

Media Update

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FAO

PRESS RELEASE

FAO and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation join hands for improving food security in Pakistan

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) signed an agreement to develop the first national State of Food Security and Nutrition in Pakistan (SOFI) report. This will be the first national level SOFI report prepared along the lines of FAO's annual flagship report on global and regional level.

The report will provide timely and accurate data that will enable the government to make informed and evidence based decisions by monitoring food supply, demand and other key indicators for assessing the overall food security situation.

Thanking the SDC for its support, FAO Representative in Pakistan Ms Mina` Dowlatchahi said the strategic partnership between FAO and SDC will strengthen national capacities for managing and utilizing food security related information. She added that the national SOFI report is in line with government of Pakistan's development agenda and will support decision and policy makers in designing their efforts to reduce poverty and improve food security and nutrition in Pakistan.

Mr Daniel Valenghi, Head of Cooperation SDC stressed on the importance of implementation of effective policies to improve food security in Pakistan.

Agriculture contributes 19.8% of Pakistan's GDP and employs 42% of the workforce. However, the countries growing population and adverse climatic conditions place increasing pressure on national food production. 20.5% of the population is undernourished. This is driven by high poverty rates, and rising food prices. Poor physical infrastructure, particularly in the remote rural



areas throughout Pakistan is also a limitation on access to food and influences market prices. This is also linked to inadequate water and sanitation, education and health service delivery, which together with the lack of awareness of appropriate dietary intake contributes to greater food insecurity and malnutrition.

FAO, in collaboration with WFP, UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics will support the preparation of this analysis and publication, building on the work already undertaken with Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on the localization of SDG 2 indicators Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) and Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Food Insecurity in population based on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). This report will provide elements to better inform investments and public finance allocations. It will support the advancement of quality data collection, analysis and dissemination as essential to evidence based decision-making and resources allocation.

UNDP

PRESS RELEASE

Water recycling in car wash stations: Prototype demonstration

Prototype demonstration of recycling water at car wash service stations was held in Islamabad in collaboration with Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The water recycling prototype was inaugurated at a car wash station in Islamabad by Sheikh Anser Aziz, Mayor of Islamabad and Mr. Ignacio Artaza, Resident Representative (a.i.) UNDP. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by representatives from petroleum companies, civil society organizations and development partners.

Water scarcity is a major challenge in Pakistan — estimates indicate that at the current rate the country may run dry by 2025. With a five-fold increase in Pakistan's population since 1960 and with the current 30-day water storage



capacity, some 207 million people will face 'absolute scarcity' of water, with less than 500 cubic meters available per person by 2025.

In Islamabad, over the past 5 years, water shortage has elevated to the level of crisis. Water shortage has risen to 106 million gallons per day. Water supply in the city, on the other hand, has decreased due to reduction in supply from water reservoirs and ground water depletion. Extensive and unregulated usage of ground water for household and commercial purposes is another problem, that is resulting in massive depletion of ground water resources. In addition to dwindling supply, water scarcity is also attributed to over consumption. It is evident that people waste water due to its low monetary value and limited regulations that prevent wasteful use of water.

In collaboration with the Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad (MCI), UNDP is supporting efforts to promote water conservation at household level and in other sectors of the economy. Water recycling in selected sectors, including the car service sectors is one of the avenues which have the potential to promote conservation and re-usage of large volumes of water. Based on the findings of a survey, each service station on average uses 19,000 liters of water per day. Using simple techniques that involve sedimentation in underground tanks and using chemical and biological treatments among other methods to recycle water will help conserve large amount of water.

The prototypes will also be established in five other service stations across Islamabad to demonstrate a model for service stations to adopt.

UN Women

PRESS RELEASE

International Women's Day

KP government committed to take forward gender equality agenda, Information Minister

PESHAWAR: Information Minister, Shaukat Yusufzai on Tuesday said that his government was committed to improve the status of women in province and advance gender equality agenda. He was addressing an event jointly organized by UN Women and Special Education, Social Welfare and Women



Empowerment Department (SESWWED) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in connection with International Women's Day. The event aimed to advocate action for strengthening the government institutions with effective policies and action plans, capacity and accountability mechanism to protect, enable and promote social, economic and political rights of women with special focus on excluded groups.

Information Minister appreciated the efforts of UN Women and Social Welfare Department for organizing the event. He said, "It is important to celebrate the day, but what is more important is to continue supporting women in order to help them reach their full potential. Government has taken certain steps in this regard i.e. the women empowerment policy is under implementation, pending legislations will be approved and new laws will be introduced to ensure women rights are safeguarded."

The Secretary SESWWED Muhammad Idrees Khan Marwat gave opening remarks. He said that the department is working towards women empowerment. "We are sensitizing all other government entities to make sure gender sensitive planning and budgeting is taking place at their level," he remarked.

Zainab Qaiser Khan, Head of Sub Office UN Women Peshawar, talked about the work of UN Women to advance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. She said that UN Women is committed to end violence against women and upgrading the shelter homes to provide shelter to women survivors of violence. "We are working very closely with the Social Welfare department for re-activation of CEDAW Committee in the province," she shared.

Rukhshanda Naz, human rights activist, has been appointed as the first provincial Ombudsperson under the Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010 for dealing with the harassment cases at workplaces in public and private sector institutions in the province. The Ombudsperson's office is being set up at Secretariat of Special Education, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Peshawar.

The event was well attended by women rights activists, members of civil society, government officials, politicians, media, academia and people from all walks of life.
