

# Media Update

23 August 2019

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## IOM

PRESS RELEASE

### **IOM builds skills development capacities of Afghan Citizen Card holders in Pakistan**

IOM is providing skills development trainings and business coaching to Afghan Citizen Card holders in a programme that aims to generate income and employment opportunities while residing in host communities as well as in case of return to Afghanistan.

With financial support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia and in collaboration with Chief Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees (CCAR) at the federal level and the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees (CAR) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, IOM's Business and Skills Development component of the Programme, which initiated in 2018 has since supported 36 Afghan Citizen Card holders. Trainings combine practical and theoretical sessions on various skill sets to enable them to understand the different techniques and be able to generate income upon completion of these trainings.

For the recent round of trainings that was concluded on 31 July 2019, most beneficiaries opted for trainings related to tailoring, embroidery, and mobile repairs engaging a total of 16 participants, mainly from district Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The selection criteria for this round was based on the community's need to provide support to the most vulnerable population that were physically challenged. In this context, 10 females participated in the tailoring course while 6 males participated in the mobile repair training.

Subsequently, IOM aims to train an additional 1,000 Afghan Citizen Card holders inclusive of 30% beneficiaries from the host population to enable them to start sustainable income generation ventures through various trainings including midwifery/health, mobile repair, auto electrician, beauticians and auto car/motor bike repair.



Ms. Asma Kashif, National Operations Officer – IOM Pakistan said, ‘I am very impressed by the determination and accomplishments of the trainees I have met today. The Australian Aid identifiers are proud to support these young women and men in developing skills that will help them build a more secure future for themselves and their families.’

Fazl E Rabbi, Director CAR KP said, ‘Over the course of two years, IOM with support from the Government of Australia has trained a number of Afghan Citizen Card holders. The programme has enabled these individuals to secure income generation opportunities and has also provided them the necessary tools to continue their work.’

Mr. Siddique Khan, Director Administration of CAR KP quoted, ‘It has been a pleasure to facilitate IOM in delivering the Skills Development training programme, particularly because Afghan Citizen Card holders are often not considered to receive any kind of assistance because of their status. These trainings have made significant impacts in their lives with many of them already able to financially support their families.’

Sharing his experience from the training, Muhammad Tariq, an ACC holder said, ‘I am grateful to IOM for selecting me for the Mobile Repair Training Programme. Before the training started, I would spend most of my time in search of different ways to earn a livelihood for my family, but because I was not skilled there were very limited opportunities. I feel proud that I have learnt how to repair mobile phones and while I was still enrolled in the training, I was approached by people from the neighborhood who would ask me to repair their phones and by doing so I earned some income. Now I plan to set up my own mobile repairing shop as not only have I been provided with the knowledge but also necessary tools and equipment to start my own business and support my family.’

For more information, please contact Ms. Asma Kashif at IOM Islamabad, Tel: +92 51 230 7841, Email [asma@iom.int](mailto:asma@iom.int)

# UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL PROCEDURES

SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS, INDEPENDENT EXPERTS AND WORKING GROUPS

NEWS RELEASE

## UN rights experts urge India to end communications shutdown in Kashmir

GENEVA (22 August 2019) – UN human rights experts\* today called on the Government of India to end the crackdown on freedom of expression, access to information and peaceful protests imposed in Indian-Administered Kashmir this month.

The experts expressed concern that the measures, imposed after the Indian Parliament revoked the Constitutionally-mandated status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, would exacerbate tensions in the region.

Reports have described a near total communications blackout in Jammu and Kashmir since the evening of 4 August, with internet access, mobile phone networks, and cable and Kashmiri television channels cut off.

“The shutdown of the internet and telecommunication networks, without justification from the Government, are inconsistent with the fundamental norms of necessity and proportionality,” said the experts. “The blackout is a form of collective punishment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, without even a pretext of a precipitating offence.”

The Government has also imposed a curfew across Jammu and Kashmir, bringing in massive numbers of troops to enforce restrictions on the freedom of movement and of peaceful assembly, particularly in the Kashmir Valley. “We remind the Indian authorities that the restrictions imposed by the Indian Government are intrinsically disproportionate, because they preclude considerations of the specific circumstances of each proposed assembly,” said the experts.



At the same time, information received suggests that there has been an increase in the arrest of political figures, journalists, human rights defenders, protesters and others.

The experts said they were deeply concerned by reports that security forces were conducting night raids on private homes leading to the arrests of young people. “Such detentions could constitute serious human rights violations,” the experts said. “The allegations must be thoroughly investigated by the authorities, and, if confirmed, those responsible must be held accountable.

“We are gravely concerned about allegations that the whereabouts of some of those detained is not known as well as the general heightened risk of enforced disappearances, which may proliferate against the backdrop of mass arrests and restricted access to the internet and other communications networks,” added the experts.

