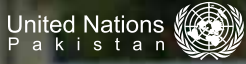


# UNITED NATIONS PAKISTAN



Newsletter

January-February 2015

## Focus on

Creating sustainable societies with sport.

Islamabad's street kids learn life skills through sports.

Sports is vital for every child's development.

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### REAL LIVES: STORIES FROM THE FIELD

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# United Nations P a k i s t a n



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# Creating sustainable societies with sport



Children are our future and our hope for a better world. They are the building blocks of our societies and towards the progress being envisaged today - a world where peace, unity, and development flourish. The United Nations recognizes the need to fully support the promotion of children and is active in delivering needed efforts in areas both near and far. Sport plays a unique role in addressing needs in many sectors of society, particularly in developing countries, where young individuals may not receive the experiential opportunities essential for their full development and social change. As the Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace my mandate is to advocate, facilitate, and represent the UN's efforts in promoting the role and use of sport in improving

societies. This is way I am very glad that the United Nations in Pakistan has been able to organize the Right to Peace Cup – an educational football tournament for street children in Islamabad. This initiative will be vital in providing a free, safe, inclusive and interactive space where those affected by poverty and injustice can learn about important social topics while engaging in fun games and guided training sessions. The Right to Peace Cup, like many other projects and initiatives taking place around the world shows how engaging in sport can be a viable means to achieving sustainable futures. The positive values inherent in this form of activity - such as respect, team spirit and fair play - can be strategic in building children through the transfer of basic life skills, awareness-raising on important so-

cio-economic issues and responsive actions towards such problems.

Sport is a universally recognized form of activity that blends in elements of enjoyment, self-fulfilment and friendship, further aiding in the advancement of young members of all communities. Major areas that are being emphasized and promoted in and through sport include gender equality, social inclusion, quality education, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and post-trauma relief efforts.

As one of the largest benefactors and participants of sport, children are an imperative subject in the field of sport. The International Convention on the Rights of the Child acknowledges the need to provide a safe and inclusive environment where children can engage freely in leisure and play activities – it further acts as a guiding force to ensure that sport is appropriately and effectively utilized in a way that counters risks and protects livelihoods. Through such frameworks and responsive actions such as the Right to Peace Cup, sport will continue to actively recognize, nurture and promote all children deserving a life full of happiness and hope.

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**Mr. Wilfried Lemke**

Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace

# Islamabad's street kids learn life skills through sports



Kinza Kausar, 13 years old, was very excited to be on the winning team in “Right to Peace” football tournament and educational event for street children. “We had a lot of fun and made friends. What we learnt was life skills, fair play, respecting ourselves and others, football rules and teamwork. All these were through play and games above all we learnt importance of human dignity”, she said with confidence and satisfaction. Kinza now hopes to

bring positive changes to the lives of other street children with what she learned at the four-day event. Recognising the importance of sports in children’s development and as a tool to advocate for their right to peace, the United Nations teamed up with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Right to Play International and the Mashal Model School to organise the tournament. Germany made a valuable contribution by do-

ating PKR 460,000 for this project. Some 30 underprivileged male and female children, aged 10-14 played in the tournament and learned about child labour, early marriage, gender equity, nutrition, child protection, education, peace and tolerance. The learning sessions were conducted on the side-lines of the football matches by professional trainers from Right to Play International and officials from the UN, including ILO and UNFPA. The final match was followed by the awarding of the “Right to Peace” cup and a jumbo version of the Brazuka, the official football of the 2014 FIFA World Cup, donated by the Embassy of Brazil. The tournament concluded with renewed commitments of partnerships to explore how sports can be empower Pakistani youth and how sport for development can be brought to the rest of the country.





# Sports is vital for every child's development



Children are the hope and promise of the future of a nation. It is my conviction that we have to work together to ensure children's rights are respected everywhere in the world. Every child has a right to get proper education above all the discriminations of gender, ethnicity, social status or religion. Physical education - sports - is a crucial part of all good curricula. Right to Play International, International Labour Organization

and United Nation Population Fund have taken a great step to provide children the opportunities to learn about child labour, early marriage, gender equity, nutrition, child protection, education, peace and tolerance. We are very happy to be part of this collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre. Sports are vital for every child's development. It is a tool to advocate children's right to peace. I am particular-

ly happy to see this initiative is about football. Last year, Germany won the football World Cup. As you probably know, the footballs for the World Cup were produced in Sialkot in Pakistan. We therefore consider the World Cup another great example of German-Pakistani cooperation. When I saw the young kids getting enthusiastic about playing football, I could already tell we will have good Pakistani football players in the future. I am in particular looking forward to seeing a Pakistani female national team - I am sure they would do great. We shall continue to promote sports to foster development, peace and respect for diversity at grassroots and community levels.

**H.E. Dr. Cyrill Nunn,**  
German Ambassador

## Gul bibi delivered safely by knowing in advance that she had a high-risk pregnancy



Gul bibi, a 23 year old female was 6 months pregnant when she was forced to leave her house in North Waziristan, following the armed conflict. Her husband who was a shopkeeper before displacement, was not able to find work in Bannu forcing them to live with relatives in DHO colony, Bannu city along with their 3 daughters and other family members.

Gul bibi's had been suffering from hot flushes in her last trimester (last three months of pregnancy), and had never been to a health facility despite having delivered three live babies and two stillbirths previously in North Waziristan.

During an awareness raising session conducted by one of the UNFPA-Muslim Aid's Health Promoters on "Danger Signs during Pregnancy", Gul Bibi got

to know about the importance of visiting health facilities during pregnancy – even during displacement and crisis settings. The staff referred her to Zanana Hospital – one of health facilities supported by UNFPA-Muslim Aid.

The next morning, Gul bibi was accompanied by her mother in law to the Zanana Hospital and found out that her blood pressure was dangerously high. On that night Gul bibi felt cramps in her abdomen and was rushed to the hospital, and the following morning a baby boy was born.

The story of Gul bibi and her baby were spread out across relatives and the communities. 'Thank you very much, that the health staff saved my wife and baby just in time.' said her husband.

UNFPA and its partner Muslim Aid

support the health authority to meet basic needs through its project "Provision of Basic Reproductive Health Services through Implementation of Minimum Initial Services Package". The multi-pronged approach of the project focuses not only on the provision of life saving health services, but also raising awareness and community mobilization. The recent North Waziristan conflict in the northern part of the country has displaced more that 1 million people. Among them it is estimated more than 250,000 are women of reproductive age. More than 30,000 women are presently pregnant amongst the population affected for whom it is crucial to safeguard to save delivery, adequate health staff and referral system.

# Working for a healthier generation: reaching out to communities



Playing with his cousins, 2 year old Mehran seems to be just like any other toddler, comfortable with his surroundings at home. He gives a peal of laughter and lunges after a small puppy the children have been chasing around the muddy compound. The children quieten up as they see Shazia, a Lady Health Worker (LHW) enter the house. She is a familiar face here as she visits this family every other week to check on the health of women and children in the family.

Mehran along with his two younger cousins Ayan (18 months) and Fizza (16 months), suffered from recurrent diarrhoea throughout the summer months due to unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation, along with poor hygiene practices. Families in this area associate such



symptoms/illnesses in children with myths and superstitions, preferring to take children to the local cleric for prayer. "I asked the mother to accompany me to the BHU for management of diarrhoea and seek advice from the nutrition assistant." Shazia said as she convinced the family to visit BHU.

Faryal, the Nutrition Assistant at BHU Mahabbat Abad immediately initiated treatment by providing Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), and other medicines as per standard procedure.

With proper treatment provided at the BHU, Mehran started to show signs of improvement. This convinced the parents of his other cousins to take their children to the BHU as well.

The BHU staff also provides counselling to mothers about the importance of having their children immunized against vaccine preventable diseases including Polio. The community now has greater acceptance towards water, sanitation and hygiene services, immunization and



nutrition which are critical underlying determinants of the continuing circulation of wild polio virus in Pakistan.

Mahabbat Abad is among the 60 Union Councils which are benefiting from UNICEF's Polio Plus initiative. The project is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which has provided 20 million Canadian dollars and targets priority high risk polio endemic areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Ambreen Qazi, Nutrition officer at UNICEF says that the program is contributing positively to Polio eradication efforts through treatment of malnutrition.



# Providing chickens to help flood-affected farmers enhance their nutrition and incomes.

**“Thanks to FAO, our family has a source of food and income,”** says Bhoori Shanker, a young mother of six living in Imran Khatiyani Village, Mirpurkhas District of Sindh Province.

Bhoori, her husband Shanker and their children are among the 500 flood-affected poor farmer families in Mirpurkhas District who received poultry, that was funded by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) under an FAO project titled Livelihood Restoration, Protection and Sustainable Empowerment of Vulnerable Peasant Communities in Sindh Province.

Each family received 10 hens and 2 roosters, as well as water trough, a feeder, several feet of wire net for a bird pen and some chicken feed. FAO estimates that during their 2-year productive lifespan, each chicken will lay approximately 320 eggs, improving the nutrition and income options for the families.

Bhoori also attended training sessions that the FAO project organized for the recipients of the birds. During the training sessions, women studied together how to take care of their chickens, how to earn some income from eggs, and a variety of other useful skills. **“We have even learned to draw and make**

**sketches,”** says Bhoori. She had never attended school, and these lessons were her only education she has ever received.

