



## GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN AND UNITED NATIONS LAUNCH NEW FIVE YEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Islamabad, 21 December 2012 - The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the United Nations in Pakistan signed the One United Nations five year programme covering period from 2013 to 2017 (OP II) . Led by the Government of Pakistan and building on



expertise of the 18 participating UN agencies, the five year programme will contribute towards the achievement of key national development priorities in six areas:

- Vulnerable and marginalized populations have equitable access and use of quality services
- Inclusive economic growth through development of sustainable livelihoods
- Increased national resilience to disasters, crises and external shocks
- Strengthened governance and social cohesion
- Gender equality and social justice
- Food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable groups

### OP II Development

In developing the second One UN Programme for Pakistan, the UN has taken particular care to work closely with federal, provincial and regional governments, key donors, and a wide spectrum of civil society actors. Key milestones during the development process included:

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finalization of the Common Country Assessment (CCA), multi-stakeholder consultations in all provinces and regions of Pakistan (both with the political leadership and technical partners), completion of One Programme reviews, a National Prioritization Workshop, and a Strategic Prioritization Retreat (SPR) held with key national and provincial government partners to agree on priority areas and key outcomes.

Provincial and regional consultations formed the bedrock upon which the UN prioritization process was developed. This broad consultation ensured that there was provincial ownership and validation of OPII, which is especially important in light of the 18th Amendment. Lessons learned from OP I and the UN's comparative advantage have featured strongly in the development of OP II.

The Framework for Economic Growth (FEG) has provided a firm basis for UN engagement with Pakistan's emerging national development priorities. In addition, provincial and regional plans and consultations have influenced UN's prioritization substantively.

## Post 2015 Development Agenda

As the MDGs Framework approaches its target date of 2015, global consultations have started to discuss and propose what is called the post 2015 development agenda that will succeed the MDG framework. This UN led consultations process is being rolled out in multiple ways. These include global and regional face to face consultations on different themes and with diverse stakeholders, online thematic consultations and national consultations in more than 100 countries including Pakistan. The objective of the entire consultation process is to get feedback from diverse stakeholders, especially the poor and marginalized, on the contours of the post 2015 development agenda.

The objective of the consultation process in Pakistan is to compile inputs to inform the global post 2015 development agenda from Pakistan perspective. The Pakistan consultation process has been designed around three pillars; an analysis of the existing knowledge base (situational analysis studies, government policy documents etc); face to face consultative meetings with government representatives, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), community representatives, experts, politicians, thought leaders and; web based online discussions.

The Pakistan consultation process is led by the UN Resident Coordinator who is supported by a UN Task Team consisting of ILO, UNDP, UNWOMEN and UNESCO. UNDP is providing administrative and funding support for the consultation process.

At the signing ceremony EAD Secretary Mr. Javed Iqbal said that "Pakistan is one of the founding members of the United Nations "Delivering as One" reform process that has led to the establishment of the first One UN Programme (2009-12). Signing of this second generation One UN Programme signifies government's appreciation of the partnership with the United Nations and commitment to UN reform. The new One UN Programme represents an investment in further strengthening the effectiveness of our cooperation with the UN to ensure maximum benefit to the people of Pakistan".

UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Timo Pakkala said that "Through the next One UN Programme, UN continues to support social and economic development in Pakistan, including the achievement of the MDGs, poverty reduction, gender equality and reduction of risks from disasters. The six priority areas of this programme reflect strategic transformational potential of the UN system in Pakistan. The UN organizations working in Pakistan represent a wealth of technical expertise and global good practices at the disposal of the nation."

The face to face consultation started on 20th December 2012. So far consultative meetings have been held with CSOs in Islamabad, Lahore and Quetta. Diverse groups of CSOs working on different themes have participated in these consultations. In addition, a panel discussion has been held in Islamabad with a group of experts / thought leaders in Islamabad. The reports of all these consultations are being compiled.

Pakistan specific online forum has been established at <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/pakistan2015>. Registration on this platform is done through an email notification from UNDP. Readers are encouraged to share their email addresses with [shakeel.ahmad@undp.org](mailto:shakeel.ahmad@undp.org) for registration on this online platform.

Further consultative meetings are planned with CSOs in Karachi and Peshawar next week (starting 23rd January 2013). Similarly consultations with the government representatives at the Federal and Provincial level and different community representatives will take place in the next couple of weeks. . In partnership with a CSOs network, focused group discussions with grassroots communities have also been planned.

The key output of all these consultations will be a Key Messages Report on the Pakistan specific priorities for the post 2015 development agenda. This output will be submitted to the UN Development Group before 31st March

## COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

### The Planning Commission of Pakistan and UNDP launch the Inclusive Growth Centre

Islamabad, 12 December, 2012: The Planning Commission of Pakistan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the Inclusive Growth Center (IGC) Project in Islamabad. The launch ceremony was attended by Dr. Nadeem-Ul-Haq, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific (by video link), UN officials, Ambassadors, Heads of Development Agencies and Secretaries of Economic Affairs Division, Finance Division and Planning Commission.



