

# Media Update

19 July 2018

## UN Habitat

Press Release

### State of Pakistani Cities report and road map to achieve SDG 11-launched

Islamabad, 19 July 2018: The State of Pakistani Cities (SPC) report launched today in Islamabad. The report presents the current state of development in the ten largest cities of Pakistan and throws light on the state of economy, social service delivery, planning and development, housing, environment and heritage in the cities of Pakistan.

According to census 2017, 75 million people live in urban areas of Pakistan. 54 percent of the total urban population of Pakistan lives in the ten cities of Pakistan. The report finds that larger cities have seen enormous urban sprawl due to increase in population and change in land use in down town as well as in the periphery of the cities and are becoming extended part of the cities. Pakistani cities vary in terms of their size, economy, employment and tax revenues. Services and industry are the major employment sectors in Pakistani cities. The share of the service economy in the cities is larger than the share of services in the national economy. Pakistan generates 95 percent of its total federal tax revenue from its ten major cities and Karachi contributes 55 percent, Islamabad 16 percent, and Lahore 15 percent. The average urban per capita income in Pakistan among the ten cities varies from PKR 37,000-70,000. Poverty in urban areas is a major and visible phenomenon. Six out of the top ten major cities have double-digit poverty figures: Quetta, with 46 percent has the highest poverty rate while Islamabad, with 3 percent has the lowest poverty rate.

Access to clean water continues to be a major problem in Pakistani cities. Only 65.2 percent of households in Pakistan's 10 major cities have access to piped water connections. The cities lack sewage treatment facilities and solid waste management which leads to severe environmental pollution and contamination of surface and ground water bodies. Shortage of power supply



remains a persistent problem in harnessing the potential of the socio-economic development of the cities. Further, general understanding and appreciation of the environment and heritage is low among the relevant authorities and other stakeholders.

Increasing urbanization has created pressing demands for housing in cities. The absence of any formal provision for the lower-income urban population and the people migrating from rural areas to urban areas has resulted in the creation of large informal settlements, lacking access to adequate level of services. The report also features data gap in the urban sector in Pakistan as one of the key limitation for sustainable development.

The report emphasises that Pakistani cities need to better plan and manage their development to meet the needs and demands of their citizens and indeed of the country. To prosper, cities need to be more responsive towards the environment and adopt technologies and economies that are less wasteful and destructive. Thus, taking a more realistic approach to development that meets the demands of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

UN-Habitat Pakistan also launched its Habitat Country Programme (HCP), Pakistan 2018-2022. HCP prepared and aligned with the Pakistan Vision 2025, United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) One UN Programme (OP-III) and New Urban Agenda. It lays down the roadmap for achieving SDG 11 and other crosscutting SDGs. The key objectives of the programme include promoting socio-economic growth, improving access to affordable housing, energy, water and sanitation and other basic services, development of policies and regulatory instruments for sustainable urbanization and reduction of the impact of disasters and climate change.

The Federal Minister for Climate Change, Mr. Muhammad Yusuf Shaikh in his remarks reiterated commitment of the Government of Pakistan to formulate the National and Provincial Urban Policies through participatory approach to arrive at viable solutions for climate resilient urban development in the country and support measures to implement SDG 11 for inclusive, safe, and resilient cities. The State of Pakistani Cities report, 2018 provides the basis for continued collaborative action to develop common and consistent actions, policies and strategies which will ensure that the outcomes are pragmatic and reflect the ground realities across the country.

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms in her address highlighted that Pakistan is fortunate to have 31 percent of its



population consisting youth in age bracket of 15-29 years. This “youth bulge” provides a unique opportunity for utilizing their potential in contributing to urban economic development. Value generated by the urban economy needs to be equally shared through innovative, integrated financial mechanisms to ensure sustainable flow of finance necessary for cities to meet the needs and provide opportunities for all. Sustainable and inclusive urban economies can be created by promoting urban strategies and policies that strengthen the capacity of cities to realize full potential as drivers of socio-economic development.