To house their chicken, Bhoori’s husband built a small hut using mud and other locally available materials. The couple white-washed the walls of the hut, and Bhoori decorated it with drawings of flowers and logos of FAO and various other organizations participating in the project.

Within weeks of arriving to their new home, Bhoori’s hens started laying eggs. The family now collects 6-7 eggs daily. Some of the eggs are used for meals, while the rest are sold at the local market at 8-10 Rupees per egg. **“Before, we could rarely afford to have eggs for meals,”** says Bhoori. **“Equally importantly, we are able to sell eggs and earn a little bit of cash.”** The family also shares eggs with their neighbours. **“Most of our neighbours are as poor as us. To help each other, we all share whatever food we produce,”** explains Shanker. **“This way, our entire community benefits from the chickens.”**



# Easing access to critical assistance for populations affected by complex crises



Palwasha Bibi is among many temporarily dislocated persons (TDPs) who have been affected by the ongoing complex emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of northwest Pakistan.

Palwasha was initially registered with her husband, who later moved to Saudi Arabia to work as a laborer. She continued to receive food rations for their household in his absence. However, when the FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) announced plans for return, she was told her husband's biometric verification would be required to receive the assistance package for returnees. Palwasha's story emerged during a field visit by IOM's Humanitarian

Communications (HComms) team to TDP-hosting areas. In coordination with the relevant stakeholders, the HComms team advised Palwasha to submit an attested photocopy of her husband's passport and an authorized letter to the designated government officials. A few weeks later, she was informed that her case had been accepted, and she was eligible to register herself as a beneficiary for return support.

'It was a relief when I was selected as a beneficiary to receive assistance to return to my area of origin. I was also issued ATM [Automatic Teller Machine] and SIM [Subscriber Identity Module] cards, which helped me withdraw cash at my convenience and stay connected with family

and friends. I am thankful to IOM's HComms team for providing guidance and information regarding return plans, assistance packages and requirements.'

The Humanitarian Communications program is a cross-cutting, comprehensive information service through which IOM is providing critical, life-saving information to insecurity-affected populations regarding available humanitarian assistance including food distribution, health and hygiene services, protection-related challenges, returns and Mine Risk Education (MRE).

# Woes of Balochistan



Village Gola Muhallah is located at the center of Dera Murad Jamali Town in the District of Naseerabad; an under-privileged area that has always been neglected even with the provision of basic necessities such as water.

There is a water supply scheme in the town but it has never been the source of water for the local community. The whole community fetches water from the only pond that runs through Gola Muhallah, which is the only source of water for the community. It is used for all purposes by people of the town including drinking. The streets in the Muhallah have never been paved

though there are funds approved for the infrastructural up gradation of the town but these were never utilized, due to this poor condition light rainfall results in a flood like situation.

Abdul Khaliq Manjho is a 40 year old, handicapped resident of Gola Muhalla. He has a large family which includes his wife, 2 sons and 3 daughters. There is no school for the children to attend. The whole family resides in a small mud house in a very shabby condition. Abdul Khaliq works as a labourer and is the only income for the family, he feeds them when he gets paid for the day as he is a daily wager.

The day he doesn't work they sleep away their hunger. He and many others in this town do not have any other source of income.

Assessing the grim situation and the plight of the people in this town UN-Habitat geared up to make efforts on increasing the resilience of the inhabitants so that they start a journey of self-sufficiency to combat the bleak repercussions of natural disasters.

Abdul Khaliq; **“the whole community is grateful to the UN-Habitat team for their efforts, not only bringing resilience to the community”**



# Story of a bewildered neighborhood

Gadaap Town is a large slum town of Karachi and Union Council 4 (Gujjro). This union council is located in the surroundings of Sohrab Goth and Super highway, this area is a marked volatile and insecure area by the government authorities. This union council has numerous Poliomyelitis cases diagnosed by World Health Organization (WHO) and many other different serious diseases are common there in peoples of all ages especially in children.

Before UN-Habitat the town was not using hygienic techniques, the children barely washed their hands and almost never with soap as they were totally oblivious to hand washing. Leaking sewerage lines were also common, with sewerage water gathered into ponds that the children would bathe in. Safe drinking water was very difficult to find and if found it was very expensive. Under the UNICEF funded project; UN-Habitat being the only UN agency to work in these areas thought of an intervention to promote health and hygiene and eradicate the menace of Polio. UN-Habitat formed WASH clubs in schools/maddarsa and taught the children there how to live a healthy life; they were trained and their behaviours were changed. They now knew how to clean the streets/houses and themselves, how to get safe drinking water and what were the advantages of these habits.

With this confidence that the community now knows the worth of clean



water UN-Habitat arranged for safe drinking water with the installation of 3 Reverse Osmosis (R.O) water purification plants, 1 overhead water reservoir and water cooler with water purification system in the schools/ maddaras.

Along with that a new water supply

scheme was installed in Junejo Colony UC4, water supply line leakages were repaired, new sewerage, new sewerage manholes, ablution places and also latrines were constructed in the mosques, schools and Maddarasas.



## Safety nets for families in drought and flood-stricken areas of Sindh

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has begun projects to improve livelihoods and reduce communities' susceptibility to disasters in Tharparkar, Sanghar and Mirpurkhas districts of Sindh, thanks to a grant of US\$2.78 million from the government of Australia. Around 13,200 families will receive cash payments for participation in disaster risk reduction activities.

"One of the major factors affecting livelihoods in these areas is inadequate water." Said Lola Castro, WFP Pakistan Representative and Country Director.

Following assessments to identify the communities' needs, WFP has identified a series of activities related to water conservation, rain water harvesting, water pond construction in grazing areas, food and fodder storage and repair of culverts and access roads. Each participant will receive PKR 5,400 (about US\$53) per month for 15 days of work. In Mirpurkhas district, WFP is working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNWOMEN on an integrated pro-

gramme to assist communities through agri-based and labour-intensive activities. The WFP project will include some 2,000 participants from villages where the other three UN agencies are already working together, in order to support ongoing activities with the cash grants. "In the short-term, the cash payments help people meet their immediate needs, including – crucially – food. In the long run, the assets created in the community will help support livelihoods and improve food security." Said Castro.

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## Engineering qualification standardization in Pakistan and the Asia-Pacific region

UNESCO's Islamabad and Jakarta Offices organized a national dialogue and international meeting in Islamabad. The meeting was held in partnership with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), the International Science, Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) and Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), aimed at developing roadmap on engineering qualification standardization and contribution towards South-South Cooperation through UNESCO cooperation programme (Malaysian Funds in Trust for UNESCO). During the two day event, engineering

experts, industrialists, academicians and focal persons from various national and international entities discussed gaps and opportunities and the development of a road map for engineering qualifications standardizations. Chief Guest, Hasrul Sani bin Mujtabar, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan in his remarks reaffirm Malaysia strong support for UNESCO in enhancing capacity building in education, science and culture under the Malaysian Funds in Trust Agreement as part of Malaysia policy, close collaboration and cooperation. He extended that the international meeting on engineering qualification standardization today was part of South-South Cooperation which would be further strengthened

through bilateral relation between Pakistan and Malaysia. Syed Abdul Qadir Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Council on this occasion highlighted the need of standardization of engineering qualification in today's era for addressing engineering related problems and enabling engineers for their cross border contribution. Pakistan has been selected as pilot case study for UNESCO-FEIAP collaboration which is working to improve the standards of engineering qualification in universities and institutes of higher education, in association with the engineering bodies. UNESCO agreed to assist FEIAP to champion its guidelines.

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# Pakistan ranks second lowest in countries with women in top management

While women are still under-represented in top management, the number of women in senior and middle management positions has increased over the last 20 years, a new study by the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities finds. But Pakistan ranks 107th, second lowest, just above Yemen.

**“Our research is showing that women’s ever increasing participation in the labour market has been the biggest engine of global growth and competitiveness,”** says Deborah France-Massin, Director of the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities.

Only 5 per cent or less of the CEOs of the world’s largest corporations are women. The larger the company, the less likely the head will be a woman. All-male company boards are still

common but are decreasing in number, with women attaining 20 per cent or more of all board seats in a handful of countries. A global survey quoted in the study shows that Norway has the highest global proportion of companies (13.3 per cent) with a woman as company board chairperson, followed by Turkey (11.1 per cent).

The report also provides the following recommendations to close the remaining gender gap, including flexible solutions to manage work and family time commitments, providing maternity protection coverage and childcare support, implementing gender-sensitive human resources policies and measures, and making sure women are given as challenging tasks as men from the very beginning of their career.

**“Unless action is taken, it could take 100 to 200 years to achieve parity at the top. It is time to smash the glass ceiling for good to avoid controversial mandatory quotas that are not always necessary or effective. Having women in top positions is simply good for business,”** concluded France-Massin

The authors underline that women and girls receive almost half of all educational resources, thus representing a significant proportion of the available talent pool. Therefore, companies’ investment in attracting, retaining and promoting skilled women is likely to be good for business.

