

UNITED NATIONS PAKISTAN



Newsletter

January-February 2014

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The Zero Discrimination campaign



Pakistan joined countries around the world to celebrate “Zero Discrimination Day” for the first time on 1 March 2014. The day was an opportunity for people everywhere to promote

and celebrate everyone’s right to live a full life with dignity—no matter what they look like, where they come from or whom they love. UNAIDS Country Office for Pakistan

and Afghanistan in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre launched the campaign in Pakistan to build up support towards Zero Discrimination. Some 105 ad-

The Association of People Living
with HIV, Pakistan



vocates representing affected communities, youth, government officials, media, member states and the United Nations are actively supporting the campaign by sharing images of

the butterfly, the transformative symbol for zero discrimination. Ending discrimination of all kinds is a key component of the UNAIDS vision: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Yet today, too many people around the world continue to face unequal access to treatment, prevention services, support and care because of their race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation or identity, disability, gender or age.

Discrimination is not only a violation of human rights—it is illegal, immoral, hurtful and dehumanizing. Discrimination can happen anywhere: at work, at school, at home, in health care setting and in the community. Discrimination doesn't just hurt individuals or groups of people—it hurts everyone. There are many things that can be done to counter discrimination and encourage acceptance. Zero Discrimination Day offers an unprece-



ented opportunity for raising awareness; for speaking up to support people who have been discriminated against; for promoting diversity; and for becoming champions of tolerance, compassion and peace.



Everyone can support Zero Discrimination by mobilizing their social media networks and encouraging their supporters to:



Like the Zero Discrimination page on Facebook www.facebook.com/zerodiscrimination.



Join the conversation on Twitter with the [#zerodiscrimination](https://twitter.com/zerodiscrimination) and circulate key campaign messages.

Discrimination: a cross cutting challenge.

On March 1st this year, Pakistan joined the global family to observe 'Zero Discrimination Day' a UN-AIDS-led campaign. But what does discrimination mean in the wider sense? Broadly speaking, discrimination undermines and attacks people – children and adults – over a myriad of 'reasons'. In Pakistan and elsewhere, discrimination potentially cuts across all areas social, cultural, economic and political life. It can happen anywhere: in schools, hospitals and clinics, at work, in the corridors of power and even at home within and between families, friends, children. Discrimination targets women, children and men. Women in particular face discrimination when trying to build decent lives either through educating themselves and their daughters, or going out to work. Husbands and fathers who support them may find themselves out of synch with mainstream community opinion.

What can we do about this and other areas of discriminatory practices? There are, of course, few easy and quick answers. But here in Pakistan the United Nations continues to work with the government to tackle these issues, especially around the six identified priority areas that we are paying particular attention to until 2017.

In fact, the United Nations is addressing discrimination in collabo-



ration with all its stakeholders. An example of this was a recent programme that aired over Radio Pakistan (in Urdu) featuring a woman living with a disability, a young man with HIV, a transgender, a youth representative and a UNAIDS expert. Radio Pakistan reaches 95 per cent of the population including into the most remote areas of the country. The same panelists later went on to a talk show with PTV World, the only English speaking channel in Pakistan. Underpinning the UN's work is the fundamental notion of human rights: 'To achieve international co-operation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion' says article 1 of its charter. One of the purposes of Zero Discrimination Day was to get us talking about how we believe we and oth-

ers are discriminated against and, dare I say it, to reflect on our own prejudices against others. It offers a platform for convening and stimulating discussion and action – 105 advocates from several constituencies have supported the campaign so far. But it was never meant to be a one off exercise. The work against discrimination continues in Pakistan and the rest of the world.

Timo Pakkala
Resident Coordinator
and Humanitarian Coordinator



Promoting human rights to eliminate stigma against people living with HIV.



Discrimination against people living with HIV is an expression of prejudice and stigma against people living with HIV. Stigma fuels HIV and sometimes violent treatment of people living with HIV, their families and others affected by HIV. It denies an individual's dignity, respect and right to fully participate in their community. It can place limits on education, work, housing and health care.

It intersects with other forms of stigma, including discrimination based on gender, sexuality, ethnicity and stigmas associated with particular behaviours and activities.

Discrimination has profound implications for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. This reduces an individual's willingness to be tested for HIV, to disclose their HIV status, to practise safer sex and to access health care.



HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to occur in most of the settings in Pakistan, although they manifest differently and in varying degrees in different parts of the country. In case of local context, HIV-related stigma and discrimination frequently work to entrench existing social inequalities and in-

A nation-wide study, PLHIV Stigma Index, clearly shows that discriminatory behaviour impedes the efforts of services to reach people most in need of prevention, treatment and care. It impacts an individual's capacity to acknowledge and manage his own HIV infection, affecting his physical and psychological well-being and quality of life. Although there are widespread reports of HIV-related discrimination throughout the country there has also been significant progress towards reducing these practices. In addition to what is being done there is still much that Government and civil society need to understand about the forms and contexts of stigmatization and discrimination if they are to succeed in their efforts to control the HIV epidemic.

The launch of Zero Discrimination





**#ZERO
DISCRIMI
NATION**



Campaign in Pakistan will certainly increase the awareness and address the complexity of this subject. The evidence gained from PLHIV Stigma Index study and Zero Discrimination Campaign will shape future programmatic interventions and policy change. These include improving workplace policies, initiating debates about discriminating people who are living with HIV, and promoting the realization of human rights. Consequently, the Zero Discrimination Campaign could be

considered as a powerful advocacy tool which will support the collective goal of Governments, NGOs and activists alike to reduce the stigma and discrimination.

Marc Saba
UNAIDS Country Director for Pakistan
& Afghanistan

Saving lives through behavioral change in childbirth practices.



“I delivered five of my children at home in the hands of a dai (traditional birth attendant)”

says Kaniz Safdar (35), a resident of Jhangiwala village, Bahawalpur District. “There were complications during every delivery and I suffered for months. During my sixth pregnancy, the dai told me that there could be a threat to my life and it is advisable that I see a doctor. I had myself checked at this hospital and a few days later delivered my sixth child here. Now, I can tell the difference between delivering at home and in a hospital under the care of a skilled birth attendant.”