UNDP – Launch of Inclusive Growth Centre

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haq, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission; Mr. Timo Pakkala, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative; Mr. Jean-Luc Stalon, Country Director (a.i.) UNDP (Left to right)

The IGC will provide support to the federal government in implementing the New Economic Growth Framework and to the provincial governments in developing and implementing their own growth and development strategies. It will serve

as a hub of knowledge and resources to spur inclusive growth through improving market efficiency, connectivity, economic governance and innovation. The center will also facilitate national and sub-national governments accelerate implementation of selected Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through developing MDG Acceleration Frameworks. The IGC will also provide policy advice and support to institutional and legislative reforms linked to growth. It will create policy communities and knowledge networks in priority thematic areas backed with advocacy and research to inform decision making. It will also support Results Based Management at the federal and provincial level and will promote competition through establishing an Innovation challenge fund.

Dr. Nadeem-Ul-Haq, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, said the establishment of the center is a step forward in the Government's efforts to strengthen economy and create stability. He encouraged everyone to promote inclusive development to ensure that benefits are distributed equitably and appreciated the help and support provided by UNDP in establishing the IGC.

Dr. Ajay Chhibber, UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific, apprised the participants about UNDP's wide-ranging experience in supporting similar initiatives worldwide including Brazil, Norway, and Kenya and emphasized that growth can only be sustainable and inclusive if the government and development partners focus on both macro and micro level reforms.

### National Consultations to Improve International Labour Standards (ILS) Reporting

Islamabad: Pakistan is taking steps to streamline its reporting obligation on the ratified International Labour Conventions to the ILO's Supervisory Bodies. In this regard, a joint action plan agreed by the four provincial Labour Departments in a workshop jointly organized by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD) and the ILO was held on Dec 18-19, in Bhurban. This action plan will enable the Ministry of Human Resource Development to seek timely reports from the provincial Labour Departments on the reporting against ILO Conventions, discuss the reports with the representatives of employers' and workers'

organizations before submitting it to the ILO's Supervisory Bodies.

Mr. Muhammad Ahsan Raja Federal Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development said, "with the passage of 18th constitutional amendment, labour has become a provincial subject. However, Ministry of Human Resource Development still has the responsibility to report on the ratified ILO Conventions to the ILO's Supervisory Mechanism. He assured that the Government of Pakistan will continue to fulfill its commitments under the ratified ILO Conventions and coordinate with provincial labour





departments to ensure for the application of international labour standards and its reporting to the ILO.” He also thanked the ILO for its support to Pakistan to help improve reporting on the international labour standards and to promote decent work in the country.

On this occasion, while talking to the Participants, Mr. Francesco d’Ovidio, ILO Country Director, said “In post 18th constitutional amendment, for the purposes of reporting on the International Labour Standards the vertical link between the provincial labour departments and the Ministry of Human Resource Development needs to be strengthened for timely reporting. Pakistan has ratified 34 ILO Conventions including 8 core conventions. However, an institutional arrangement needs to be developed to ensure timely information flow between the federal and provincial governments on the ILS reporting. ILO is ready to provide necessary technical assistance to the MoHRD and the provincial labour department to develop this mechanism”.

Mr. K. M. Nauman, President Employers’ Federation of Pakistan, Brother Zahoor Awan, General Secretary Pakistan Worker’s Federation, in their statement also stressed the need to improve Pakistan’s reporting on the International labour standards. Dr. M. Saifullah Chaudhry, Senior

Programme Officer, ILO, explained the ILO’s supervisory mechanism and the various complaint mechanisms that are in place.

Mr. Faizal Tirmizi, Director to Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in his technical presentation highlighted the importance of effective reporting on the ratified ILO Conventions and recommended measures to be adopted to improve reporting. Mr M. Javaid Gill, Central Labour Advisor MoHRD in his presentation identified the challenges that ministry face in compiling reporting on the ratified ILO conventions.

Mr. Coen Kompier, Specialist on Labour Standards, ILO Sub-regional Decent Work Team, in a skype call briefed the participants on the reporting requirements by member states on the ILO ratified conventions. Participants asked various questions to better understand the reporting system.

The workshop was attended by five-member delegations from each of the four provincial Labour Departments. The workshop concluded with an action plan to be followed with clear timelines and action points to improve Pakistan’s reporting on the ILO conventions.

## First Ever Professional Association of Career Counselors Launched by ILO

Islamabad, 21 December 2012: The first ever professional Association for ‘Career Counselors and Vocational Guides’ has been launched by International Labour Organization (ILO). The Association will comprise of the trained and qualified Career Counselors and it will help in professionalization of Career Counseling sector in Pakistan.

Unfortunately, during the last 65 years, the Career counseling sector could not get due attention and that is the reason for almost negligible outputs of Career counseling in the country. As a result, the young women and men could not make informed decisions about their career paths and majority of them join different fields – just as a matter of luck and opportunity mostly resulting into ‘wrong person in wrong jobs’.