The State of Pakistani Cities (SPC) report is spearheaded by the Ministry of Climate change with the technical assistance of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN Habitat) funded by the Australian Government. The report highlights the underlying socio-economic drivers contributing to the local development needs of Pakistan.

The report launching ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Climate Change, Mr. Muhammad Yusuf Shaikh and Federal Minister for Planning Development and Reforms, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Neil Buhne, Australian High Commissioner, Ms. Margaret Adamson and other high level officials.

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## UN Women

### Press Release

## UN Women’s study puts rural women in the spotlight by highlighting their day-to-day challenges

Islamabad – 19th July 2018: Being the social and economic foundations of rural communities, rural women play a key role in supporting their households in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being.

In a launch event in Islamabad, on 19th July, UN Women Pakistan, in collaboration with National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), supported by Canadian High Commission, shared the report ‘Status of Rural



Women in Pakistan' with the audience, comprising of ambassadors, government officials, representatives of rural development organizations, youth and civil society organizations.

The contributions of rural women to agriculture, rural enterprises, fuel and food production, local and global economies are remarkable, yet they struggle to find their voices. A much-needed research on the status of rural women highlighted the challenges and recommendations in areas of education, labour force participation, agricultural subsistence and climate changes, violence against women and girls, paid and unpaid employment.

According to the report, women in the agriculture sector are primarily concentrated in dairy and livestock related work. The returns to labour are low: only 40% are in paid employment and 60% work as unpaid workers on family farms and enterprises. Their unpaid work is valued (using comparative median wages) at PKR 683 billion, is 57% of all work done by women, and is 2.6% of GDP of the country.

Jamshed M. Kazi, Country Representative of UN Women Pakistan, in his opening remarks, said, "This event is not just a report launch with lots of facts and figures about rural 's women's health, education, social protection, and economic participation. This morning is also about celebration and recognition of the phenomenal contribution that rural women make not just economically, but also politically, socially and culturally in their communities."

The chief guest, Ms. Roshan Bharucha, Federal Minister of Human Rights, said, "I, as Minister of Human Rights, feel that promotion and protection of women is very important. Rural Women play important role in agriculture working in the field and livestock. They play significant role in the economy of our country. They should be encouraged by give them training and micro credit which would lead them towards self employment which is the need of the day."

Canadian High Commissioner, Perry Calderwood, showed his interest in promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls through concerted efforts by all partners. "Canada is committed to promoting gender equality. Advancing women empowerment is at the heart of our development assistance. It is an objective, but also key to achieving our overall goal of reducing poverty and advancing sustainable development. This is the central message of our Feminist International Assistance Policy."

“Women are the backbone of Pakistan's rural economy; however, they remain invisible -- uncounted and inadequately compensated and their reproductive and care work taken for granted. The Rural Women Status Report highlights the multidimensional nature of rural women's work, their vulnerability and identifies the drivers of change that could transform their lives along with that of society and country”, Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson of National Commission on the Status of Women, said while adding to considerations shared by the fellow speakers.

Yasmin Ziadi, Director, Center of Gender and Policy Studies (CGaPS), presented the research findings to the audience, pressing the need to introduce and implement gender responsive policies.

A panel discussion on presenting the strategies to improve the status of rural women was also conducted. The eminent panelists - Ms. Khawar Mumtaz, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women; Ms. Shaheen Khan, Advisor Learning & Innovation, Higher Education Commission; Dr. Asma Haider, Member Social Sector, Ministry of Planning Development and Reform; Ms. Mina Dowlatchahi, Representative, FAO; Dr Muhammed Azeem Khan, Center for Rural Economy; Ms. Fajer Rabia, Executive Director, Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education - discussed the key findings, touched upon the challenges and shared their recommendations to achieve improved statistics in coming future with regards to the status of women.

In his closing remarks, Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator, said, “Upholding gender equality and dignity – cross-cutting elements of Agenda 2030 and the explicit aims of SDGs 5 and 10 – requires concerted, well-coordinated action by all duty bearers, institutions and communities. Building on the progress Pakistan has made to date, we will leverage the UN’s experience, resources and expertise to bolster government efforts to promote gender equality and dignity.”

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