

Media Update

27 Nov 2018

UN Women

PRESS RELEASE

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa joins UN Women in saying no to gender-based violence

Peshawar – 27 November 2018: To commemorate the 16 days of activism for ending violence against women and girls, a launch event was held at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly, Peshawar with the support of UN Women. Speaker, Mr. Mushtaq Ghani, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event was attended by members of Provincial Parliament, women caucus members, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW), United Nations, civil society and academia representatives along with students from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University.

Mr. Mushtaq Ghani, Speaker of Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in his remarks, reaffirmed the support of the government in ensuring the protection of women's rights and eradicating gender-based violence.

“The Government of Pakistan continues to demonstrate its commitment to promoting women's empowerment and gender equality across the country as a signatory to several rights-based international covenants and through the progressive formulation of national and provincial laws, policies and initiatives. From conflict zones to urban spaces to university campuses, this violence compels all of us to be preventers of this pandemic and to take action NOW.”

Mr. Jamshed M.Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women, also addressed the audience, acknowledging the efforts of the KP government in combating gender-based violence by introducing pro-women laws.

“Ending violence against women is one of the top priorities for UN Women and we work with Governments to develop dedicated national action plans to



prevent and address violence against women, strengthening coordination among diverse actors required for sustained and meaningful action.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has made much progress in ensuring the rights of women and girls through legislation that include Child Protection and Welfare Act 2010, Elimination of Custom of Ghag Act 2013, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dowry, Bridal gift and Marriage Function Restriction Bill 2017, Harassment of Women at Workplace Act and the recently endorsed Domestic Violence Bill are some of the examples.”

Ms. Neelum Toru (Chairperson, KPCSW) and Maleeha Asghar (Chairperson, Women Parliamentary Caucus) talked about legislation at the provincial level and challenges in implementation. They also shared best gender relevant policies launched by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with an aim to reduce gender-based violence.

Toward the end of the event, a Pashtun female poet also presented a poem on the challenges of a woman in multiple phases of her life.

For more information, contact:

Anam Abbas
Communications Officer UN Women
E-mail: anam.abbas@unwomen.org

FAO

PRESS RELEASE

Lahore, 27 November 2018: Punjab Government in collaboration with FAO United Nations and World Bank jointly organized a Stakeholders Conference under the World Bank’s financed “Strengthening Markets for Agriculture and Rural Transformation (SMART) program at P&D Complex, Lahore.

In the conference, Punjab Food Department, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and World Bank brought together stakeholders from the wheat sector to discuss how the sector could best move forward to serve the interests of all stakeholders.

Addressing the conference, Punjab Chairman P&D Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani, in his opening remarks, stated the importance of Wheat Sector to the Punjab's economy is well known. He also stressed that Agriculture can be an engine for future growth by shifting towards high value added commodities, boosting export revenue and creating jobs, raising productivity and future-proofing the sector in terms of water availability and climate change. He also said that Modernising the wheat sector is a key part of the SMART Punjab Programme launched earlier this year. SMART is a coherent package of policy change, institutional strengthening and reorientation of public investments in agriculture over the next five years that is designed to increase farm productivity, incomes and value addition, improve climate resilience and foster agribusiness development. SMART Punjab is supported by a US\$300 million Program-for-Results loan from the World Bank, he added.

Addressing the conference, Provincial Secretary Food Shoukat Ali said that Punjab Food Department is committed to assist food security in the province and maintain a fit for purpose wheat reserve. He highlighted that ensuring that both these goals are met, we have to also make sure our policies are sustainable.

Secretary Food underlined that the Punjab Food Department must look at options to modernise the wheat sector including a revision of existing policies that were designed more than half a century ago. He stated that "The discussions with stakeholders are an important input towards getting this right, coupled with support from FAO and the World Bank, we are preparing a note in the next month on how we can gradually reduce wheat reserves to sustainable levels whilst fulfilling our core objectives".

Dmitry Prikhodko from FAO's Investment Centre, and a leading expert on wheat markets and policy, highlighted that international experience has shown that moving to a more market-oriented wheat marketing system benefits all through raising productivity, incomes and quality, thus reinforcing the sectors' growth and ability to ensure food security needs are met. He stressed that modernising the sector would take time, commitment and the sector's stakeholders working together, and welcomed the Punjab Food Department's careful reflection and consensus building approach as a key step in successfully moving forward.

He advised that there is a need to reinforce the PFD's ability to monitor evolving markets, ensuring that there is sufficient liquidity for farmers, and to

review the existing policy set to ensure that it can both cope with any future situation and provide a basis for a modern wheat sector to thrive and develop, as the maize sector in Punjab already has.

Mr Hans Jansen from the World Bank set out how the SMART programme is a comprehensive package designed to encourage positive change across the entire agriculture sector in Punjab and welcomed the Government of Punjab's willingness to address long standing but now largely outdated policies, such as the wheat procurement policy, that have hindered a much needed structural change in Punjab's agriculture sector.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, 1st October 2018 - UNICEF strongly condemns the attack on a primary school at Arandu village in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province yesterday.

The small building, located in the Chitral district near the border with Afghanistan, is said to have been partially destroyed by an improvised explosive device. No injuries were reported as the school was not open on Sunday.

This latest attack comes less than two months after a dozen schools — most of them for girls — were ransacked and torched in Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamer district.

“Every girl and boy has the right to education, everywhere. The destruction of schools has a devastating impact on the right to education and leaves long-term implications for the growth and healthy development of Pakistani children,” said UNICEF's Pakistan Representative Aida Girma.

“Schools must never be targeted, they must remain a place of safety and learning at all times,” she added.

ILO

PRESS RELEASE

Global Wage Report 2018/19: What lies behind gender pay gaps



This report examines the evolution of real wages around the world, giving a unique picture of wage trends globally and by region.

The 2018/19 edition analyses the gender pay gap. The report focuses on two main challenges: how to find the most useful means for measurement, and how to break down the gender pay gap in ways that best inform policy-makers and social partners of the factors that underlie it. The report also includes a review of key policy issues regarding wages and the reduction of gender pay gaps in different national circumstances.

“The Global Wage Report is an indispensable for economists, trade unionists, employers and the interested public.” – Hansjörg Herr, Berlin School of Economics and Law.

For more information and downloading the report:

https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_650553/lang--en/index.htm?fbclid=IwAR0Zr4wRrOruNC8JinuFNEXGisp_aWgTSPvPDR93bpqZCA46tEWmcf271ul