The Association was launched at the concluding session of a 5-day training course organized by ILO on ‘*Institutionalizing Career counseling & Vocational Guidance*’ in Lahore. This was the second training course in the series. The first course took place in Karachi early December 2012.

“Career counseling and vocational guidance services are essential for facilitating nation’s human resources to right opportunities, where they can perform to their full potential”, observed Managing Director Punjab Vocational Training Council, Sajid Naseer. The five-day intensive training workshop was organized by International Labour Organization’s project titled, “*Empowering Vulnerable groups through employment, Education and Training (EET)*”. The training is being organized by FCG Human Capital. Mr. Naseer also highlighted the need for a coherent and integrated approach towards career counseling, which involves both public and private sectors.

Mr. Saad Gilani, Senior Program Officer, ILO, highlighted the role of ILO in promoting employment and employability of people through technical and vocational training across Pakistan especially in Punjab. “Effective vocational training is not possible without proper career counseling of those who enroll in such programs. Vocational guidance is an established practice all over the world and is required as a Life-Cycle Approach’, i.e starting from primary education and up to the retirement of a professional.

Career counseling is vital for labour force development of a country. Effective career counseling is about providing employment information and career guidance to all those who need them especially those who cannot afford to pay for this service; it is also about assessing the potential of the candidate and then matching the advice to best suit his or her circumstances. "Matching individual's skills and talents with the job requirement has now become a complex activity and can no longer be delivered by untrained people". He hoped that the participants would benefit from the training, the first- of- its-kind in Pakistan.

Career counseling and vocational guidance has increasingly been recognized as an important element of employment promotion and efficient labour market practices. Pakistan's youth need to be guided to proper vocations and employment opportunities that best exploits their talents.

Shadab Fariduddin, CEO, FCG Human Capital, opined that this was a pioneering effort by ILO to institutionalize career

counseling and vocational guidance in Pakistan. Pakistan would join the ranks of those countries where career development profession is well established. Participants would become founding members of professional association that will represent Pakistan on global forums. Workshop participants came from universities, Punjab TEVTA, PVTC, development sector organizations and colleges. This event is part of ILO's broader agenda to institutionalize career counseling and vocational guidance in Pakistan, which suffers from a severe shortage of trained and qualified career counselors. Punjab's vocational and technical education system produced more than one hundred thousand graduates in various trades offered by some 700 institutions under PVTC and Punjab TEVTA. However, there are no well-trained career counselors to guide the students in the system. With the help of ILO, first batch of 30 persons have now been trained in career counseling and vocational guidance skills. Similarly, another 30 career counselors were trained in Sindh early this month.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2012

### Pakistan marks Human Rights Day 2012

**1** 0 December 2012 , Islamabad – Government of Pakistan and the United Nations Pakistan marked Human Rights Day by declaring that everyone has the right to be heard and to shape the decisions that affect their lives and communities. The event was held at the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Islamabad, which was attended by the federal ministers, parliamentarians, ambassadors, representatives of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and various human right activists.



H.E, Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in his address vowed to protect the rights of minorities, fighting terrorism and to secure children and working on a peaceful environment.

He said that the world has acknowledged Pakistan's role in protecting human rights, highlighting Pakistan's membership in the UN Human Rights Council for three years, with 171 out of 191 countries supporting its membership.

He said the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights is a complete and broad document which covered all aspects of the fundamental rights of human beings regardless of any discrimination.

**On the occasion, Prime Minister's Adviser on Human Rights Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar said that the government of Pakistan was carrying forward the agenda of ensuring human rights on priority. He called upon the social and government institutions, media and ministries to join hands for protecting human rights in the country.**

The United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr. Timo Pakkala lauded the country's effort to protect human rights of its citizens. He was also appreciative of initiatives taken for human rights and protection of women's right by the government.

"The government and people of Pakistan can be proud of many achievements in advancing human rights. Recent legislative initiatives such as the National Commission of

Human Rights Bill, the Women in Distress and Detention Fund Bill, National Commission for Women Bill and Prevention of Anti Women Practices Bill are important

accomplishments.”



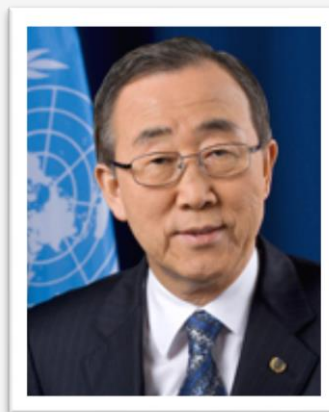
As part of day’s celebration, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held a high-level event at its Paris headquarters in support of girls’ education, with a special tribute to Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year-old girl who was shot by the Taliban in October for her efforts to defend the education of girls in her native Pakistan.

The General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December 1948 – and the date has since served to mark Human Rights Day worldwide. The UDHR sets out a broad range of fundamental human rights and freedoms to which all men and women, everywhere in the world, are entitled, without any distinction.