The Basic Health Unit in Jhang-

wala is located in a rural vicinity of Bahawalpur City. Women from various nearby villages come to this government-supported facility. Over the past few years UNICEF has supported the Punjab Health Department to upgrade and equip basic health units to provide round the clock maternal and neonatal services, including tetanus vaccination for pregnant and lactating women.

After receiving an anti-tetanus injection Kaniz says: “I am pregnant for the seventh time and visit this hospital regularly for check-ups and vaccination. Doctor guides me on how to keep myself and my child healthy. The dai never told me

these things. I will deliver my child here. It is clean and safe.”

Despite the health facilities, lack of awareness about health and hygiene prevent women from seeking medical advice and the services of skilled birth attendants. Traditional practices and illiteracy are other factors that keep women from availing health care facilities during and after pregnancy.

“Traditional birth attendants are un-equipped and have no professional training” says Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Rana, Immunization Officer at UNICEF. “They use rusted knives and even sickles to cut the umbilical cord at the time of delivery. This can cause tetanus and



lead to the death of the newborn and even mothers in some cases. To prevent this, it is important that massive awareness campaigns are carried out to give knowledge to the marginalized and unaware communities. We have achieved great success, but still have a long way.”

Unsafe deliveries are the leading cause of maternal and neonatal tetanus and, thus, maternal and neonatal mortality. Extensive measures have been taken by the government with support from UNICEF. At the basic level, lady health workers ensure that each woman in their community is well aware of the risk of tetanus infection and seeks the services of a skilled birth attendant. Similarly, once the woman consults a skilled birth attendant, (which includes a lady health visitor, community midwife and a doctor), they prescribe and give her the required tetanus toxoid vaccination. This vaccination is also a mandatory part of the antenatal check-up.



Beating discrimination through education: the story of an Afghan refugee father and teacher.



Muhammad* was well respected in his community. Suddenly everything changed for him and his family when he decided to enrol his eldest daughter in school. Life took an unexpected ugly turn

for 43-year-old Afghan refugee, Muhammad, who was a leading imam in a small community mosque at Muhammad Kheil Refugee Village (RV), southwest of Pakistan. Community elders declared that a man

like Muhammad, who sends his daughter to school, could not lead the daily prayers anymore. He was isolated, removed from his job at the mosque, his monthly allowance ceased, but he stood adamant.

* Names of the characters have been changed.

“Initially I tried to convince them that education is like a beam of light in dark. I tried to encourage all those who created hurdles for my daughter to also enrol their children in schools but I convinced very few”

says Muhammad.

He was nine when his family fled Afghanistan in 1979 over one of the most dangerous unofficial crossing routes to Pakistan. “I have vague memories of that trip. I remember we walked for too long and then we rode on camels. We crossed the border on camels and then my father transported us on a rented tractor trolley to this camp.”

In 1996 Muhammad got married and a year later Salma*, his eldest daughter, was born. “Life was perfectly alright until Salma reached grade six and that was when they (the community) started calling me all sorts of names; the worst a father could imagine” says Muhammad without losing any of his friendly and warm smile to a frown. After the suspension of his monthly allowance from the mosque, Muhammad applied for a teaching post at one of the UNHCR run primary schools in Muhammad Kheil Refugee Village. Luckily, Muhammad had attended formal school as well as having received a religious education. He started as a primary grade teacher and was quickly promoted to head teacher. Muhammad’s tension with the community continued. When he could no longer face the community’s scorn, Muhammad took his daughter out of school. “Salma is a bril-

liant child, everyone at school felt her absence” says the proud father. Muhammad was approached by a staff member of a UNHCR partner organization, who succeeded in convincing him to at least let Salma take her final exams.

“Those words still echo in my mind. Madam (a staff member) told me: “be an inspiration for those who do not understand the power of education, don’t let them influence you. Lead them to the right path but do not let them lead you in the wrong direction.” So the very next day I took Salma back to school, where she stayed until she finished her eighth grade.”

Today, Salma, 16, is the only female teacher in the entire refugee village and proudly runs a Home-based Girls’ Centre (HBGS), which her father established with the help of UNHCR. She teaches all those girls who are not allowed to attend regular schools. In her small, one-room centre Salma teaches girls from grades one to four. “My little girl earns as much as I do” Mohammad laughs aloud.

Most of the 5000 residents of Muhammad Kheil Refugee Village are too poor to send their children to school and are faced with a parent’s difficult decision to send their child to work instead. Most Afghan children from this refugee village work in fields of local farmers collecting garbage, or work in mechanic shops in bigger cities.

“In my school, the declining attendance rate dramatically improved after we distributed uniforms, bags, sports kits and solar lamps” notes Muhammad. “People don’t object

to boys going to school, they just wish they could afford it. Helping families make the right decision by providing incentives really works. How else would you convince these poor people?”

For Muhammad, education is the biggest priority in life. At the refugee village, he serves the community by teaching at school with a low salary. Apart from Salma, all of his seven children (one girl and six boys) are enrolled in school. There are no high schools in Muhammad Kheil, so Muhammad’s elder son studies in the provincial capital Quetta, 70km away from the refugee village.

Education is expensive and yet Muhammad manages to save some money to pay his son’s monthly expenses. “No matter what, I will let my son complete his studies and earn a name; even if for that I have to sell or starve myself to death, I’m ready for that” Muhammad declares. “If not me, maybe one day my son would be able to bring the change in the mind-set of the people which I could not.”

Centres give hope to displaced children with special needs.



Diya, 6, and her parents were displaced from Orakzai Agency, FATA, because of insecurity there, and settled in a hosting community in Hangu District, KP, where her father runs a small vegetable shop.

Diya is blind and needs special education facilities to help her learn and grow. Unfortunately, there was no centre for children like her in Hangu and her parents were not ready to send her to another town.

However, an Emergency Response Fund (ERF)-supported Protective

Learning and Community Emergency Centre (PLaCE) in Hangu brought a pleasant change into Diya's life.

UNICEF and its partner, Pakistan Village Development Programme (PVDP), operates three PLaCEs in Togh Sarai refugee camp and nine centres in hosted refugee communities in Hangu, as well as for women at risk of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. They conduct activities, provide psychosocial support, and awareness sessions on child protection among other services.

“We are thankful for the support being provided to our daughter, as there is no other place with these facilities available for hosted refugee communities”
say Diya's parents.

Flood-affected women make economic strides.