## Regional Counter Narcotics seminar and workshop



ANF and UNODC in a collaborated effort has arranged Regional counter Narcotics Seminar at Hotel Serena. Mr Ba-leegh Ur Rehman, Federal Minister for State, Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The event is marked as the first ever

inaugural session of the drug affected countries along the trafficking route in the region. It aims to highlight the ills of drug trafficking and it’s fallouts on society. During the conduct of the seminar, due emphasis was paid to narcotics menace in the region, drug challenges and counter measures, capacity building of Anti Drug Setups by UNODC, measures to improve Drug Enforcement, role of media in Awareness Campaigns, ill-effects of addiction & treatment and negative / psychiatric problems of addicts.

Major General Khawar Hanif, Director

General Anti Narcotics Force apprised commitment and resolve of Pakistan in the field of counter narcotics, including drug supply and drug demand activities. He also appreciated international partners that is, UNODC, UK, Australia and USA, whose support made this international event possible to organize. The seminar is expected to pave the way of better understanding and linking various regional cooperation networks, which in turn would prove vital in improving international cooperation across the globe.



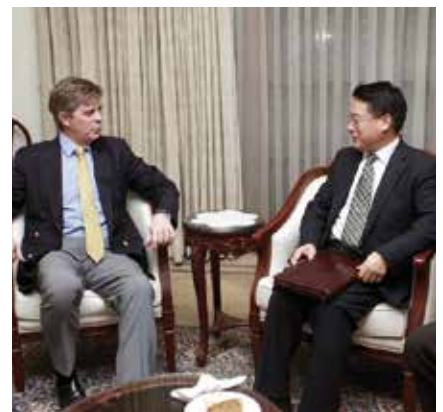
# Solving the energy challenges in Pakistan



The UNITED NATIONS Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with funding from Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is implementing a project which seeks to promote market-based adoption of Biomass Gasification Technologies for SMEs in Pakistan. Conscious of the huge volumes of waste from agro-processing SMEs that is otherwise burnt in the open, the project adopts a holistic approach to the adoption of biomass gasification in SMEs by addressing the attendant barriers in a systematic manner.

Pakistan today faces serious energy challenges that include frequent power cuts, brown outs and unreliable supply of fossil fuels. For SMES power cuts results in the

following, reduced production levels, reduced quality of production etc. Therefore, by helping SMEs develop biomass gasification power plants, UNIDO seeks to enable SMEs to contribute towards addressing the energy challenges in the country. Under this project, UNIDO provides technical assistance to SMEs that produce huge volumes of waste to design biomass gasification technologies so as to use the waste into heat and power so as to meet the needs of the industries and possibly export the excess to the power grid. As part of this process, on 16th Jan, 2015, UNIDO signed a memorandum of understanding with Punjab Rice Mills to support the development of a feasibility study for 1MW rice husk based gasification



power plant at Bhawalnagar. The Biomass Energy Project is getting huge support from Government, private sector, Academia and stakeholders and will help Pakistan to cater energy crisis by utilization of such technologies.



## WHO does not recruit polio health worker beyond government consent

The World Health Organization, would like to firmly dispel the notion that its federal office in Islamabad be involved in the direct recruitment of polio workers in any capacity.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in Pakistan works in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan to assist on polio eradication in the country. The assistance is provided in the technical domains ranging from strategy formulation at the national and provincial levels down to the ground level of micro-planning and training at the union council (UC) level. The Union Council Polio Workers (UCPWs) are being supported by the WHO since 2012 and constitute its most peripheral contrac-

tors, all with a technical support role to the government polio workers.

In view of the current critical situation of polio eradication in the country, the Government of Pakistan in consultation with its international partners (WHO and UNICEF) has developed a comprehensive plan for the low transmission (December 2014 – May 2015) season, aiming at stopping polio by the end of 2015. One of the components of this plan is to make a staff surge with the assistance of polio partners, mainly at the district and UC levels to improve the technical assistance and facilitate the program implementation.

The surge of WHO cannot be viewed as a substitute to government prerogatives

in the fight against polio. This would be contrary and unprecedented in the almost half a century of history of WHO operation serving Pakistan.

It is pertinent to mention here that the recruitment of the UCPWs, currently in progress across the country, has received full consent from the Government of Pakistan and is part of the all-engaged agreed low transmission season plan.

WHO takes this opportunity to remind the importance for media to rely on appropriate and valid source when it comes to elaborate on sensitive public health subjects of national concern.

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## New UN report calls for changes to legal environment to enhance HIV response in Pakistan

A new report, jointly released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Country Team and the National AIDS Control Programme of Pakistan, calls for adoption and revision of laws and policies to create a more effective national HIV response that will mitigate the impact of HIV and promote and protect the human rights of key populations and vulnerable groups.

*Scan of Law and Policies Affecting Human Rights, Discrimination and Access to HIV and Health Services by Key Populations in Pakistan* was launched at the Pakistan National Dialogue on HIV and the Law, a major gathering which

brought together government, civil society, health sector and United Nations representatives in Islamabad.

“This assessment of HIV-related laws and policies identifies legal barriers to accessing health and HIV services for key populations and presents a set of recommendations that can help save lives, save money and help mitigate the AIDS epidemic in Pakistan,” said Marc-André Franche, Country Director, UNDP Pakistan. “I hope that lawmakers, law enforcement officials, National AIDS Programme officials and donors find this assessment a valuable tool to inform the development and implemen-

tation of an enabling legal environment for effective HIV and health responses in Pakistan. According to the latest UNAIDS estimates, there are 68,000 people living with HIV in Pakistan. The HIV epidemic is primarily concentrated among key populations – men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people, people who inject drugs and sex workers. MSM and transgender people are at particularly high risk of contracting HIV because social stigma and punitive laws that criminalize same-sex sexual behaviour also create barriers to accessing health care.

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# First agriculture and fishing workers' trade union in Pakistan registered in Karachi



First agriculture and fishing workers' trade union in Pakistan registered in Karachi

Sindh has become the first province to recognise women and men in the agriculture and fishery sector as workers under law and has registered the first ever trade union for this sector. The Sindh Agriculture and Fishing Workers Union (SAF-WU) was registered yesterday with the office of the Registrar Trade Unions, Karachi under the provisions of Sindh Industrial Relations Act, 2013. The union currently has 400 members of which 180 are women, all belonging to various districts of Sindh.

The agriculture sector, a major source of income, revenue and employment for Pakistan, employing

approximately 60% of workforce, has always been outside the purview of labour laws.

"This is a great day for us", said Ms. Rafia Gilani, Chairperson of the Union, "But the work has only begun. We have formed our Union, held its first Convention with ILO's support and today we are registered with the government."

The amendment to the law and the establishment of the Agriculture and Fishing Workers' Trade Union was supported by the ILO project, Promoting Gender Equality for Decent Employment (GE4DE), funded by the Canadian government. The project, which aims to improve

women's skills and employment by working with government, employers, workers and media, identified agriculture as a sector where many women were employed in the most vulnerable, unprotected conditions. Mr Gulfam Memon, Joint Director Labour and Gender Focal Person, Department of Labour, Sindh said that the registration of the Union was an important step in turning the law into action. "This will help agriculture and fishery sector workers negotiate better working conditions and enhance social safety nets and occupational safety and health coverage".





## First Domestic Workers' Trade Union registered in Pakistan

Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) has formed the Domestic Workers' Trade Union, the very first union of its kind in Pakistan. The 'Domestic Workers' Union' has been registered with the Office of the Registrar Trade Unions, Lahore under the provisions of the Punjab Industrial Relations, 2010. The Union currently has 235 members out of which 225 are female domestic workers. PWF is now in the process registering the Union with the global 'International Domestic Workers' Federation'. "We take care of some of the most important things in our employers' lives, their homes, their children, their food," Says Ms Shamsad Murree domestic worker in Lahore who has been trained by the project, and is now the Vice President of the Domestic Workers' Union.

This Domestic Workers' Trade Union

was established under the ILO project, Promoting Gender Equality for Decent Employment (GE4DE), funded by the Canadian government. The project, which aims to improve women's skills and employment by working with government, employers, workers and media, identified domestic work as a sector where many women were employed in the most vulnerable, unprotected conditions, completely outside the purview of labour laws. Millions of workers including women, girls and boys are engaged in domestic work in Pakistan and are contributing to the informal economy significantly. They are not recognized as 'workers' as per the definition of workers set in the national labour laws whose definition only covers workers in the formal sector, working in factories, shops and formal establishments. Without

any legal protection they often have to work in exploitative conditions, without any regulation of working hours, terms of employment or wages. Despite these decent work deficits, domestic work is an important source of employment for women in particular, many of whom do not have the skills or education to find alternative employment. It is also important to remember, that their work, helps free up their employers' time to engage in work and leisure, something particularly important for female employers.

Mr. Tahir Manzoor, Director, Department of Labour and Gender Focal Person, Punjab, said the registration of the Union was an important step in recognising domestic workers and workers under law.