### Quotes from the UN Secretary-General

#### International Human Solidarity Day 20 December 2012

“On International Human Solidarity Day I call on all citizens of the world to help us advance solidarity as a global family – and reach our shared goals.”



#### Human Rights Day 10 Dec 2012

“Everyone has the right to be heard and to shape the decisions that affect their community. This right is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and fully integrated in international law, especially in article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights”

#### International Migrants Day 2012 18 Dec 2012

“Every moment, around the world, people leave their countries in search of a safer or better life. Globally, more than 214 million people are on the move. Many flee difficult conditions only to face even greater struggles, including human rights violations, poverty and discrimination. But these migrants have more than fear and uncertainty; they also possess hopes, courage and the resolve to build a better life. With the right support, they can contribute to society’s progress.”

#### International Volunteer Day 5 Dec 2012

“As we celebrate the impact of volunteers on our world, let us remember the many places they are needed: in war zones and classrooms, in hospitals and homes – wherever struggling people seek a helping hand.

On this Day, let us renew our determination to offer strength and inspiration to others through volunteerism.”

## ATTACK ON POLIO HEALTH WORKERS

### United Nations Pakistan strongly condemns the recent attacks on Polio Vaccinators

**“The Secretary General joins the World Health Organisation and UNICEF in condemning these senseless and inexcusable attacks on health workers.” UN spokesperson Martin Nesirky**

The United Nations family in Pakistan condemns in the strongest possible terms the attacks on polio vaccinators.

These are not just attacks on highly devoted health workers and volunteers, but on the health of Pakistan’s children. The provision of basic health services, including vaccination, is a fundamental human right and to deny this access through violence and intimidation is unacceptable.

The safety of health and development workers must be secured and the provision of health and social services must remain neutral and free of interference.

All UN agencies in Pakistan and around the world, join the Government and people of Pakistan in expressing our sympathy to the families of those health workers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to ensure no child is paralyzed from polio in Pakistan again.



## EDUCATION FIRST

### President signs the Federal Bill – Right to free and compulsory education 2012

Islamabad – 19 December 2012: President Asif Ali Zardari signed the Federal Bill on Compulsory Education at a ceremony in Karachi on 19 December 2012. Speaking on the occasion, the President said getting basic education will be the basic right of each child under this law. This bill guarantees free quality education for approximately 70,000 out-of-school children in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Last July, the Bill known as “Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill 2012” was passed by the Senate and later this October was unanimously passed in national assembly. UNESCO as a lead agency of United Nations was also present during the signing ceremony held today in Karachi.

This signing of Bill was timely, as President Zardari pledged 10 Million US Dollars to education and specially girls’ education in a high-level advocacy meeting held in Paris, organized by UNESCO and Government of Pakistan. Speaking at the occasion, President said, “Our government

is committed to Education and we have made the necessary constitutional provisions which were not present before. Article 25-A, is one such provision which has made education right of all the children in Pakistan”.

The ceremony was participated by a large number of educationists, parliamentarians and Civil Society Organizations.

Some two years back, UNESCO, Islamabad facilitated preparation of the draft Bill on the “Right to Free and Compulsory Education”, on the request of Senate Standing Committee. The draft Bill was reviewed and submitted to and subsequently passed by the Senate of Pakistan back on 9th July 2012 and approved in National Assembly two weeks back for Islamabad Capitol Territory. This ICT bill will be a good practice for provinces to follow. Provinces are working on formulating similar legislative acts to ensure total enrollments of children of age 6 to 16 are equipped with school education.

### European Union Nobel Peace Prize awarded to help build foundation of peace for children: UNICEF and UNHCR among five agencies to benefit

**B**RUSSELS/New York/Islamabad, 18 December 2012 – The decision by the European Union (EU) to give a portion of the Nobel Prize award to UNICEF, means that more children in Pakistan will have better chance at education and learning.

UNICEF is among five humanitarian organizations to receive funds for programming in complex emergencies from the EU which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on 10 December 2012. The EU also announced that in addition to its prize money of €930,000 (\$1.2 million), it will top up its donation to a total of €2 million for education in emergencies projects towards the EU Children of Peace initiative.

"We are honoured and grateful to the EU - not for UNICEF itself, but for the children we serve," said Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director.

Complex emergencies can have a deep and lasting effect on children – physically, psychologically and emotionally. Education helps children learn skills to develop values and attitudes that prevent conflict and build peace.

The funds will benefit 3,000 Pakistani children from 3-9 years old in 30 camp schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The education packages for the displaced include school-in-a-box supplies, training for teachers, education for peace training and psychosocial counseling that will help children cope with traumatic experiences.

UNICEF congratulates the other recipients of the financial award: the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, UNHCR, Save the Children and the Norwegian Refugee Council.



