FAO

Press Release

Japan and FAO making efforts to support livestock farmers

Islamabad: July 10, 2018: With assistance from the Government of Japan, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is implementing a project worth around 2.7 million USD for the enhancement of Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) control in Pakistan

The inception workshop for the project was held in Islamabad. Mr. Teppei Nakagawa, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Islamabad, Ms. Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan, Mr Fazal Abbas Mekan, Federal Secretary for National Food Security and Research and officials from the Livestock and Dairy Development departments of all provinces including



Islamabad Capital Territory attended the event.

Highlighting the importance of this project for the improvement of food security in Pakistan, Ms Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan said “By adopting a participatory and process oriented approach and building on existing knowledge, methods and capacities, this project will raise the status of Pakistan FMD control efforts from Stage 2 to Stage 3 on the FMD-Progressive Control Pathway. Our work also emphasizes the importance of animal health as part of the One Health agenda, which is crucial for addressing food insecurity, improving nutrition and livelihoods of millions of rural families including landless women who are mostly dependent on livestock.”

FMD is a highly contagious disease of cloven footed animals that threatens food security and the livelihoods of smallholders and prevents livestock sector from achieving its economic potential. Milk production may drop 50 to 70 % and mortality of young calves reaches 10 to 22 %. If these losses are interpolated into livestock population, it results into hundreds of million dollars per annum.

Thanking the government of Japan for the support, Mr Fazal Abbas Mekan, Federal Secretary for National Food Security and Research said he was confident that FAO technical expertise and experience gained in FMD control in the country will contribute significantly towards achieving objectives and goals of the project.

Mr. Teppei Nakagawa, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Islamabad said: “This project will significantly improve the surveillance and rapid response mechanism for disease control and prevent disease outbreaks which will support the agriculture sector in Pakistan.”

FAO has been a long term partner of government of Pakistan in agriculture and improving food security and this project will significantly improve the FMD outbreaks surveillance and rapid response mechanism for disease control and reduce the incidence of FMD outbreaks in the country. This will help curtail the losses caused by the disease and improve productivity of livestock contributing to food security and improve resilience of livelihood of livestock farmers to animal disease threats.

For further information, please contact:

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UNFPA

Media Advisory (REMINDER)



'Family Planning is a Human Right' World Population Day 2018

When: Wednesday, 11 July 2018, 10.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. (including lunch)

Where: The Marquee Hall, Marriott Hotel, Islamabad

What: National Commemoration of World Population Day
Organized by Ministry of National Health Services & Regulations and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Distinguished Speakers:

- Mr. Muhammad Yusuf Shaikh, Federal Minister, NHR&C
- Capt. (Retd.) Zahid Saeed, Federal Secretary, Ministry of NHR&C
- Dr. Hassan Mohtashami, UNFPA Representative, Pakistan
- H. E. Margaret Adamson, High Commissioner of Australia
- Ms. Kemi Williams, Deputy Head of DFID in Pakistan
- Ch. Faisal Mushtaq, Minister for Population Welfare, Government of Punjab
- Dr. Saadia Virik Rizvi, Minister for Population Welfare, Government of Sindh
- Mr. Akbar Jan Marwat, Minister for Population Welfare, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Ms. Farzana Baloch, Minister for Population Welfare, Government of Balochistan

Key Note Address:



- 'Pakistan's Population Emergency: Call to Action' by Dr. Sania Nisthar, Former Federal Minister and Founder & President, Heartfile

Background: The theme for this year's World Population Day is 'Family Planning is a Human Right'. This rights-based approach towards family planning ensures that a couple is entitled to decide on their family size, thereby ensuring that every pregnancy is wanted.

This year marks 50 years since family planning was declared a basic human right at the United Nations International Conference on Human Rights in Tehran, Iran.

Despite tremendous progress since 1968, hundreds and millions of women, men and young people are unable to exercise the right to plan their families. In Pakistan, with 208 million people, unmet need for family planning is 20%, which means that 1 in 5 women want access to such services, but do not receive it. It is also estimated that 2.2 million abortions take place every year in Pakistan, which is around 10% of global unsafe abortions.

At the event, it will be highlighted that the institutional system should be strengthened to ensure family planning information and services are available and accessible to every woman in Pakistan. It will also be noted that every couple must be empowered to plan their own family, by dispelling the stigma around family planning.

We look forward to your participation and coverage.

For further information:

- Ministry of National Health Services & Regulations: (051) 9245810
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