Cash-for-work projects in communities recovering from four consecutive years of monsoon flooding in Sindh Province have increased women's participation in economic activities, but more needs to be done to involve them in disaster risk reduction activities.

In January, OCHA and UN Women facilitated discussions among 100 female beneficiaries at nine project locations supported by the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) in Jacobabad, Kashmore and Sukkur districts in Sindh Province.

The women say cash-for-work activities have allowed them to build smoke-free stoves, rehabilitate damaged homes, establish vegetable gardens and engage in poultry and livestock production to support their families. These activities have increased their share of household income by between 30 and 50 per cent, enhancing households' resilience towards future disasters with savings to pay for the evacuation of the most vulnerable and their property in case of another flooding emergency.

However, these economic gains are meagre in the context of the huge debts accumulated by flood-affected communities as a result of agricultural losses incurred during the past four years of recurrent floods.

Greater involvement of women in risk reduction planning would improve their access to basic humanitarian services such as food, reproductive health care and protection during emergencies, and also empower communities to be better prepared to cope with disasters.

The OCHA and UN Women dis-

cussions reveal that although women's overall share of power in decision-making remains limited, younger women's influence in household decisions is growing.

The Hyogo Framework of Action calls for gender perspectives to be integrated into disaster risk reduction and response plans.





Two thirds of children in South and West Asia are not learning basic reading and maths.

The 11th Education for All Global Monitoring Report reveals that a global learning crisis is costing governments \$129 billion a year. Ten per cent of global spending on primary education is being lost on poor quality education. This situation leaves one in four young people in poor countries unable to read a single sentence, af-

fecting one third of young women in South and West Asia. On current trends, the report projects that it will take until 2072 for all the poorest young women in developing countries to be literate; (if Pakistan were to halve inequality in access to education to the level of Vietnam, it would increase its own economic growth by 1.7 percentage points). However, with the right policies in

place, fast progress is possible: in Nepal, the literacy rate of the poorest young women tripled from 18% in 2001 to 54% in 2011. “Teachers have the future of this generation in their hands,” said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. “We need 5.2 million teachers to be recruited by 2015, and we need to work harder to support them in providing children with their right to a universal, free and quality education. We must also make sure that there is an explicit commitment to equity in new global education goals set after 2015, with indicators tracking the progress of the marginalized so that no one is left behind.” The report shows that to achieve good quality education for all, governments must provide enough trained teachers, and focus their teacher policies on meeting the needs of the disadvantaged. This means attracting the best candidates into teaching; giving them relevant training; deploying them within countries to areas where they are needed most; and offering them incentives to make a long-term commitment to teaching. In Sri Lanka teachers trained to develop lesson plans and grade-appropriate tasks for multigrade classes had a positive impact on pupils’ achievement in mathematics.

The report also highlights the need to address gender-based violence in schools - a major barrier to quality and equality in education – and underscores the importance of curriculum and assessment strategies to promote inclusion and improve learning.



This year’s report is titled Teaching and learning: Achieving quality for all. It warns that without attracting and adequately training enough teachers the learning crisis will last for several generations and hit the disadvantaged hardest. In South and West Asia, about 33 in 100 children of primary school age are learning the basics in reading,

place, fast progress is possible: in Nepal, the literacy rate of the poorest young women tripled from 18% in 2001 to 54% in 2011. “Teachers have the future of this generation in their hands,” said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. “We need 5.2 million teachers to be recruited by 2015, and we need to work harder to support them in providing children with their right

UNODC trains officers from the department of excise and taxation in drug and precursor identification.

A three-day training course on 'Drug and Precursors Identification' was held in Islamabad between 10 - 12 February. This was the first time this kind of training has been provided to the Excise and Taxation Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the National Drug Use Survey conducted by UNODC, this province has the highest prevalence of drug users in Pakistan. The course aimed to strengthen law

enforcement agencies' basic knowledge of precursor and chemical identification for the purpose of stopping illicit trafficking of these substances. The course was organized for junior field officers from the Excise and Taxation-Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through UNODC's Sub-Programme on Illicit Trafficking and Border Management. Thirty officers from several districts of the province attended.

The department has a wide presence in the province, and increasing capacity to intercept and investigate the movement of drugs and precursors through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The geographic prevalence of drug use is closely connected with the drug trafficking routes from neighbouring Afghanistan.

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling to and from Pakistan.



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) office in Pakistan today unveiled the research report 'Human trafficking and migrant smuggling to and from Pakistan' which identifies trends of human trafficking and migrant smuggling to and from Pakistan, while describing the modus operandi of the traffickers and the smugglers to circumvent border controls.

During his keynote address, UNODC Representative to Pakistan, Cesar Guedes, stated that "there is an emerging trend of Pakistani males being trafficked into the European Union for forced labour, with their travel being facilitated by criminal syndicates, through use of fraudulently obtained authentic documents."

"There has been an 18% increase in the number of general deportees to

Pakistan from the previous year" he added. The report was designed to recommend specific actions that can be taken by the Government of Pakistan - and in particular the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) - to increase effective intervention against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, said Cesar Guedes.

FIA's Director General, Saud Mirza, has reiterated the commitment of his organization to combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling. He has lauded the capacity building and collaborative efforts of UNODC in raising the expertise and resources of the organization to meet the serious challenges posed by organized crime groups.



NADRA issues renewed PoR cards to 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.



The Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the UN Refugee Agency has begun reissuing renewed proof of registration (PoR) cards to more than 1.6 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

The National Database and Regis-

tration Authority (NADRA) launched a countywide project that will see the cards issued through 34 PoR card renewal centres across the country, starting with six - in Haripur, Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Quetta - followed by more centres in March,

April and May this year. The existing PoR cards held by Afghan refugees expired in December 2012. In July 2013, the Government of Pakistan announced the extension of the Tripartite Commission Agreement, governing the voluntary return of

Afghans and the validity of the PoR cards until the end of 2015.

The PoR card renewal exercise is a result of continuous consultation between the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and UNHCR, aimed at finding durable solutions for Afghan refugees – the world's largest protracted refugee population in a single country.

The renewal process will be carried out in two phases: during the first phase from February until the end of June 2014, all PoR cards that expired in December 2012 will be replaced by new PoR cards. In the second phase from July until the end of 2014, NADRA will register and issue individual PoR cards to some 150,000 children born to registered parents in the past five years, while more than 330,000 Afghan children below the age of eighteen will receive birth certificates.