## In Pakistan, flood-affected children get a second chance to attend school



**F**arhat, 14, sits in the sweltering heat, with a notebook in her hand, keenly awaiting her lesson on a hot summer day. She is the oldest student in this school, and certainly one of the brightest. She was admitted in the 2010-2011 school year, and within a year and half, she progressed to the third grade owing to her keen interest and eagerness to study. Her father, Ghulam Abbas, is a father of eight and works as a mason in their village, Basti Poly, located in Rajanpur district. He earns an average of US\$3 a day when he has a steady income, but that has been infrequent due to the economic downturn.



Farhat, middle, enjoys a light moment with a friend and fellow schoolmate. On her left is the social mobiliser.  
© UNICEF Pakistan/2012/Zeeshan Suhail

Despite being heavily affected by the 2010 floods, Ghulam and his wife believed that the children needed to be educated. Farhat's previous school was destroyed, and the structure which replaced the school was insufficient for the growing number of students. As part of the project, social mobilizers met with local community members and realized that there was immense interest from girls who wanted to continue learning. UNICEF constructed transitional school structures (TSS) in southern Punjab, including one in Farhat's village.

### **Education, interrupted**

UNICEF developed several TSS as an innovative, cost efficient solution to jumpstart the education of children whose schools were affected by the floods. In order to

create a learning environment conducive to student satisfaction, high quality insulated material is used in the construction of the TSS and the final approved design of the TSS provides room for cross ventilation and appropriate light. Each TSS includes child friendly furniture, attractive play material, essential school supplies and introduction of Early Childhood Education (ECE) classes.

### **Girls' empowerment through education**

Farhat's community benefited greatly from the newly constructed TSS. "We want to learn, but there are no schools for girls in our area, and we cannot walk 10 miles to go to a school", Farhat says. Her family allowed her to study at the TSS after UNICEF introduced an ECE class in the Basti Poly government primary school through provision of a female ECE care giver and attendant throughout 2011, but later her parents allowed her to continue her education when they found out that the son of a respected teacher from a nearby village was teaching the students.

Slowly and steadily, the trust of the community increased, and more students enrolled; the results were extraordinary. Farhat single-handedly recruited all her friends, who now enthusiastically attend classes in their two room temporary structure. "In our locality, the elders don't educate their daughters because they were not in favour of girls' education. Now they have realized that girls should also receive education. Our fellow students have also been counselled to accommodate us, and respect us, and so we don't face any problems while in school. Thanks to the social mobilizers and members of the youth group, the number of girls in our school has increased."



A student at Government Primary School Basti Poly proudly poses with his schoolbag.  
© UNICEF Pakistan/2012/Zeeshan Suhail



## Students of the Islamabad Japanese School visit UN-Habitat Islamabad Office



**D**ecember 12, 2012 : "Students of the Islamabad Japanese School visited UN-Habitat Islamabad office on December 12, 2012. They enjoyed meeting the staff and learning about UN-Habitat activities in Pakistan. They all received the "Indus River Game", a game that was developed by UN-Habitat to teach good and bad practices regarding water, hygiene, construction and environmental issues for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) purposes."



## Impact of the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees is taking shape in Pakistan

**O**n 12 December 2012, the Government of Pakistan (GoP) announced a six month extension of the stay of registered Afghan refugees until 30 June 2013. The GoP agreed that the Proof of Registration cards, last renewed in 2010 by the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), will remain valid until a new national strategy for Afghan refugees is determined.

The management and voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan is governed by a Tripartite Agreement. The Commission charged with coordinating implementation of the Agreement, which has previously been signed by UNHCR and the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan, is responsible for the ongoing dialogue on the gradual, safe, voluntary and dignified return of Afghan refugees to Afghanistan and the management of their stay in Pakistan. With the GoP's new announcement, this agreement has also been extended for six more months to ensure the voluntary and gradual return of the refugees.

The voluntary return of Afghans from Pakistan is also priority objective of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) that was endorsed at an international conference in Geneva in May 2012. The SSAR aims to allow more refugees to voluntarily return home and resume productive lives. It was in this connection that the UN refugee agency offered an enhanced return assistance package to every registered Afghan refugee who wished to return home voluntarily during November and December 2012.

The assistance package included the provision of non-food item (NFI) kits distributed to the returning families at the Chamkani, Timargara and Balelia Voluntary Repatriation Centres (VRCs). Refugee families were also offered financial assistance towards the transport costs from the VRCs in Pakistan to the Encashment Centres in Afghanistan.

Overall, in 2012, the voluntary repatriation trends indicated a 40 per cent increase in the number of Afghan refugees returning to their home country when compared to 2011. A total of over 83,000 individuals returned home last year. In the world's largest voluntary repatriation movement, UNHCR has assisted more than 3.8 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan to return to Afghanistan since 2002.

The Solutions Strategy also places emphasis on a second phase of the refugee affected and hosting areas (RAHA) initiative, requiring the implementation of up to US\$495 million worth of projects in Pakistan for assistance to communities that have hosted Afghan refugees. These projects focus on infrastructure development, water and sanitation, health, education, environment and livelihoods in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, as well as in FATA. An estimated 2.5 million Pakistanis and Afghans will benefit from the RAHA projects.