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## International labour standards training for labour officials and social partners

The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) has organised a three day training workshop from 21-23 January, 2015 with technical support of International Labour Organization (ILO) in Lahore. In the post 18th Constitutional amendment scenario where labour issues have been devolved to the provinces, the Reporting on International Labour Standards (ILS) has gained more importance for the economic and social development of the country. The training has been organised as part of ILO's technical assistance to the Government of Pakistan to help improve the application and reporting on International Labour Standards. Mr Sikander Ismail Khan, Secretary, Federal Ministry

of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development in his inaugural speech highlighted the importance of labour standards, he also mentioned that Pakistan has no pending report due submission to ILO and that the Government have been able to address the observations of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) in the last round of reports submitted in 2014. Mr Coen Kompier, ILS Specialist on International Labour Standards, South Asia Decent Work Team, said that the International labour standards lay down the basic minimum social standards, and these standards rest on the framework that links together trade, finance, environment, human rights and

labour. The role of the ILO is to promote this framework to ensure that economic growth and development go along with the creation of decent work. Mr Shahid Mustafa Qureshi from Employers Federation of Pakistan also participated in the training and stressed on the importance of social dialogue through tripartite consultation for effective ILS reporting. The training is focusing on the ILS reporting in the post 18th Constitutional Amendment scenario, reporting challenges, types of reports obligated by the ILO constitution and the importance of the tripartite consultations and coordination mechanisms. A plan of action for effective ILS reporting for 2015 will be drawn up as an outcome of the 3 days training.

## UN humanitarian team visits displaced people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



A team from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) met with a cross section of displaced people from South and North Waziristan to gain first-hand knowledge of their needs and living conditions.

A three-day visit led by Mr. George Khoury, Country Director, OCHA Pakistan, visited Dera Ismail Khan where

displaced people have been living, some for more than seven years. The team also visited Bannu, Baka Khel camp and a few 'tented village' locations where displaced people from North Waziristan have settled. They interacted with the tribal elders, civil and military authorities and humanitarian partners to discuss the needs of the displaced population.

More than 91,000 families were displaced in North Waziristan in 2014 following military operations against armed militants. They remain in need of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support.

Since 2008, almost 5 million people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas

(FATA) have been registered as displaced, owing to a series of security operations against militants. At the end of 2014, 1.6 million people remain displaced in KP and FATA.

The humanitarian partners, including the UN agencies and NGOs, are supporting the Government in the provision of life-saving assistance for the displaced population. The humanitarian partners are also preparing to support the voluntary return of the displaced people in the areas of their return.

"The humanitarian needs of the displaced people are immense and we will continue to advocate for them", said George Khoury.

## FAO advocates for the right fertilizer at the right rate at the right time in the right place

Islamabad, 3 February 2015: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and the U.S. Department for Agriculture (USDA) convened a one-day symposium on the Public-Private Partnership to Manage Soil Fertility in Pakistan.

The objective of the symposium was to highlight the significance of balanced fertilization and to create awareness among fertilizer industry, farmers, academia and agriculture extension work-

ers on the importance of balanced fertilization in food security and sustainable agriculture. The Chief Guest on the occasion H.E. Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security and Research said that "the excessive use of fertilizers have created unfavorable balance of nutrients including nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium in the soils. This imbalance in the nutrients has emerged as a major contributor in the decline and degradation of crop production and soil fertility in the country". Talking on the occasion, FAO Representative to Pakistan Mr. Patrick

T. Evans shared that "FAO is working on a baseline atlas of current soil fertility practices, disaggregated by farm size and cropping systems in Pakistan. The atlas will help to understand required soil fertility management changes for sustainable intensification. Consequently, appropriate balanced inputs and "4Rs" - Right fertilizer at the Right rate at the Right time in the Right place, would be promoted in partnership with the private sector, including national fertilizer companies, wholesalers/retailers and farmer associations".



## Employers committed to implement protection against harassment of women

The Employers Federation of Pakistan reassured its commitment to address sexual harassment at the work place through implementation of the Act for Sexual Harassment at the workplace.

EFP and Federal Ombudsman Secretariat in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries and International Labour Organization Country office for Pakistan organized the 6th seminar on Act of 2010 at Islamabad duly attended by a wide range of stakeholders including employers, workers, academia, media, NGOs and government representatives from Islamabad and Rawalpindi. While welcoming the participants President Employers Federation of Pakistan Mr Khawaja Nauman emphasised on the need to

raise awareness on existing laws such as sexual harassment at the workplace among employers for compliance with national commitments and be able to provide a much safer and enabling environment to women workers. Because of EFP's efforts now many of the enterprises and businesses have mechanisms for effective implementation of the act such as inquiry committees. Speaking on the occasion Justice (retired) Yasmin Abbasey reassured government of Pakistan's commitment to address the work place harassment through effective implementation of the existing legislation. She also emphasized the need to monitor the workplaces including education institutions to encourage girls and women active participation in the

workforce. Human rights are to be fully protected and we need to act together to develop a peaceful and healthier atmosphere for women workers to not only to save our present but the future of the country. EFP expert Dr Momina Randhawa and Director FoS Mr Shahrukh Abbasi, gave detailed presentations on protection against harassment at workplaces. They said that every employer should establish probe committees to look into such complaints. They encouraged employers to ensure safe and healthy atmosphere at their workplaces, besides providing a vibrant mechanism there, enabling both male and female workers to get the benefits of the Act.

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## Rehabilitation of displaced people: donors commit financial support

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today hosted a commemoration ceremony to welcome the contribution of EUR 1.04 million from the Government of Germany. This contribution will allow WFP to provide food assistance to the families displaced from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The contribution by the German Government will be utilized to twin with 7,000 tons of wheat provided by the Government of Pakistan. This will enable WFP to provide fortified wheat flour to half a million people (85,789 families) for a month.

"We are very concerned about the plight of the displaced people in Pakistan and hope that they are able to

return to their homes soon." H. E. Dr. Cyrill Nunn, the German Ambassador to Pakistan said. He further added that Germany believes that SAFFRON has a key role in addressing the current challenges being faced in FATA; SAFFRON and WFP are and will remain a key partners for Germany. WFP's operations are primarily concentrated in the country's North West region including the highly sensitive and volatile border areas (1.6 million displaced people and returnees from conflict affected FATA agencies are being supported by WFP). Addressing the basic food needs of these highly vulnerable groups is not only important for meeting the basic humanitarian principle of averting food insecurity and

deterioration of nutritional situation but also has an impact on the peace and stability of the region. Rations cuts have historically led to riots and experience confirms that lack of social support to these vulnerable groups has led to displaced people resorting to negative coping strategies and the destabilization of some districts and agencies in the north of KP and FATA. Lola Castro, WFP Pakistan Representative and Country Director shared her appreciation. "On behalf of WFP I would like to thank the Government of Pakistan and generous donors such as the German government who are our partners in our fight for a food secure Pakistan."

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## Collecting comprehensive information for disabilities in Pakistan

According to World Health Organization (WHO), over a billion people or around 15% of the world's population have some sort of disability. The prevalence of disability in Pakistan is estimated by the Population Census 1998 at 2.49%. There is no standardized instrument for data collection on disability that provides comprehensive and systematic documentation of all aspects of functioning in a population. Pakistan has ratified the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in July 2011 which requires Governments to collect statistical and research data to identify and address barriers faced by people with disability under the Convention (CRPD, Article 31). With support from the Canadian High Commission and collaboration from Pakistan-Bait-UI Mal,

Government of Pakistan, the WHO, as lead agency in Disabilities in the UN system, is conducting the Model Disability Survey (MDS). The Model Disability Survey will facilitate the monitoring of the situation of people with a disability, to make sure they are not left behind in the wake of development progress, and to identify ways to include disability in national/provincial Post-2015 Development Agenda. On the occasion of the launching of the joint WHO-Canada Model Disability Survey project Her Excellency, the Canadian High Commissioner, Ms. Heather Cruden said: "We are very pleased to be collaborating with the World Health Organisation in Pakistan to clarify needs, resources and policies to support the people of Pakistan." Dr Maryam Mallick, Technical Advisor

for Medical Rehabilitation, WHO, indicated that the data analysis and report generation of the MDS survey will be conducted by the Institute for Public Health and Health Services Research, Department of Medical Informatics Epidemiology and Research Unit, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany At the concluding session, Barrister Abid Waheed Sheikh, Managing Director Pakistan, said "that the evidence resulting from the MDS will help policy-makers identify the interventions required to maximize the inclusion and functioning of Pakistani citizens suffering from disabilities and to promote and protect their human rights, as endorsed in Pakistani legislation."

## Financing agreement to support smallholder farmers who depend on livestock for food security

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan are financing a US\$40.83 million project to increase productivity in the livestock and dairy sector and reduce poverty for 112,500 rural households in the four poorest districts in the Punjab Province. IFAD will provide a loan of \$35 million on highly concessional terms to finance the Pakistan Livestock and Access to Market Project (LAMP). The loan agreement was signed today in IFAD headquarters by Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD, and Tehmina Janjua, Ambassa-

dor and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Rome. The project will address the key constraints that prevent growth in the livestock sector in Pakistan. These include low overall productivity, high disease and mortality rates among livestock, and farmers' limited access to markets and agribusinesses - such as dairies. The IFAD-supported project is co-financed with contributions from the government of Punjab, the beneficiaries themselves and the private sector. It will be implemented over a six-year period. "We are addressing the needs of the

poorest farmers whose livelihoods and food security depend on livestock," said Hubert Boirard, Country Programme Manager, IFAD. "Many of the poorest households are those headed by women. All livestock farmers will receive training and support to develop livestock production and connect to markets and small dairy businesses in the region." To date, IFAD has invested in 26 projects in Pakistan that had a total cost of nearly 2.4 billion of which IFAD contributed \$565.8 million, directly benefitting 1,980,400 households.