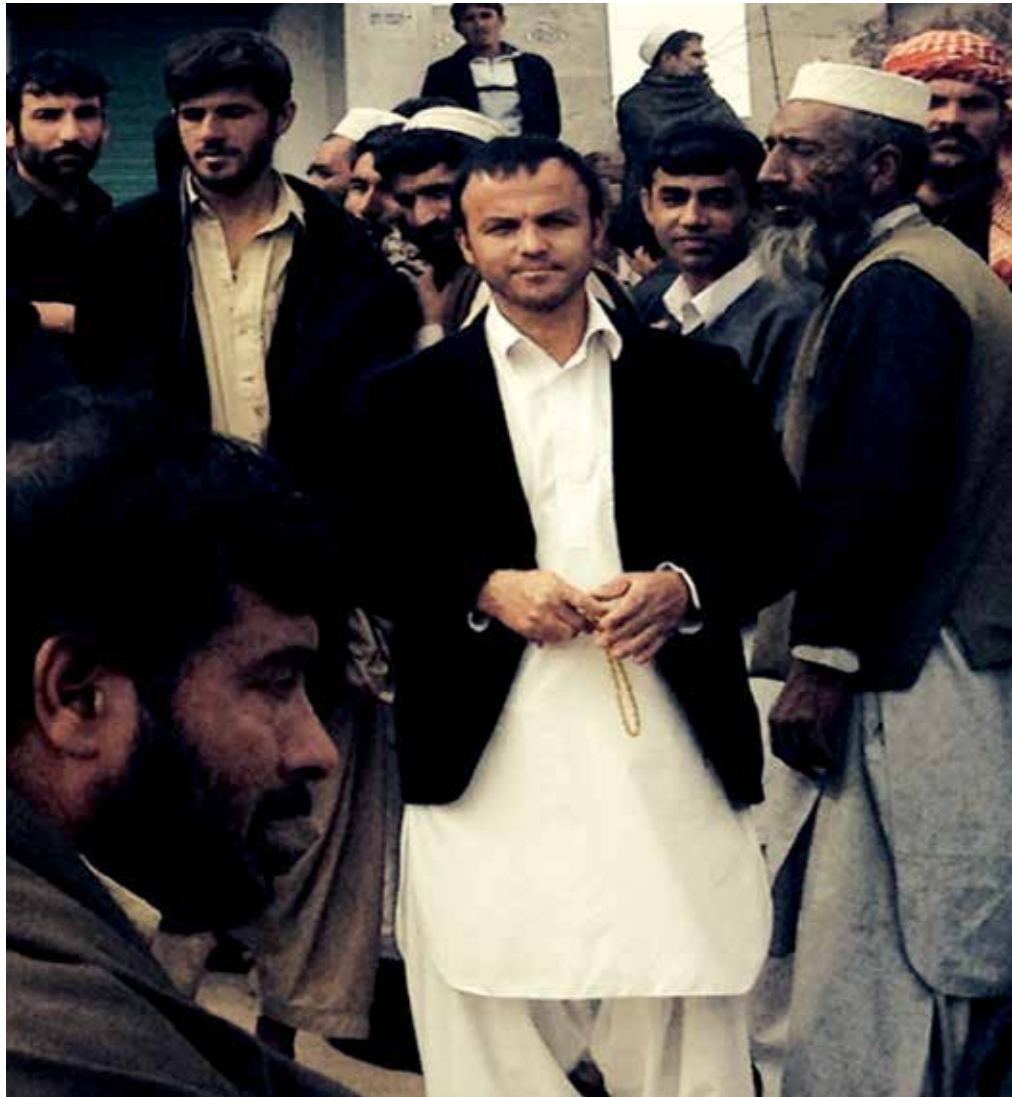
Dr. Imran Zeb, Chief Commissioner of Afghan Refugees has reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to continue extending hospitality to Afghan refugees until the end of December 2015.

"The government is keen to provide support to UNHCR and the Government of Afghanistan in facilitating the voluntary return of refugees back to their country with respect and dignity" he said, adding: "we believe the only solution for Afghan refugees lies within Afghanistan, for which we need more support from the international community for Afghanistan."

Neill Wright, Representative of UNHCR in Pakistan, expressed the

hope that the renewal of the existing PoR cards would improve the protection of Afghan refugees and put a halt to reported instances of harassment faced by refugees while performing their daily tasks, including feeding their families, working and being able to travel freely in Pakistan.

The PoR card is an important identity document for Afghans, providing them with a legal right of stay in Pakistan and protection against detention and deportation.





The Government of Pakistan and UNDP launch the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013.

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform (MPDR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the fifth National MDG Report for Pakistan in Islamabad (MDGR). The report assesses progress towards achieving the MDGs, successes and challenges, and shares initial thoughts on the post-2015 development agenda for Pakistan. For the first time, this MDGR includes a review of sub-national and district level status and trends. UNDP Pakistan is also launching an Internet MDG monitor to make up-to-date information on the country's MDG progress more widely available at www.mdg.undp.org.pk

Pakistan has shown consistent, though slow, progress on many of the MDGs: it has adopted 16 targets and 41 indicators against which progress is measured and reported. According to the MDG Report 2013, Pakistan is likely to reach ten of the 41 indicators, while the progress on others indicate that additional and more focused efforts are needed. The government has already geared up efforts to achieve the target set for achieving universal primary education, and the net primary enrolment ratio. Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister of Plan-

ning, Development and Reform, Government of Pakistan, thanked the UN and other development partners for their support in pushing the national development agenda forward and for driving progress on the Millennium Development Goals, which are in fact Pakistan's National Development Goals. Un-



derlining the importance of National MDG Report, he said that it takes stock of the national milestones and successful policies/programmes/





cators. He noted the commendable performance of other South Asian countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on achieving the MDGs vis-a-vis Pakistan and emphasised the need for South-South learning.

He highlighted four particular lessons:

- 1 social policies are as important as economic policies.**
- 2 investing in women and girls has multiple, strong benefits for all MDGs.**
- 3 public sector expenditure on the social sector is important, especially spending on education.**
- 4 governance issues at the country level can be a major constraint.**



initiatives around the MDGs and provides a robust fact base and repository of data for informed and evidence based policies formulation in the country, provinces and regions. He said that while the country is lagging on most MDG targets and faces a host of challenges impacting the pace of progress, the government is committed to work toward the achievement of MDGs, in particular towards investing in its people. He highlighted the development of the MDG Acceleration Framework for Education as one such successful exercise in which this is occurring.

Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary General and the new UNDP Director for Asia and the Pacific highlighted the setbacks Pakistan has encountered in the form of natural disasters, a deteriorating law and order situation and the global financial crisis, in spite of which progress has been made on some MDG indi-



Strengthening governance and development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

On 23rd January, UNDP and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa signed a partnership agreement to strengthen governance and development in the province.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa UNDP will work on initiatives both at the institutional and community levels. The institutional support for the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa aims to bring long term changes in government rules, norms and

its significant strengths and resources. The most effective route to development is through working with, and strengthening, existing structures rather than creating parallel ones.” UNDP signed the agreement with Pervez Khattak, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Haoliang XU was accompanied by Timo Pakkala, UN Resident Coordinator and Marc-André Franche, Country Director of UNDP in Pakistan. UNDP

He also boarded the mobile court bus and met H.E. Dost Muhammad Khan, Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court. The Chief Justice said: “Our partnership with UNDP has delivered a great service to the people of this country.” He appreciated UNDP’s support in strengthening rule of law in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

As part of UNDP’s strengthening rule of law project, the Regional Director of UNDP also visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy with Hayat Ali Shah, Director General Judicial Academy Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. UNDP supports the judicial academy in enhancing institutional capacity development through a mediation centre, research wing and training facility for judges and court staff. The academy is helping to institutionalize the system of alternate dispute resolution. UNDP works with communities and the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to help them achieve the Millennium Development Goals by finding innovative, sustainable development solutions and fostering resilience and recovery from crises and conflicts. UNDP is also building capacity to better support the provincial governments in the post-18th amendment setting.



structures, while the community development interventions aim to achieve immediate results in improving livelihoods and basic services for communities. Haoliang Xu, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific said at the signing ceremony: “We will seek to help the provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa make the best use of

and the Chief Minister discussed the current development challenges and opportunities outlined in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 2013 Strategic Development Partnership Framework. Mr. Xu said: “We need to put international reforms in a national context. UNDP is committed to effectively supporting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government in the implementation of its reform agenda.”

Director General UNESCO conferred the Hilal Pakistan.

President Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain conferred on Thursday 6 February, Pakistan's highest civil award Hilal-i-Pakistan to Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) at a special meeting held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The award was conferred in recognition of the outstanding commitment of the UNESCO Director General to supporting and promoting Pakistan's cultural heritage and Indus valley civilization, as well as UNESCO's assistance to the country during natural disasters. The ceremony was also attended by Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science and Technology, Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman,

Minister of State for Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education, and other senior officials.

The President of Pakistan paid tribute to UNESCO Pakistan for lending its full support to the government's efforts for promoting education for all, especially girls' education in Pakistan. He assured Ms Bokova that Pakistan would continue to work and strengthen partnership with UNESCO for promotion of education along with protection and promotion of its world heritage sites.

He furthermore extended his gratitude to Director General Irina Bokova for setting up the 'Malala Fund' for the promotion of girl's education under the umbrella of UNESCO, and for her taking a personal inter-

est in arranging a high level advocacy event on girls' right to education with the Government of Pakistan.



President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain awarding the Director General of UNESCO Irina Bokova.

UNESCO and Pakistan's Education Ministry launch Malala Funds-in-Trust.



UNESCO's Director General, Irina Bokova and Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman, State Minister Education of the Ministry of Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Malala Funds-in-Trust for Girls' Right to Education,

which is aimed at expanding and improving education and a safe environment for all children in Pakistan, but especially girls in remote areas of the country.

The UNESCO chief made a key note address at a forum on girls' education hosted jointly by UNESCO and the Ministry of State for Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education. The forum highlighted the need for changing attitudes, the training of female teachers and making schools accessible and safe for girls, especially in remote and rural areas.

Hiroshi Inomata, Ambassador of Ja-

pan to Pakistan in his address gave an overview of the government of Japan's endeavor to promote girls' education and women's social participation in Pakistan. He said that Japan together with the Government of Pakistan has been working on a project to upgrade around 30 primary girls into elementary schools in Southern rural Sindh. Japan, he said, was also actively promoting non-formal education in Pakistan; and had provided educational opportunities to 180,000 people, of which about 70% were women.



Development Advocate Pakistan: new quarterly highlights development challenges and solutions.



UNDP has released its development magazine, The Development Advocate, to share and foster robust national public discourse on development challenges and solutions in

Pakistan, and to provide a platform for Pakistani authorities, civil society and intelligentsia to exchange ideas on key development solution pathways.

A combination of analysis and public opinion articles promote and inform public discourse on development ideas while providing up-to-date information. This publication presents varying perspectives from civil society, academia, government and development partners, with an explicit effort to include the voices of

women in youth in the ongoing dialogue. The first edition, titled A New Way Forward for Local Governance in Pakistan, focuses on local governance.



Director General UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova meets senior officials and representatives of the government, UN, civil society organizations in Islamabad.