Between 2009 and December 2012, around 1,080 projects have been completed in 41 districts, mostly in the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, benefiting over 1.5 million people. These projects were jointly implemented by eight participating UN agencies and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). RAHA was extended in 2012 to Sindh, Punjab and FATA, when 496 projects were implemented.

In early December 2012, Pakistan's Minister of States and Frontier Regions - Engineer Shaukat Ullah and Mr. Neill Wright - UNHCR Representative in Pakistan visited Afghanistan to get a first-hand understanding of the development work in progress in some of the priority return areas in Afghanistan. Together with the Afghan Minister for Refugees and Repatriations, Dr. Jamaher Anwari, the delegation visited two high-return areas, Kochi Abad near Kabul and Shashpool near Bamyan, where they met returnees from Pakistan.

## WFP Logistics – No waters too high in Pakistan

Responding to emergencies is what WFP does best and it is often the first agency on the ground. While this is WFP's strong suit, the skills and knowledge of its logisticians have been a key element in achieving this. And to get food to the hungry, the team has to negotiate some very tough terrain. An emergency often requires a cargo drop from aircraft or a helicopter airlift, but there are other options too. This is what WFP Pakistan logistics team did in 2012 floods in Sindh and Balochistan:



The heavy monsoon rain in north Sindh and Balochistan in early September 2012 quickly developed into a crisis across the affected areas. Nearly 5 million people were affected by the floods, displaced from their homes, left without access to food and key health services.

The route linking Sindh with Balochistan was a significant logistical bottleneck for the emergency response operation. Food assistance could be trucked to Jacobabad from the Karachi port and elsewhere, but the route from Jacobabad to Jaffarabad was under 5 to 6 feet of water.

In an effort to provide a one-month food ration to 10,000 families in Balochistan's two districts Jaffarabad and Naseerabad, the logistics team launched an assessment mission to the affected areas using 4 x 4 vehicles and boats, to assess all possibilities of delivering food aid along the route between Jacobabad and Jaffarabad, a distance of 20 km. The conditions meant that tractor trollies were the only means of transport capable of delivering the food through the submerged roads.

## UNESCO and SPARCO hold technical dialogue for Flood Mitigation

Islamabad - 12 December 2012: "Having 3,600 miles of river, we are in need of having capacities of river hydrologist, or river morphologist in Pakistan; which we don't have presently -- this reflects on our understanding and appreciation of having a rich resource of water which goes back to 200,000 years in this region, and our weakness in capacity to manage it."

WFP logistics decided to mount a test tractor trolley convoy. A total of 28 metric tons of food, enough to provide rations for 500 families had arrived in Jacobabad on 26th September from Sukkur logistics hub. The food was loaded on to eight tractor trollies and covered with plastic sheeting to keep the water out during the journey.

There were serious doubts as to whether the tractors could make it through the flooded sections of the road. The drivers had to drive along a very narrow muddy road for more than 5 km even before reaching the flooded section. The convoy nevertheless forged ahead and eventually made it through in six hours.



All eight tractors reached their destination and the food assistance was delivered to Jaffarabad for distribution to affected people who had until then been completely cut off.

Keeping in view success of first convoy, another convoy of 32 tractors was arranged the following day. The logistics operation lasted for nine days, utilizing a total of 367 tractors and trollies, moving 560 tons of different types of food commodities, enough to provide a one-month ration to more than 70,000 people.

These remarks were given by Mr. Kamal Majeedullah, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Water and Agriculture, at the opening session of International workshop on "Flood Risk Mapping using Spatial Technologies", held today in COMSTECH, Islamabad. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere



Research Commission (SUPARCO) jointly organized this workshop, in collaboration with Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Federal Flood Commission.

The international workshop is part of the project of UNESCO on “Strengthening Flood Warning and Management Capacity in Pakistan”, funded by Government of Japan through JICA.

Showing his confidence on the project, Mr. Hiroshi Oe, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, told the participants that Government of Japan has contributed US\$3.6 Million to Pakistan through UNESCO, who is developing capacities of institutions and increasing national resilience mechanisms to deal with the hazards of floods.

### Pak-Brazil Seminar on Food Security and Poverty Alleviation

SLAMABAD –3 December 2012: The Brazilian Embassy, The Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the WFP, FAO and SDPI promoted a full-day seminar at Marriott, the Pak-Brazil Seminar on Food Security and Poverty Alleviation on 3 December 2012.

Five Brazilian experts and a WFP expert came from Brazil especially for the occasion, to share their experiences and the main features of the vastly successful Brazilian policies on Food Security. The main goal of the event was for them to address the characteristics of the Brazilian Zero Hunger Program (“Programa Fome Zero”), a public program that helped lifting more than 40 million Brazilians from poverty and that served as model for the development of many policies around the world, including the Zero Hunger Action Plan, launched in March 2012 by the Pakistani Government.