## Working for inclusive and sustainable industrial development on fast track in Pakistan – Director General



The UNIDO will continue to work for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Pakistan but on fast track now onwards and its major focus would be in the areas of SMEs, said Mr. Li Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization while addressing the project beneficiaries and members of business community, various industry based associations and other Chambers at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Li Yong expressed that his visit to Pakistan is to explore new vistas for partnership so as to contribute more vigorously to the economic growth of Pakistan especially through support to various for

overall prosperity. He said UNIDO wanted to work with Chambers of Commerce for SMEs development through technical assistance in value addition and capacity building initiatives. He assured that he would explore financing possibilities for the projects highlighted at the occasion.

In his welcome address, Muzzamil Hussain Sabri, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated the role UNIDO supporting small businesses & export oriented industries and promoting energy efficient systems & clean technologies in Pakistan.

He said ICCI was planning to establish a National Inquiry Point that will help in forecasting business op-

portunities in agro-based and manufacturing sectors and sought the cooperation of UNIDO in its establishment. Once established on pilot scale with the technical assistance of UNIDO, the Camber will develop a network of these enquiry points in all of its chambers throughout Pakistan and again for this we would be eagerly looking to UNIDO's support.

The UNIDO projects beneficiaries and representatives of Gujranwala & Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, Tannery Associations of Karachi, Kasur & Sialkot, Fans Manufacturers Association of Gujranwala, Alrafique Enterprises Sargodha, KDC Boards, Mango Growers Consortium Sargodha and Surgical Instrument Manufacturers Association of Pakistan highlighted various projects including combined treatment plants, biogas and biomass projects and requested that UNIDO should assist in tapping foreign grants for completion of these projects.

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## Pakistan urges UNIDO to help boost the economy to reduce poverty



Pakistan's Adviser to the PM on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, has asked the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to expand its operations in the country and to implement more projects to increase institutional capacity and economically empower youth and women.

During the meeting, Aziz commended UNIDO for its interventions to develop energy-efficient systems, to introduce clean technologies and measures to

abate industrial pollution, that improves the export trade, and to support small and medium-sized enterprises in Pakistan. Foreign Minister Aziz briefed Li on the huge economic potential in Pakistan, especially the talent of the country's youth. He called for more UNIDO projects and the Minister added that enhanced technical support from UNIDO to boost the growth of the national economy would help reduce poverty. During his visit to the Pakistani capital, UNIDO's Li also met with officials from the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). The two organizations are already working to build the capacity of national engineering universities, research and development institutions, and local manufacturers in

relation to biomass gasification.

During the meeting, agreement was reached to deepen collaboration between UNIDO and NUST in order to foster entrepreneurship in the field of clean technology innovation.

UNIDO's Li said, "UNIDO's vision of inclusive and sustainable industrial development can be achieved with supply of sustainable and clean energy to industry and by the fostering of clean innovation technologies". NUST Rector, Muhammad Asghar commended UNIDO's efforts to promote the use of renewable energy technologies and specifically the joint UNIDO/NUST programme on biomass gasification technologies in Pakistan.

## Japan donates US\$ 5 million to support NWA Displaced people and returnees

The Government of Japan has confirmed a donation of US\$ 5 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to help feed North Waziristan Agency Displaced people as well as those who will have returned in the coming weeks and months as per the FATA Secretariat plan. With this valuable contribution, WFP will be able to assist 91,000 families (555,100 people) for three months.

Monthly relief food distributions, conducted by WFP and partners under the lifesaving humanitarian relief component, have ensured that basic food

needs of those who temporarily left their homes as a result of law enforcement operations in FATA are met. The family food basket consists of wheat flour, peas, fortified vegetable oil and salt. To address micronutrient deficiencies, wheat is being milled and fortified locally with a premix containing iron, folate and other vitamins and minerals. Vegetable oil is enriched with vitamins A and D. Furthermore, upon return, WFP provides a six month return ration followed by school feeding, nutrition and livelihoods rehabilitation programmes focusing on the enhancement of food

security and resilience.

Japan has been a critical partner for WFP in Pakistan having donated US\$97 million since 2010. In January 2011, WFP welcomed a record one-off donation of US\$70 million from the Government of Japan in support of its emergency response and recovery assistance for crisis-affected populations in Pakistan.

"WFP is very grateful to Japan for its generous donation and continued support." said Peter Scott-Bowden, WFP Pakistan Representative a.i.





## ILO and Pakistan Textile Exporters Association sign a unique partnership agreement promoting decent work in garment and textile industry in Faisalabad



The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) have signed a partnership agreement to promote Decent Work in Textile Industry in Faisalabad. The signing ceremony was held at Marriott Hotel Islamabad. Dignitaries from the Government of Pakistan, representatives of Employers and Workers Organisations, representatives of diplomatic missions in Pakistan including the European Union Delegation, United States Embassy, German Embassy and the Royal Embassy of Netherlands participated amongst other bilateral de-

velopment partners. The Partnership Agreement includes a comprehensive framework on improving productivity through training and compliance with International Labour Standards including occupational safety and health, wages, contracts of employment, discrimination and other forms of mal labour practices as well as strengthening employers' and workers' bilateral arrangements in textile industry. The cooperation will continue for three years and will cover more than 200 industrial units (small, medium and large) that are engaged in the textile export. After successful piloting, this intervention will be replicated in other Industrial Associations across the country. At this occasion, Mr Sikandar Ismail Khan, Secretary, Federal Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development (OPHRD) said that, "GSP Plus

is an opportunity for Pakistani industries and this collaboration between ILO and PTEA will help improve the image of Pakistan textile industries as responsible workplaces that are compliant with national laws, including those based on International Labour Standards". Representatives of the Employers' and Workers' Organisations (EFP and PWF) fully supported the partnership framework and stressed on the importance of establishing a coordination mechanism between textile industries, related workers organizations and Labour Departments on compliance and reporting on labour laws. The signing ceremony featured a presentation on the partnership framework that defined in detail outcomes and outputs envisioned as part of this collaboration.

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## Prime Minister Sharif backs new Pakistan Safe Schools Initiative and pledges to make it 'a success'

A World at School today launched a 15-point plan for a Pakistan Safe Schools Initiative - backed fully by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and UN Special Education Envoy Gordon Brown - in a multi-million dollar campaign for girls' and boys' education. Prime Minister Sharif said: "I am personally committed to making this initiative a success." Since the 1970s Pakistan has experienced more attacks on education than any other country in the world. In the past five years, more than 1,000 schools have been destroyed in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, which includes Peshawar,

where the latest and deadliest attack took place on December 16. During an eight-hour shooting spree more than 130 boys and girls and nine teachers were massacred by Taliban gunmen. Now a full-scale response - championed by Mr Brown - was launched to help protect schools, students and staff from further attacks. It will require major international funding. The proposal includes: community engagement to establish peace zones in and around schools, negotiations with religious leaders to promote education, establishing a community watch system, individual security plans for every

school, setting up of rapid response units, installing state-of-the-art communication systems and creating special plans for schools in high-risk areas. Mr Brown said: "One answer that helps educational institutions to stand up to terrorist violence and counter it is to designate our schools as safe schools and make them more secure." Through these efforts, a comprehensive and well-financed Safe Schools Initiative will reassure families and children that education is safe and provide a bold step forward in the achievement of universal education in Pakistan.

## The socio-economic impact of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan



UNODC Office in Pakistan in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency published a research report on “The Socio-economic impact of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan” at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad. Pakistan is a source, transit and a destination country for human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The problem manifests itself within the country and across borders. Internally, Sindh and Punjab

remain a source of concern with high instances of bonded labour in agriculture, brick making and other industries.

This report was commissioned in order to develop an in-depth understanding of the socio-economic patterns and trends related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan. The findings of the report aim to highlight the important relationship between the socio-economic conditions and irregular migration.

UNODC Representative Mr. Cesar Guedes stated that “millions are smuggled across borders every year, for reasons of work or asylum, and some unfortunately perish in this long and arduous process, as recent tragic events in the Mediterranean have reminded

us. Approximately 927 million USD are generated in profits by the criminal syndicates, weakening licit economy and contributing towards fuelling corruption”. The recommendations provided in the report would assist the relevant ministries and the law enforcement agencies in Pakistan to effectively plan and allocate resources towards the high migration areas while developing mechanism for effective interagency communication and international cooperation, said Mr. Guedes. UNODC is grateful to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of the Government of Australia for the financial support in conduct of this research and publication.

## Immunization leaders call for increased political support for immunization in Pakistan



Childhood immunisation in Pakistan is at a crossroads and a strong political will is required to ensure that the lives of millions of children are not put at risk, three global health leaders warned today. Almost three million children miss out on a full course of the most basic vaccines every year in Pakistan, leaving them vulnerable to life-threatening diseases. Immunisation coverage rates across the country vary widely with some districts seeing very few children protected against diseases such as

diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles and bacterial pneumonia. A high-level mission including Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr Ala Alwan, Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean region at the World Health Organization, and Dr Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF is meeting with leaders in Islamabad to set out their concerns and offer their support to Pakistan moving forwards. “Deaths among children under five attributable to vaccine preventable diseases, constitute up to 25% of the total deaths among this age group in developing countries, including Pakistan,” said Dr Ala Alwan, “Pakistan is not on track for achieving MDG4 which aims at reducing child mortality by two thirds by 2015. Increasing routine vac-

ination coverage will significantly contribute to decreasing infant and child deaths and achieving MDG4.” The delegation will meet with Prime Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, to highlight the importance of political will in ensuring immunisation coverage rises across all regions and districts in Pakistan. The delegation calls for stronger collaboration between the federal and provincial level to tackle the variations in vaccination coverage across the country. Accountability of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) is seen as critical to increase access to routine immunisation as well as recruitment and training of qualified EPI personnel coupled with improved reporting systems.