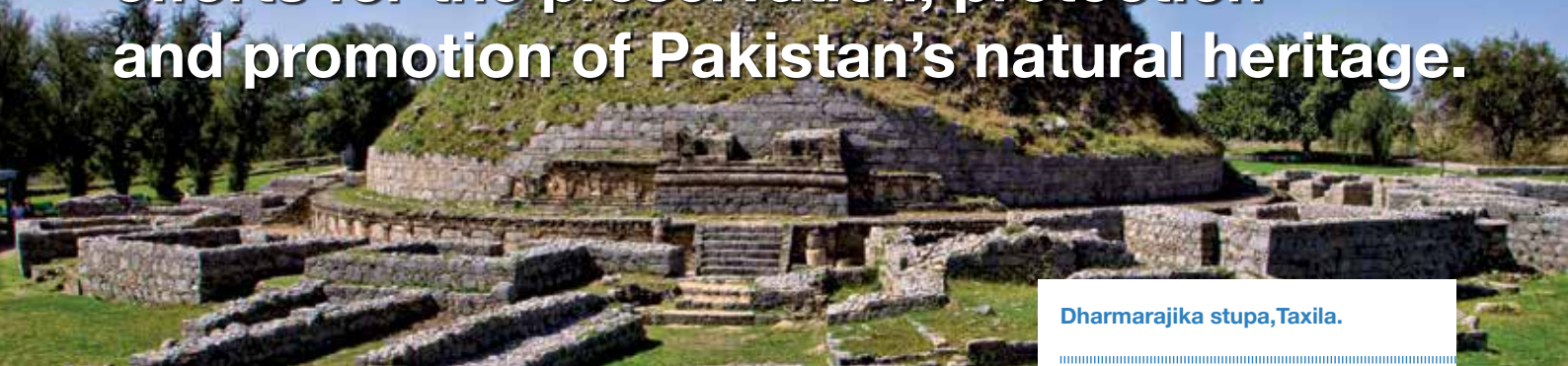
The Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova as part of her state visit to Pakistan met with the country team of the United Nations in Pakistan. The UN Resident Coordinator, Timo Pakala, welcomed her and highlighted the various efforts and activities under the ONE UN Programme, acknowledging UNESCO's contribution to various joint initiatives particularly in the education sector. Irina Bokova, also met with the students of Islamabad College for Girls (ICG) where she was received by the college students and Mrs. Ghazala Kaleem, Principal of ICG; called on

the Federal Minister of Science and Technology, Zaid Hamid and other senior officials of the ministry; and, along with Junaid Zaidi, Rector COMSATS signed an agreement between the two organizations on the establishment of UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (WahCantt. Campus, Pakistan). Upon her arrival at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), she applauded the COMS-



TECH's mission on helping members' states to strengthen their individual and collective capacities in science and technology. The Director General also visited the National University of Science and Technology (NUST).

DG UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova praises efforts for the preservation, protection and promotion of Pakistan's natural heritage.



Dharmarajika stupa, Taxila.

UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova together with State Minister Education, Muhammad Baleegh-ur-Rehman and Country Director UNESCO, Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata visited historical sites of Taxila on Friday 7th February. Speaking to the Museum authorities and media she said: "the people of Pakistan must be proud of its heritage. Taxila is a unique site showing so many

layers of civilizations in this country, starting with prehistoric heritage and moving to the Greeks, and moving to Buddhist and Islamic culture... this is a wellspring of creativity, an open book for tolerance, mutual understanding and dialogue, both within the country and abroad."

The UNESCO Director General also visited the National Institute of Folk and

Traditional Heritage (LokVirsa) where she was received by Saeed Nazir, Secretary Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage and Mashhood Ahmad Mirza, Joint Secretary National Heritage Wing. She also spent some time watching the diverse folk dances representing from the four provinces, being performed by local artists.

PTV World and UN Information Centre strengthen collaboration.

PTV World and the United Nations Information Centre will strengthen collaboration for disseminating information on development topics in Pakistan. Dr Nazir Saeed, Secretary of State for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage and Vittorio Cammarota, Director of the United Nations Information Centre, signed a memorandum of understanding on 22 January at the PTV World studios. Ms. Shazia Sikander, Head of PTV World, Mr. Timo Pakkala, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, together with produc-

ers, cameramen, anchors from PTV World and colleagues from the UN Communications Group attended the event. The collaboration was set up by the UN Communications Group and has already resulted in a few joint productions. It fits in the new wave of energies and resources being invested in communications in order to scale up support to the ONE UN Programme and to ensure communications through one coordinated voice. Working in partnership with PTV World gives us an unprecedented opportunity to work together on communications topics



that are instrumental to the development of Pakistani people, such as education, health, water & sanitation, nutrition, economic growth, employment and livelihoods, resilience against disaster, governance, gender equality and social justice.



Giving Voice to the rural women in village Rama, Gujar Khan.



A group of successful women in the media industry gave voices to the successful women from the Rama village, Gujar Khan. Some 10 female journalists and reporters from several national and international media outlets including Radio Pakistan, PTV World, Daily Times, Asia News Channel, Dawn among the

others, interviewed a group of women from the Rama village and learned how they were empowered and made a difference to their community. The visit was jointly organized by the UN Information Centre and UN WOMEN in the run up to International Women's Day.



UN Information Centre highlights the role of United Nations at FORMUN 14.

The FORMUN'14 (Forman Christian College Model United Nations 2014)—Peace is Possible, held from 15 to 18 January 2014, was the second edition of the simulation of United Nations that was organized by the Model United Nations Society at Forman Christian College. The event provided a platform to discuss issues pertinent to the global community. Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, Director of UN Information Center in the opening ceremony highlighted the role of the United Nations in Pakistan and appreciated the young delegates for holding successful simulations of different forums of the United Nations. Around 450 delegates from all over the country attend-



ed the session. FORMUN'14 proved to be a unique event allowing students from very different backgrounds to

become active players of the political scene of tomorrow.

WFP hands over humanitarian response facility in Punjab to enhance disaster preparedness.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today handed over the first Humanitarian Response Facility (HRF) in Rakh Khan Pur village, Muzaffargarh district of Punjab to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Ms. Lola Castro, Representative and Country Director, WFP Pakistan, and Major General Muhammad Saeed Al-eem, Chairman, NDMA, were present on the occasion alongside Mr. Isami Takada, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan, Ms. Darriann Riber, Counsellor, Embassy of Denmark and Mr. Audren De Kerdrel Guillaume, Counsellor, Embassy of France as well as other government and WFP officials.

Pakistan has a long history of being severely affected by natural disasters. In 2005, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake took the lives of over 70,000 people while some 3.5 million people suffered consequences. Moreover, devastating floods have affected millions of Pakistanis during the last four years. Strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacity has therefore been identified by NDMA as one of the national priorities.

As a result, a joint endeavor between WFP and the Government of Pakistan is being undertaken to establish a system of eight strategically located Hu-



manitarian Response Facilities (HRFs) in each of the most disaster-prone districts to enhance the country's emergency response capacity. The project is being implemented in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan with generous funding provided by the Government and the People of Japan, Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

“Recurring natural disasters in Pakistan substantiate the need to strengthen the country's emergency disaster preparedness and response capacity at all levels” said Lola Castro. “The priority for WFP and partners through these on-going efforts is to establish a humanitarian ware-

housing network in the country to ensure a fast, effective and reliable logistics response mechanism at district level and, alongside the Government of Pakistan, to protect and empower communities most at risk”.