They also expressed serious concern about the use of excessive force against protesters, including the use of live ammunition, which could amount to violations of the right to life. “India has the responsibility to use the minimum force necessary when policing protests,” the experts said. “This means that the use of deadly force is a measure permissible only as last resort and to protect life.”

(\*The UN experts: **Mr. David Kaye** (USA), [Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression](#); **Mr. Michel Forst** (France), Special Rapporteur on the [situation of human rights defenders](#); **Mr. Bernard Duhaime**, Chair-Rapporteur, [Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances](#); **Mr. Clement Nyaletsossi Voule**, [Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and association](#); **Ms Agnes Callamard**, [Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions](#).

The Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups are part of what is known as the [Special Procedures](#) of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council’s independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms that address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. Special Procedures experts work on a voluntary basis; they are not UN staff and do not receive a salary for their work. They

are independent from any government or organization and serve in their individual capacity.

UN Human Rights, Country Page — India

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## WHO

PRESS RELEASE

### Rising to the challenge of malaria eradication

GENEVA--The World Health Organization (WHO) says accelerated research and development (R&D) in new tools for malaria prevention and treatment is key if the world is to eradicate malaria in the foreseeable future: today less than 1% of funding for health R&D investment goes to developing tools to tackle malaria.

WHO also flags the urgent need for progress to advance universal health coverage and improve access to services, and better surveillance to guide a more targeted malaria response.

The findings have emerged in a report from [WHO's Strategic Advisory Group on Malaria Eradication](#) (SAGme).

“To achieve a malaria-free world we must reinvigorate the drive to find the transformative strategies and tools that can be tailored to the local situation. Business as usual is not only slowing progress, but it is sending us backwards,” according to Dr Marcel Tanner, Chair of the SAGme.



The group has published the [executive summary](#) of its report ahead of a WHO-hosted forum on “Rising to the Challenge of Malaria Eradication” to be held in Geneva on 9 September 2019.

## Why malaria eradication matters

“Freeing the world of malaria would be one of the greatest achievements in public health,” says Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “With new tools and approaches we can make this vision a reality.”

Eradicating malaria would both save lives and boost economies.

The health benefits would be greatest among some of the world’s most vulnerable populations. Children under five account for 61% of all malaria deaths. More than 90% of the world’s 400,000 annual malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

The group’s analyses showed that scaling up current malaria interventions would prevent an additional 2 billion malaria cases and 4 million deaths by 2030 – provided those interventions reach 90% of the population in the 29 countries that account for 95% of the global burden.

The cost of this scale-up is estimated to be US\$ 34 billion. The economic gain would be around US\$ 283 billion in total gross domestic product (GDP) - a benefit to cost ratio in excess of 8:1.

## Overcoming challenges to eradication

Global malaria infection and death rates have remained virtually unchanged since 2015. WHO’s [World Malaria Report in 2018](#) revealed that the world is currently off track to achieve the 2030 goals set out in the [WHO Global Technical Strategy for malaria 2016-2030](#) – i.e. a 90% reduction in the malaria case incidence and mortality rate.

In many countries, access to health services remains a major challenge. Only one in five pregnant women living in areas of moderate to high malaria transmission in Africa is able to obtain the drugs she needs to protect herself from malaria. Half the people at risk of malaria in Africa sleep under an insecticide-treated net and just 3% are protected by indoor spraying with insecticides.

This highlights the need to advance universal health coverage and strengthen health services and delivery systems, so everyone can access malaria prevention, diagnostics and treatment, when and where they need them, without suffering financial hardship.

The group noted the need to rethink approaches. WHO and partners are already establishing some new strategic approaches to tackling malaria. Last November, for example, WHO and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria launched the [“High burden to high impact”](#) approach. This aims to jumpstart progress against malaria by targeting attention to the 11 countries with 70% of the world’s malaria burden – 10 African countries and India. This complements efforts to secure certification among the countries seeking to eliminate malaria by 2020, the WHO [“E-2020”](#) initiative. So far, WHO has certified 38 countries and territories malaria-free.

### **The need for new technologies**

Most of the tools being used to tackle malaria today were developed in the last century or even earlier: insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, rapid diagnostic tests and drugs based on artemisinin.

Promising new diagnostics, medications, insecticides and vector control approaches are being developed, alongside passive immunization therapies such as monoclonal antibodies. The world’s first malaria vaccine, RTS,S/AS01, has been deployed in Ghana and Malawi, with plans for rollout in Kenya.

SAGme highlights the urgent need to scale up R&D to strengthen this pipeline, pointing to the [Malaria Eradication Research Agenda](#) (malERA), which provides a useful starting point to guide needed R&D investment.

### **Notes**

SAGme is composed of 13 leaders and scientists representing a range of disciplines and geographies. They are supported by representatives from WHO collaborating centres, WHO staff and other key stakeholders.

Over the past 3 years, the SAGme has considered the biological, technical, financial, socio-economic, political and environmental factors that underpin malaria. Its final executive summary presents a set of findings and

recommendations to the Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

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