# Balancing work and home through child care centres



Lahore, Friday, Feb 20, 2015: Stakeholders from diverse social development backgrounds testified their resolve for delivering on Pakistan's national and international commitments on women's empowerment with specific focus on working mothers and Childcare Centres, in a resounding Round Table Consultation organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Pakistan on 20th February 2015.

The participants, including provincial parliamentarians, Women's Development Department representative, Workers' organisations representatives, Civil Society Groups, All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) and the media, appreciated Punjab government's on-going work with regards to es-

tablishing specific mechanisms and allocating resources to help employers set up Childcare centres for their staff who have children up to age five.

However, the participants also pointed out gaping schism between policy and implementation and made a plea for governmental mechanisms to become more user friendly and enhance their clients' awareness and trust upon the system. The employers too needed to be mobilized in order to realize the goal of fostering an enabling working environment for working mothers through setting up of childcare centres for their children, the discussants agreed.

MPA Ms Shameela appreciated the progress made in providing child

care facilities for working parents, but pointed out that women need more information about availability of such services and more control over how to arrange child care.

The Womens' Development Department representative underpinned the significance of this initiative saying that this was a unique initiative of the government of Punjab showing its commitment to women's empowerment.

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# The United Nations in Pakistan joins the HeForShe movement



The United Nations Country Team on behalf of the UN System in Pakistan joins UN Women's solidarity movement to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's advancement.

In endorsing the HeForShe movement in Pakistan, Mr. Timo Pakala, UN Resident Coordinator, joins the hundreds of Pakistani men who have already signed on to this global UN Women initiative. "Promoting gender equality not only promotes

and protects the rights of women, but creates a fairer and equal society" he said.

With women constituting half the population of Pakistan, the HeForShe campaign will encourage men to speak out and take action against inequalities faced by women and girls. In promoting the campaign's movement at the country level Mr. Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women, emphasized the need for a united effort to galvanize momentum by "Engaging men as champions for change; a change

where women live a life free of inequalities and discrimination".



# British High Commission holds conference on International Women’s Day



The British High Commission in Islamabad today hosted a conference in advance of International Women’s Day. The conference focused on women’s empowerment and the importance of supporting women in achieving their potential. The conference was held in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women Pakistan), United Nations Development Programme Pakistan (UNDP Pakistan), and the UK’s Department for International Development Pakistan (DFID Pakistan).

The daylong Conference included panel discussions on a range of topics including the role of men women’s empowerment and the role of media in women’s rights. The discussions invited high profile panelists working for women rights awareness in Pakistan. The panelists include Nigar Nazar, CEO

Gogi Studios, Shahid Nadeem, Executive Director Ajoka Theatre, Omar Aftab, CEO Women Empowerment Group, Qadeer Baig, Country Representative, Rutgers World Population Fundation Pakistan, Asma Shirazai, Senior Vice President, BOL TV, and Aasiya Nasir, Minister for National Assembly.

Speaking at the event, Richard Montgomery, Head of DFID Pakistan said: “It is important for both men and women to have a conversation on men’s role in addressing the challenges facing women”.

In promoting the HeForShe movement in Pakistan Jamshed M. Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women emphasized the need for a united effort to galvanize momentum, “With women constituting half the population of Pakistan, the HeForShe campaign will encourage ‘the other half’ to speak out and take action against inequalities



faced by women and girls”. UNDP supports a range of efforts to improve the position of women in Pakistan. Marc Andre Franche, Country Representative UNDP, said “Evidence consistently shows that where women are given opportunities, societies develop more rapidly”

## It's time to say #IDONT: Let's prevent a child marriage on Valentine's day

Valentine's Day allows us to show that romance is not dead. It's the opportunity - whether we are long married or still in the first flush of a relationship - to say how happy we are with our partner.

But there is nothing romantic about millions of child marriages that take place every year. New estimates show that, this year alone, 13.5 million girls under the age of 18 - that's 37,000 daily - will marry. And almost one third of them will be under 15. This is simply unacceptable. Children forced to marry before their bodies have matured, forced to abandon their childhood, too often forced out of school and into domestic servitude and isolation. Children being robbed of the right to pursue a destiny of their own choosing. These marriages must not be celebrated. They need to be prevented. The practice continues in more than 100 countries. The majority take place in Asia, with high prevalence in many African and Latin American countries. But we are increasingly hearing stories about girls and boys from countries closer to home being forced to marry. It is a truly global concern that requires a global solution. Americans are expected to send 140 million Valentine's

Cards this year. Without urgent action, that is about as many girls who will be married under age 18 in the coming decade: 146 million, according to the new estimates. Being married so early can also lead to serious damage to the health of the girls - and of their babies. Far too often, pregnancy is the inevitable and life-threatening consequence of child marriage, and complications in pregnancy and childbirth are one of the leading causes of death among girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in the developing world. But the damage child marriage causes goes far beyond these individual tragedies. It leads to a disastrous waste of talent and potential for families and societies. Almost every country in the world has committed to ending child marriage. But national laws and international conventions have failed, so far, to halt this practice, or even reduce its scale. It is why UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is using this Valentine's Day to underline the urgent need for renewed national and global efforts to root out child marriage. Existing laws must be rigorously enforced, and any loopholes must be plugged. Social norms that lead to laws

being ignored or flouted must be challenged to give girls the choice they deserve and which their human rights demand. Communities must be informed about the widespread benefits of marrying later. But most importantly, girls must be supported to remain in school, and have access to information and services, particularly for their sexual and reproductive health. We also must support those already married as children, help them avoid becoming pregnant too early, and provide them with better care if they do. UNFPA works around the world to end child marriage, particularly in the developing world, where 1 in 3 girls are married before turning 18. In doing so, we have found that, when given the option, girls decide to marry later. But we will not bring about the changes in policies and priorities without your support. Everyone can help by posting a selfie holding up a placard saying, "#Idont" and tweeting it or sharing it on Instagram with this hashtag. Together we will show the world how much we care about ending this damaging practice. Help our children say "I don't" instead of being forced to say "I do."

## Female veterinarians help preventing foot and mouth disease in the Sindh Province

FAO organized a training workshop under 'the Progressive Control of Foot and Mouth Disease in Pakistan' project on 27 February in Hyderabad, Sindh. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Ali Akbar Somroo - Director General Livestock, Sindh. The training was attended by 36 female veterinarians from the 'Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Development

Programme, Sindh'; Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Tandojam; the Animal Husbandry Department, Sindh; the Baqai Medical University Karachi; Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences and Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam.

The concluding session was chaired by Mr. Noor Muhammad Laghari-

Secretary Livestock and Fisheries, Sindh. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Laghari appreciated FAO's initiative of bringing female veterinarians on board for prevention and control of Foot and Mouth Disease in Sindh province. At this occasion, FAO distributed sample collection kits and certificates among all participants.





## Institute of Educational Technology and UNESCO on World Radio Day



The Institute of Educational Technology, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and UNESCO Islamabad organized one day dialogue on “Educational Broadcasting: Challenges of Young Educational Broadcasters” at Allama Iqbal Open University. The dialogue was organized according to this year theme “Youth and Radio”. In late nineties the shift from AM Radio to FM Radio in Pakistan opened new avenues, opportunities and challenges. The dialog primarily aimed at young educational and non-commercial broadcasters and was participated by faculty and students from different universities and exchanged their views.

Dr. Zafar, precisely shared the objectives and hurdles of educational

broadcastings in Pakistan. He said the non-commercial broadcast aimed to empower society but due to lack of resources they cannot work according to their objectives. On the other side Ayesha Jamil, briefed about the journey of FM Radio ITP 92.4, being non-commercial radio they adopted info-tainment techniques to gain desired results.

The question of Universities curricula was also discussed. Hira Mureed, pointed out that a media graduate was least interested in broadcasting due to exclusion of broadcasting as an important medium in the education curricula. Dr. Shoaib Ahmed from Foundation University shared a success story and told how their university empowers students at their campus. Dr. Ambreen Saba said that her aim was to bring behavioral change in the society. Students of Maragalla College given full freedom and their ideas were appreciated and welcomed at all occasions. Dr. Saqib highlighted that programme and

contents shall be more effective for youth with concrete messages according to target audience. Representative of Commercial FM Radio Wajih Akhtar as a panelist highlighted the influence of advertiser which cannot be ignored, as Commercial Radio survive only on advertisement whereas non-commercial radios are funded by organization.

Shaista from Uks Research Centre shared the importance of need assessment and its outcome through various training workshop. She said implementation of training was big issue; broadcasters were given training on how to address social issues but the policies of FM Radio was not allowed to produce such programmes.

Zafar Hayat Malik, National Programme Officer UNESCO Islamabad on behalf of Vibeke Jensen, Representative/Director UNESCO Islamabad delivered her message on this occasion.