The warehouse in Muzaffargarh will serve as a logistics base for Southern Punjab, a flood prone area. It has an overall storage capacity of 3,200 tons and is located over 7 acres of land provided by the Government of Punjab. Amongst others, the facility includes permanent as well as prefabricated office space, high tonnage storage facilities as well as a climate-controlled area for temperature sensitive items with a capacity of 200 tons. The structure is earthquake resistant and other environmental hazards have also been factored into the construction.

United Nations continues work alongside provinces.

Three provincial steering committee meetings were held in the capitals of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between November and December last year, signaling discussions on the implementation of the joint One UN Programme II (2013 – 2017). The next two steering committee meetings are in Gilgit-Baltistan and Lahore in March this year. The One UN Programme II was developed jointly by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations after extensive consultations with provincial governments, civil society and other development partners. Key areas of UN support include: access to social services, economic growth and employment, resilience against disasters, governance and social justice as well as food and nutrition security. The inaugural meeting of the One UN Programme II steering committee for Sindh was held in Karachi on 12 November; it was co-chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary Planning & Development, Arif Ahmed Khan, (Government of Sindh) and Dan Rohrmann, UNICEF’s Resident Representative in Pakistan. The steering committee meeting for Balochistan was held in Quetta on 22 November. Aslam Shakir Baloch, Additional Chief Secretary, P&D Department, (Government of Balochistan) and Patrick Evans, FAO Country Rep-



resentative were co-chairs. On December 17, a provincial steering committee meeting for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held in Peshawar. Khalid Pervaiz, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department, (Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Jacques Franquin, Head of Office, UNHCR Peshawar co-chaired the meeting. Participants from the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), provincial secretaries and United Nations representatives discussed the provincial steering mechanism, its composition and terms of reference and possible communications activities.

In addition, representatives of the United Nations agencies in charge of the strategic priority areas of the One UN Programme made presentations on key projects currently ongoing in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In line with the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, joint Government-UN steering committees were established at the federal level and in each administrative area, in order to provide strategic guidance, monitoring and also review the implementation of One UN Programme in their respective province/areas.



UNESCO Director General's interview with Radio Pakistan.

“UN will continue supporting Pakistan” Said Ms. Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO in an interactive interview with Radio Pakistan, on 7 February 2014. Ms. Bokova appreciated role of Radio Pakistan in reaching people out in far flung areas of the country. Ms. Bokova said UNESCO is helping Pakistan with various projects, includ-

ing preparing the people to face calamity in areas prone to floods. She added that the United Nations will continue supporting Pakistan government's policies to increase access to education, especially for girls and stressed that the best investment in Pakistan's future is to invest in education.



Celebrating World Radio with Radio Pakistan and Riphah University.

13 February is World Radio Day — a day to celebrate radio as a medium; to improve international cooperation between broadcasters; and to encourage major networks and community radio alike to promote

access to information, freedom of expression and gender equality over the airwaves. As radio continues to evolve in the digital age, it remains the medium that reaches the widest audience worldwide.

The theme of 2014 World Radio Day was gender equality.

The UN Information Centre partnered with Radio Pakistan and FM 102.2, an educational radio channel of the Riphah University, Rawalpindi, to produce a talk show on the contribution of women to communications for development. Communication experts from the UN Communications Group shared their views on the role of women anchors and producers in the making of radio one of the most powerful medium of communication in Pakistan.



Radio Pakistan and the UN Information Centre co-produced a program focused on the role of radio programs as a mean for disseminating key messages to empower



Pakistani women in Pakistan and promote their contribution as decision makers in the radio business. Ms. Sham Anjum, Deputy Controller, News and Current Affairs Channel at PBC anchored the program. Ms. Samina Parvez, Director General Radio Pakistan and Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, Director, United Nations Information Centre also participated in the discussion together with femal anchors from community radios from Fatma Jinnah University and Riphah University.



We Support Zero Discrimination Campaign.



In support of the Zero Discrimination campaign, Radio Pakistan, UNAIDS and the United Nations Information Centre jointly organized a radio talk focused on how discrimination affects women living with disability, transgender, people living with HIV and young people.

Eliminating Discrimination through Advocacy.

PTV World Faisal Rehman anchored a special talk show to discuss how discrimination slows down progress and negatively affects people's development. Representatives of several communities, including youth, transgender, women living with disability, people living with HIV and media participated in the discussion together with United Nations experts.





Views on the News: Microfinance in Pakistan



Ms. Hoonae Kim, IFAD’s Regional Director for the Asia-Pacific and Matteo Marchisio, IFAD’s Country Manager shared information on IFAD’s finance innovative agricultural and rural development programmes and projects. They also shared a few positive stories of Pakistani rural communities that suc-

ceeded with improving their lives thanks IFAD’s support through low-interest loans and grants programmes.

Diplomatic Enclave: Education in Pakistan

Mr. Gwang- Jo Kim, UNESCO Regional Director for Asia and Pacific and Ms. Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO Islamabad shared their views on the findings of the 2014 Education for All Global Monitoring Report focused on the role of teaches in educational development. A Pakistani school teacher participating in

the discussion highlighted the daily challenges they face in the country including inequalities and lack of empowerment.



Gwang-Jo Kim lauds progress made by Pakistan towards MDGs.



In an interview with Radio Pakistan’s Current Affairs Channel, Mr. Gwang-Jo Kim, UNESCO Regional Director for Asia and Pacific acknowledged the progress made by Pakistan towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals despite security challenges. He also highlighted how Pakistan and countries in South West Asia lag behind in this regard as com-

pared to other regions of the world. Mr. Kim shared his own story with regards to achieving education in and unprivileged context and added that education is the main road to people’s development.

Irina Bokova's views on Pakistan.

UNESCO Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova shared her views on the priority issues in Pakistan, including education, women rights and cultural heritage. She also recapped the highlights of her two-day visit in the country.



Diplomatic Enclave: focus on the United Nations in Pakistan

Mr. Timo Pakkala , Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator gave an update on the work of the 19 United Nations organizations working in Pakistan and on their contribution to the ONE UN Programme in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation, nutrition, economic growth, employment and livelihoods,

resilience against disaster, governance, gender equity, social justice, human rights and youth.



IIFAD's director of the Asia and Pacific Division visits Pakistan.