The Seminar was divided into four sessions: opening session, first session, second session and closing session, and lasted from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On the opening session, authorities have spoken, as; Mr. Jean-Luc Siblot, Representative at the WFP; Dr. Kevin Gallagher, Representative FAO; Mr. Moazzam Ali Khan Jatoy, Minister of State of National Food Security and Research; Major General Tauqeer Ahmed, Managing Director PASSCO; H.E Alfredo Leoni, Ambassador of Brazil; Mr. Ahmad Lehari, Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Mr. Abdul Basit, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Chief Guest Mr. Nazar Gondal Federal Minister for Capital Administration and Development Division.

While sharing the achievements of the ongoing project, Director UNESCO Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata said, “The project is already on track for achieving its objectives. I am happy to share that we have made significant progress towards GSMAP and IFAS modeling of the Indus catchments, which is key deliverable of the project. First version of Knowledge platform for timely national, provincial and district level data sharing is functional.”

This project started back in July 2011 after the great flood of 2010 and torrential rains of 2011. The project would conclude in October 2013, with increased capacities to forecast floods in Indus River.

On the first session, entitled “Tackling Food insecurity through policy”, public policy issues were addressed. Mr. Edgard Aparecido de Moura, Counsellor at the Brazilian

National Food and Nutrition Security Council, presented the Brazilian National Policy for Food and Nutritional Security; Ms. Marina Lima, Specialist in Public Policies and Governmental Administration, of the Brazilian Ministry of Agrarian Development; discussed the Brazilian experience on strengthening family agriculture; Mr. Vicente Puhl, Special Advisor for Program Development, Presidency of the National Company of Food Supply, talked about the large food procurement program carried out by the Brazilian Government; and, to finish; Ms. Cassia Amaral, from the General Coordination of the National School Food Program, National Fund for the Development of Education, presented the case of the school feeding program in Brazil. In the end Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Chairman PARC shared his views.

After lunch, on the second session, called “Tackling food insecurity and poverty through cooperation”, Mr. Edgard Aparecido de Moura again addressed the audience talking about the importance of an inclusive and participative process to the design and implementation of public policies on food security; Mr. Marcos Lopes, from the General Coordination of International Actions Against Hunger, of Ministry of External Relations, shared the Brazilian experience and recent efforts in sustainable humanitarian cooperation; and, to finish, Ms. Cynthia Jones, Deputy Director of the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger

of the WFP, presented the work of the Center of Excellence in Brazil, which is the only of such Centers in the world.

On the closing ceremony, after the remarks from Dr. Abid Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, who summarized the

main ideas discussed during the seminar and pointed some of the challenges faced by Pakistan and Chief Guest, Mr. Nadeem Afzal Chann, Chairman Public Accounts Committee, thanked all the participants, especially the Brazilian Experts, for their contribution.

### A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Federal Judicial Academy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for legal empowerment of the poor

Islamabad, 17 December, 2012: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) organized by the Legal Empowerment of the Poor (LEP) programme. The Honorable Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Nasirul Mulk was the chief guest.

The event is a landmark achievement for UNDP and the Federal Judicial Academy since it is for the first time that the FJA signed the MoU with a development agency. This agreement between the two parties would formally shape the partnership in areas of policy engagement, infrastructure and IT support, capacity building and research and advocacy. For UNDP, this agreement represents a complete plan of action for modernizing the judicial academies and transforming them into centers of excellence.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Jean-Luc Stalon, Country Director (a.i.) UNDP said, "We see this as an investment in



#### UNDP – UNOPS

Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk, Honorable judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan; Mr. Parvaiz Ali Chawla, Director General of Federal Judicial Academy; Mr. Jean-Luc Stalon, Country Director (a.i.) UNDP; Mr. Mikko Lainejoki, Country Director UNOPS (left to right)

the future of the entire justice system in Pakistan. It reflects our faith in the ability of this system to meet the expectations of the poor and vulnerable citizens of this country. It reflects our trust in the Federal Judicial Academy to lead the way toward this vision."

### At Triangular Initiative Ministerial Meeting, UNODC Chief stresses regional cooperation in the face of illicit drug threat

18 December 2012 - Speaking at the end of a one-day mission to Tehran, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov noted the many challenges related to the flow of opiates from Afghanistan, but also highlighted the achievements of the Triangular Initiative, a body working to halt this movement. "The close collaboration between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan is achieving operational successes. More than eight tons of drugs have been seized in 17 operations planned and coordinated by the Joint Planning Cell, which is one of the key features of the Triangular Initiative," said Mr. Fedotov.

The Triangular Initiative has existed since 2007 and brings together the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran and

Pakistan to build good relations and to develop the strategies necessary to interrupt the flow of opiates out of Afghanistan.

As part of his mission, Mr. Fedotov met with the Ministers of counter-narcotics from the three countries in the margins of the Triangular Initiative meeting to discuss issues of interest on drugs and drug control policy.