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## Designing the UN Corner in partnership with COMSATS University

UNIC and COMSATS are joining forces for developing the UN Corner, a satellite bookshelf of publications, reports, magazines from the UN System, to be placed in universities across the county. Students

from the faculty of architecture submit their proposals to be evaluated by a team of experts: the winning project will be announced in late April and the UN Corner bookshelf will be officially presented to

the media. In addition to partnering for the design of the UN Corner, UNIC and COMSATS will also work together for the UN 70 campaign and for internships.

# Promoting decent work for a sustainable garment and textile industry in Pakistan



meeting in Washington DC in September 2014.

The event brought together a number of buyers and brands including GAP, Wal-Mart, Target, H&M, Adidas, Levi Strauss, Inditex, Primark, Li & Fung, El Corte Ingles, PVH, Hema, and C&A, who expressed their commitment to sustainable practices, improving compliance and reporting on environmental, labour and health & safety standards and their implementation in the textile and garment sector in Pakistan.

The Government of the Netherlands, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan have joined efforts to uphold international standards and practices in Pakistan's textile and garment sector by organizing the first Buyers' Meeting in Islamabad from December 15th to 16th.

Pakistan is the 4th largest producer of cotton with the third largest spinning capacity in Asia after China and India, and contributes 5% to the global spinning capacity. After agriculture, the Garment and Textile industry continues to be the second largest employment generating sector for both skilled and unskilled labour in Pakistan allowing the country to be the 8th largest

exporter of textile products in Asia.

With the European Union (EU) approval of preferential access for Pakistani products to the EU market, under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), (effective since January 2014) there is a great opportunity for Pakistan to further increase their exports to the EU and meet the quality, environmental, labour and health & safety standards required.

The Buyers' Meeting is an initiative supported by the Government of Pakistan and aligned with the common objective of improving productivity and compliance to all the requirements under the GSP Plus status. This meeting is the beginning of a process, which started in January 2014 and was agreed at a

Ambassador De Vink said: "The Netherlands is a free trade nation. But free trade is not free. It needs to be in compliance with labour standards, human rights and environmental standards. Labour conditions are very important to consumers and companies in Europe. The award of GSP Plus status is a great opportunity to increase trade and investment between Pakistan and Europe. With the right checks and balances in the global supply chain buyers, industry, government and civil society can work together in partnership and realize the positive effects of responsible trade."



## Get back better!



UN-Habitat has successfully completed the project “Humanitarian WASH response for returning households after displacement in FATA Pakistan” under Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in December 2014. This project was implemented in Central Kurram Agency.

We not only wanted them to get back, but get back better than before; the project interventions included both soft as well as hardware components to facilitate the process of return, the effected were provided with clean drinking water and sanitation facilities in the area of return.

Moreover, water and sanitation services were made functional along with promotion of improved hygiene practices to minimize the chances of any water and vector borne disease outbreak. The main emphasis was to supplement the efforts to make the return sustainable with priority focus on the most vulnerable target groups such as women, children, elderly and people with disabilities. WASH inter-

ventions under CERF were concentrated primarily to those areas with higher concentration of returnees in central Kurram agency.

A total of 15,000 individuals including 7,200 women and 7,800 men and 225 children under age 5 were provided with access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and promotion of hygiene practices for families residing in spontaneous settlements in central Kurram Agency. Local authorities along with community organizations were involved in coordinating the response through the WASH cluster mechanism. FDMA and FATA Secretariat also played a significant role in facilitating the response.

## Conflict resolution: model United Nations at GSIS school

In an effort to give students and other participants an understanding of global issues a four-day Global Model United Nations (GMUN) opened at the Global System of Integrated Studies (GSIS) in Islamabad.

The GMUN brought together young delegates to discuss and voice their opinion on diverse national and international issues and working of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. “Disseminate dialogue, debase differences” was the theme chosen for the conference.

Right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir and implementation of the UN’s resolutions on the issue was the core topic

of discussion at the opening ceremony. While addressing the opening ceremony Mr. Asim Iftikhar Ahmed thanked the young delegates for organizing the event. He said that activities like GMUN play an important part in youth empowerment and providing them with a platform to understand national and international issues.

Mr. Vittorio Cammarota in his remarks as the guest of honour, highlighted the role of the United Nations and its agencies in conflict resolutions and development of its member countries. He also announced that the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) is working in both countries (India and Paki-

stan) to observe and report violations of the ceasefire at the Line of Control (LoC). GMUN (2015) Patron and GSIS Principal Qurat-ul-Ain Ali Rizvi showed her appreciation to the students and said that the purpose of the GMUN is to raise awareness about civics, current events, effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy among the students. She remarked that international affairs had an impact on internal affairs of a country and it was time to better understand both with an aim to resolve issues. The GMUN continued for four days with multiple stimulations of the UN sessions and diverse cultural activities.



## People living with HIV in Pakistan take a stand against discrimination



Over 30 men and women living with HIV travelled across Punjab to take part in a multimedia campaign for UNAIDS Zero Discrimination day on March 1st. They met at the New Light AIDS Control Society in Lahore which was one of the first NGOs set up in Pakistan specif-

ically established to address the needs of people living with HIV.

Drivers, bookbinders, tailors, farmers, shopkeepers and housewives bravely told their stories and openly discussed their experience of abuse and discrimination as well as positive examples of tolerance and empathy from the community. Everyone said above all they wish to be treated normally, without pity but with respect and understanding. Although some were nervous as this was the first time they were speaking publically about living with the virus, once they got into their stride they said it felt good to vocalise

and share what they have been feeling for so long. Their stories were shared on a video released across social media on March 1st where each described what discrimination has meant for them and how best to reduce stigma around those living with the virus. A photobook capturing their portraits and fascinating stories is being produced as part of the Positive Diaries project which aims to bring a greater understanding of the complex socio-cultural factors that have contributed to these people contracting HIV.

## Inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Pakistan



Mr. Li Yong, the DG of UNIDO who was on a three day official visit on 11 February 2015, believed UNIDO Pakistan will continue to work for inclusive and sustainable industrial development with major focus on SMEs, innovation in technology and energy crisis. The visit was of prime importance as this was the first visit of any DG UNIDO since last 12 years.

During his 3 days visit, DG had bilateral meetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Adviser to the Prime Minis-

ter on National Security & Foreign Affairs, Minister of Planning, Secretary of the Ministry of Industries & Production, Secretary Minister of Climate change, Secretary Ministry of Food Security. Also he had Field Visits at National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and to National Physical and Standard Laboratory (NPSL), Ministry of Science and Technology and most importantly visited the Small exhibit/ Short informal talk with some UNIDO project beneficiaries (women entrepreneur, Cleantech start-ups, TRTA etc). These were the groups of people who were benefitted directly by the efforts of UNIDO.

He commended UNIDO for its interventions to develop energy-efficient systems, to introduce clean technologies that improve export trade, and to support small and medium-sized en-

terprises in Pakistan. Mr. Li expressed his appreciation of the consistent support for UNIDO's work provided by various Government Ministries, and of the firm commitment of the country's private sector. He was briefed on the vast economic potential in Pakistan, especially the talent of the country's youth. During the meeting, they agreed that the collaboration between UNIDO and NUST will be further deepened in order to foster entrepreneurship in the field of clean technology innovation in Pakistan.

UNIDO's Director General said, "UNIDO's vision of inclusive and sustainable industrial development can be achieved with the supply of sustainable and clean energy to industry and by the fostering of clean innovation technologies".



## Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries and UNIDO celebrate International Women Day



The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) celebrated International Women's Day. The theme of the event was "Economic Empowerment of Women – A Way Forward for Prosperous Pakistan" and was attended by 40 UNIDO beneficiary women entrepreneurs while a large number of women were also present at the occasion. Speaking at the occasion, Esam

Alqararah, UNIDO Representative said that Pakistani women are very talented but are facing many problems including gender inequality. He said UNIDO has initiated several projects for gender equality for bringing women in the mainstream. He further said that UNIDO has assisted about 6000 women to enter into entrepreneurial activities who are now making useful contribution to the economic development of Pakistan.

Mr Esam assured that UNIDO in affiliation with ICCI would continue to play significant role for promoting and creating new opportunities for economic empowerment of women. He suggested that ICCI should establish a permanent center for display of women entrepreneurs' products to motivate aspiring women to start business ventures. In his welcome address, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Senior Vice President,

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said women were almost 51 percent of Pakistan's total population and the share of women in Pakistan's workforce is just 25 percent. It was suggested that government should take more legislative measures and provide better incentives to bring them into the national mainstream.

Many women entrepreneurs assisted by UNIDO in launching their business ventures shared their success stories with the participants. They stressed that government should ensure easy credit facility with low interest rates for women entrepreneurs.

The event ended with the notion that UNIDO and ICCI will work together to remove the problems and barriers being faced by the women entrepreneurs.

## New information management system for refugee affected and hosting areas programme

'We have the medicines and we have developed a better understanding of the protocols. Thanks to UNFPA' said Dr. Mehran, the Head of HIV/AIDS and STIs Unit of the District Headquarter [DHQ] Hospital of Bannu.

Since July 2014 the ongoing military conflict in the northern part of the country has displaced the population in the surrounding areas, where the majority of them have been entering Bannu Agency.