Hoonae Kim, director of the Asia and Pacific Division of the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), visited Pakistan in January. In Islamabad, she met with government counterparts and development partners to discuss opportunities for future joint programming and cofinancing.

Kim also met with rural women and men to obtain a first-hand account of the impact that IFAD-supported projects have had on their livelihoods. Among others, she met participants of the Barani Village Development Project. The project established village organizations and women's groups in the Talagang district in Northern Punjab. Even though it completed its activities in 2007, the institutions continue to empower

women and strengthen entrepreneurship today.

"Pakistan is a key partner for us," Kim said, "and I am impressed with what we have achieved so far on important matters such as creating access to markets for smallholders, strengthening community institutions, innovating microfinance and empowering women. And we are committed to further strengthen our engagement."

IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialized UN agency. It is one of the main development partners in agriculture and rural development in Pakistan. Since it started work in the country in 1978, the Fund has supported 25 projects and invested US\$528 million, benefiting about 2 million rural households. The current ongoing country programme

consists of four loans with a total value of US\$170 million, including cofinancing. IFAD was the first agency to initiate development projects and activities in some of the most difficult mountain areas of Northern Pakistan. Today, IFAD has implemented operations in all provinces of the country, including the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan, Kyber-Pakhtunkwa, Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan, in addition to two nationwide programmes.

Four day visit of Regional Director UNESCO to Pakistan.

UNESCO Regional Director for Asia and Pacific, Gwang- Jo Kim visited Pakistan on a four day mission. During his visit, Gwang-Jo Kim met important government and UN officials, and attended several events and programmes. These included, but were not limited to, meeting with the State Minister, the Secretary and other senior officials of Ministry of Education, Trainings and Standards in Higher Education, Japanese Ambassador, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO, and the staff members of UNESCO Islamabad office. Gwang-Jo Kim took part in several important events as the Chief Guest which included the Regional Launching of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report, Dialogue Session on Gender Education in RAHA Community, Equipment and Certificates distribution among IDPs community in Peshawar.

He also featured a 15-minute interview with Radio Pakistan, the state broadcasting channel, that focused on the EFA Global Monitoring Report and the status of education in the region as well as in Pakistan. He, along with Director UNESCO Islamabad, Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, also participated as a panelist in a 45-minute programme entitled "Diplomatic Enclave" of Pa-



kistan Television (PTV World), the state-run television network. Their participation in the TV talk-show focused on cooperation for, efforts made on and issues of educational development in the global, regional and Pakistani contexts. Gwang-Jo

Kim's mission to Pakistan concluded after his visit to the historical Peshawar Museum and Rohtas Fort, where guided tours were organized to view invaluable historical artifacts and antiquities.



UNESCO chief on a state visit to Pakistan.



Ms. Irina Bokova arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday, February 5th as a state guest and concluded her visit on February 7th. Upon her arrival she was received by Saira Afzal Tarar, State Minister for Health, Khalid Hanif, Additional Secretary at Ministry of Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education, and Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Country Director of UNESCO Islamabad, as well as other key officials and staff.

During her two day stay in Pakistan, the UNESCO Director-General met with key government officials and representatives of the United Nations in Pakistan, civil society organizations, students, and media personnel. Her engagements included meeting with the President of Pakistan, the United Nations country team, the minister and senior officials of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Education, and a number of other government officials and diplomats. The Direc-

tor General paid visits to Islamabad College for Girls, COMSTECH, Taxila historical sites, Lok Virsa museum and centre, and the Pakistan Metrological Department. She also chaired the Forum on Girls Education and exchanged views with development partners at a reception hosted by UNESCO for national-international dignitaries and diplomats and representatives of the civil society; in addition, Ms Bokova interacted with government officials at a lunch hosted by the State Minister for Education.

She also attended a joint UNESCO-Government press conference with Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman, Minister of State for Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education at the Education Ministry. She gave an exclusive interview for the state television, PTV NEWS, PTV World as well as recording a message for World Radio Day for Radio Pakistan. During her two day

stay in Pakistan the UNESCO chief signed two important agreements: The Malala Funds-in-Trust for supporting better access, improved quality and safe learning environment for girls in hard-to-reach areas of Pakistan, with the Minister of State for Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education, Muhammad Baligh-Ur-Rehman; and an agreement with COMSATS rector, Junaid Zaidi, for the establishment of UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management at COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (WahCantt. Campus, Pakistan).



Secretary-General's message on World Radio Day.

13 FEBRUARY 2014

World Radio Day recognizes the unique role and impact of a medium that reaches the largest audience worldwide.

This year's observance highlights the need for radio broadcasters everywhere to promote the voice of women and to enhance the role of women within broadcast organizations.

The airwaves have frequently lagged behind when it comes to gender equality. Not nearly enough women's

voices are heard -- either in front or behind the microphone. Not nearly enough stories about women and girls are being told. And women make up only a quarter of the members of the boards of the world's media enterprises.

I encourage radio stations to be more inclusive by equally recognizing women in their staff and in their audience. Radio can also help dismantle stereotypical and imbalanced programming. This is an opportunity for every-

one. Let us celebrate this World Radio Day by saluting women in radio today -- and doing our utmost to nurture the new voices for tomorrow.













United Nations Pakistan



www.un.org.pk

The United Nations has a long-standing partnership with the people of Pakistan in support of national development goals. The United Nations has also been providing humanitarian assistance in case of natural disasters and crises. Led by the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations works in all eight administrative areas of Pakistan through 19 resident organizations. Straddling humanitarian assistance and sustainable development, the work of the United Nations in Pakistan includes key areas such as education, health, water & sanitation, nutrition, economic growth, employment and livelihoods, resilience against disaster, governance, gender equality and social justice.

The One UN Programme for Pakistan, United Nations focuses on accelerating progress towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals, reducing poverty, promoting opportunities for youth as well as advancing gender equality and human rights both at national and sub-national levels.

United Nations encourages economic growth in Pakistan through supporting policies and programmes that link small farmers to markets, improving working conditions for women and supporting home-based and domestic workers. It will also assist the Government in strengthening democratic processes and institutions at the federal, provincial and local levels. Tackling the effects of climate change and reducing Pakistan's vulnerabilities to natural disasters features especially prominently in the work of the United Nations in Pakistan in 2014.