West and Central Asia confront organized crime threats, corruption, instability, HIV/AIDS and increased drug consumption due to trafficking in opiates. Globally, it is estimated that around 100,000 people die every year due to



opiates trafficked from Afghanistan, Myanmar and other smaller producers.

Afghanistan produces around 90 per cent of the world's opiates, and the southern part of the country is the world's largest opium producing region. Based on UNODC's recent Afghan Opium Survey 2012 the net opium cultivation in Afghanistan, after eradication, has increased from 131,000 ha in 2011 to around 153,000 ha in 2012 - an increase of 17 per cent. However, production appears to have declined from 5,800 tons in 2011 to 3,600 tons in 2012 which represents a fall of 38 per cent. Most of Afghanistan's opiates are trafficked through Iran and Pakistan, partly for local consumption, but mostly for shipment to more profitable markets.

In one of the keynote speeches at the Sixth Triangular Initiative Ministerial meeting, Mr. Fedotov called for joint patrols and operations as a regular practice. He said these operations should also be based on the real-time exchange of information and intelligence between the three countries. According to the Executive Director, there also needs to be a strengthening of drug control maritime

cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, as well as other regional players.

"I cannot overemphasize the importance of a maritime response to illicit drugs and crime. The criminals are using the seas around Western Asia to their advantage and we must coordinate to increase the risk of their detection," said Mr. Fedotov.

But a focus on law enforcement was not enough said Mr. Fedotov: "We must also consider the enormous health implications of drug use in the region. A response to drug demand is a priority. We need to increase exchanges and technical cooperation in the areas of treatment of drug use and control of the spread of HIV/AIDS among drug users."

UNODC operates country programmes for Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, as well as in Central Asian countries. They are part of a strategy strengthened by the launch of a Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries in 2011. A Regional Programme for South East Europe was also launched this year to counter the flow of Afghan opium along the so-called Balkans route.

### Government, Employers and Workers Organisations sign 'Joint Statement of Commitment' to promote 'Safety and Health at Workplace' in Sindh province

*The Government of Sindh jointly with stakeholders has developed a consensus for action plan to prevent Baldia Factory Fire like incidents in future during a day long consultation in Karachi.*

**K**ARACHI - The Government of Sindh jointly with stakeholders has developed a consensus for action plan to prevent Baldia Factory Fire like incidents in future. Almost 300 representatives of employers, workers, government officials, international buyers, civil society, academia, and media deliberated in a day long consultation in Karachi and provided key recommendations for the Plan of Action on Safety and Health at Workplace.

The workshop was organized by Sindh Labour Department, Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP), and Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) and the ILO. A "Statement of Commitment" was also agreed and signed by Sindh Labour Department, EFP and PWF to jointly work and promote health and safety at work. Secretary Labour Arif Elahi announced that the Labour Department will launch the Action Plan by end of January 2013. He said that his Department will not tolerate any slackness in the enforcement of relevant labour laws.

ILO Country Director Mr. Francesco d'Ovidio said that ILO will provide all technical facilities to the Sindh Labour Department for development and implementation of Plan of Action to promote safety and health at workplace. He said it was unfortunate that many workers lost their lives in single preventable accidents of factory fire. He passionately appealed to the stakeholders to come together and help prevent such accidents in future.

Ms. Ingrid Christensen, ILO's technical expert on occupational safety and health said that factory fires are preventable if right systems, training and response mechanisms are put in place. She made technical suggestions for the workshop participants to deliberate for the improvement of labour inspection system, establishing an occupational safety and health at work place, and strengthening the work injury insurance schemes to help protect workers.

Brother Zahoor Awan, General Secretary, Pakistan Workers Federation, while appreciating the efforts of the Sindh Labour Department and ILO, demanded that workers must be registered and should not be considered as machines or tools. Zaki Ahmed, Acting President of Employers Federation of Pakistan also suggested that employers should be made

aware of safety related legislations and implication of non-compliance. Mr. Kermat Ali, Executive Director PILER suggested the need to help improve the Labour Inspection Systems in the province.

The workshop participants in three parallel technical sessions, on Occupational Safety and Health, Labour Inspection, and Work Injury Insurance Schemes, benefited from technical presentations of various resource persons. Subsequently, there were extensive and frank discussions on the respective issue and specific recommendations were also developed.

The objective of this tripartite consultation was to help promote safety and health at workplace with the technical support of the ILO. The workshop recommended for

Government to strengthen Labour inspection, establishing mechanism to ensure safety and health at workplace, consider extending social security coverage to the informal sector, Government should ensure that employer register their work force under the social security scheme; and harmonize social security schemes.

More than 500 representative of government, employers, workers, civil society, international buyers, academic, and media attended the concluding session. ILO Country Director presented the recommendation of the workshop. The Secretary Labour Sindh, General Secretary Pakistan Workers Federation and Acting President of Employers Federation of Pakistan presented the signed "Statement of Commitment" to the ILO Country Director depicting their will to jointly help promote safety and health at workplace.

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