The emergency RH Kits have been dispatched to the DHQ Bannu to support the government efforts to meet basic Reproductive Health requirements of the affected population. 'The entire hospital receives

more than 600 patients per day. In which more than 20 of them are referred to our Unit and diagnosed with STIs. STIs and most probably HIV are transmitted very fast in this area. Moreover, in this crisis situation, it is frustrating because we lack medicines' he added. UNFPA and UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, are working very closely with the National and Provincial AIDS Control Program to prevent the transmissions of STIs and HIV among the displaced persons and host community. UNFPA and its partners provide on-the-job training to 5 male and 7 female health personnel who are working at the front line on the management of STIs and HIV

as well as on clinical management of rape survivors. The emergency response project has also strengthened intra and inter sectorial referrals.

'While good progress is being made the needs on the ground remain massive. We are working very closely with humanitarians and stakeholders at the health facility and community levels to provide lifesaving reproductive health services' said Mr. Mark Bryan Schreiner, Officer-in-Charge UNFPA Pakistan. 'We are working through a multi-sectorial approach to integrate RH services and the prevention and response of Gender-based Violence.' he added.

## Wheat Flour Fortification Initiative to combat micronutrient deficiencies launched



The launching ceremony of AJK Wheat Flour Fortification Initiative was held in Islamabad under the support of National Fortification Alliance. The State Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with World Food Programme (WFP) and Micronutrient Initiative (MI) is committed for State wide wheat flour fortification.

An estimated 300,000 tons of fortified wheat flour shall be produced annually while engaging with 11 flour mills in Azad Jammu & Kash-

mir (AJK), reaching 65% of the population which are 2.6 million people including 500,000 women of child bearing age. 43.7 percent or over 10 million children under five years are stunted in Pakistan and only 7.3 percent of children 6-24 months receive the minimum acceptable diet. It is estimated that micronutrient malnutrition alone causes a loss of 2.6% of GDP (Pakistan Economic Survey 2011-12, Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan 2102) in Pakistan, a loss that can be ill afforded.

The speakers mentioned that under Vision 2025, it is a national priority to reduce malnutrition, particularly the prevalence of anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies and food

insecurity in order for Pakistan to achieve its full potential, and wheat flour fortification, recognized as one of the most cost effective and high return nutrition intervention, is part of that essential strategy in Pakistan.

Lola Castro, WFP Pakistan Country Director emphasized that increasing the micronutrient intake of the population through food fortification initiatives, mainly iron, folic acid and other essential micronutrients.

Dr. Tausif Janjua, Country Director MI informed that this will only cost 10 paisa per kilogram of wheat flour to be fortified, but the impact will be huge, especially in reducing the maternal anemia.

## Preventing transmission of STIs and HIV during the crisis: because we care

**“We have the medicines and we have developed a better understanding of the protocols. Thanks to UNFPA”** said Dr. Mehran, the Head of HIV/AIDS and STIs Unit of the District Headquarter [DHQ] Hospital of Bannu. Since July 2014 the ongoing military conflict in the northern part of the country has displaced the population in the surrounding areas, where the majority of them have been entering Bannu Agency.

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# Message from departing UN Resident Coordinator

My arrival in Pakistan in October 2010 coincided with the peak of the relief efforts following the massive monsoon floods. This was a traumatic experience for the country, with the unprecedented floods affecting the lives and livelihoods of an estimated 18 million people. The United Nations agencies and their partners geared up to support national relief efforts with a US\$1.9 billion appeal, which at that time was the biggest humanitarian appeal ever launched by the UN. Surveying the flood affected areas of Sindh, southern Punjab and Balochistan from the air fully revealed the extent of the disaster: a seemingly endless ocean of water; countless towns and villages submerged by the deluge; thousands of people desperately seeking refuge on road banks and any other high ground that they could reach.

Resilience is a term frequently used to describe how people affected by consecutive natural disasters in Pakistan manage to cope. Yet there is a limit to how much resilience should be expected from the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society. The line between extreme poverty and humanitarian needs is often blurred. Deep rooted poverty and deprivation, as can be witnessed in many parts of rural Pakistan, aggravates the impact of disasters.

Recurrent natural disasters further impoverish the most vulnerable and, significantly, the human costs of such crisis persist long after the critical relief and early recovery periods are over. The UN estimated that the 2010 floods in Pakistan considerably set back progress towards Millennium Development Goals, especially in the crucially important areas of poverty reduction, education and health. Close integration of development and humanitarian programmes in Pakistan is a goal that should be pursued with renewed vigour. But it is also clear that the nation has learned from the frequent misfortunes. Although much still remains to be done, I have witnessed in the past few years a gradual improvement in the country's capacity to respond to and manage disasters. The amount spent by the UN system in Pakistan on development versus humanitarian programmes reflects this trend: In 2010, the UN in Pakistan spent over five times more on humanitarian programmes than on development work. Since 2011 there has been a gradual shift of focus towards development programmes, and in 2013 the UN in Pakistan spent almost 60 percent of its total expenditures of \$528 million on development.

By nature, humanitarian action takes priority when lives and livelihoods are at risk, and the UN continues

its important humanitarian work in support of the some 1.6 million people displaced from the Federally Administered Tribal Regions, including helping them return home. We cannot predict disasters, but I hope that the UN in Pakistan will be able to further increase the share of its resources for development. This will help achieve the key development outcomes, including poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction, of the One UN Programme for Pakistan 2013-2017. This second generation One UN Programme brings together 19 different UN organisations under six strategic priority areas; it presents all UN development activities under one framework, and it reflects devolution of government responsibilities to the provinces.

During my assignment I often talked about the One UN Programme at various events and advocated for further strengthening its core structures. The reason is simple: it is a key driver of UN reform at the country level. Having led development of the One UN Programme in 2011 and 2012, I can say with confidence that the process helped the UN system in Pakistan to think collectively and strategically as a whole – and not just as individual agencies – about our mission and how each agency works with others to contribute to the UN's commonly agreed out-

comes. The One UN Programme has helped strengthen national ownership, made the UN more responsive to provincial development priorities and better tuned into sub-national capacity development needs.

The UN still has plenty of work to do to streamline its internal structures and processes both globally and in Pakistan. Like any organization, be it a private company or a public service, in order to stay relevant and retain the trust of its partners, the UN must ensure that it serves the purpose that it was created for in an ever changing environment. Pakistan is a particularly diverse and dynamic country with many streams of energy, some obvious to all, such as its young dynamic population, others more latent.

For the UN to help Pakistan harness its vast potential requires that it is capable of continuous introspection and adaptation. Aptly, the theme of the UN Country Team's annual retreat in February was "Delivering better results to the people of Pakistan: A UN system fit for purpose".

After more than four years in Pakistan, I take with me wonderful personal and professional memories from this beautiful, hospitable and diverse country. I thank our partners in the federal and provincial govern-



ments, civil society, donor agencies, UN member states represented in Islamabad, as well as my UN colleagues for their support and advice throughout my stay in Pakistan.

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**Mr. Timo Pakkala,**  
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

## Dr. Jacqui Badcock appointed UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, a.i.



Dr. Jacqui Badcock joined the UN in Pakistan as UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative on 1 March 2015 for a three-month term. A British resident of Australia, Dr. Badcock brings with her experience ranging from Senior Lecturer in Public Health Nutrition at the University of Canberra to Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident

and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Dr. Badcock brings a new perspective to the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Islamabad.

**“I’m pleased to be able to spend some time in a youthful and vibrant country with such enormous potential. Although this is a short assignment, I hope to share some of my positive experiences from other parts of the world,”** Dr. Badcock noted. Serving with the United Nations for more than 20 years, most recently as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq from May 2012 to January 2015, Dr. Badcock was UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Philippines from August 2009 to May 2012, in Papua New Guinea from November 2004 to July 2009, and in Namibia from 2000 to 2004. She served as UNICEF Representative in the multi-country office in Suva, Fiji covering 14 countries from 1994 to 1998, as a Chief Technical Ad-

visor and Deputy FAO Representative in Viet Nam from 1990 to 1994, and as UNICEF Representative in Lao PDR from 1998 to 2000.

Dr. Badcock worked in Papua New Guinea from 1979 to 1983 with Save the Children Fund, with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (covering all 22 Pacific island countries) from 1983 to 1989, and conducting consultancy work for AusAid, WHO and the University of the South Pacific in various countries from 1989 to 1990.

She was Senior Lecturer in Public Health Nutrition at the University of Canberra from 1989 to 1990 and Adjunct Associate Professor of Nutrition at the University of Hawaii from 1984 to 1989. Dr. Badcock holds an Honour’s degree in Nutrition from the University of Surrey, UK and a Doctorate in Biochemistry from the University of London, School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK. She is a UK State Registered Dietician.

## Mark Bryan Schreiner appointed UNFPA Officer-in-Charge

Mark Bryan Schreiner, a national of Canada, has been serving as Officer-in-Charge of UNFPA Pakistan since February 2015. Prior to arriving in Pakistan, Mark served as Deputy Director of the UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office supporting the UN’s work in 15 Pacific Island Countries. He joins the Asia & Pacific Region from Africa

where he served as UNFPA Deputy Representative to the Republic of South Africa; UNFPA Representative for Eritrea and South Africa Country Offices; supported UN Reforms and inter-agency work as Regional Programme Specialist to the UN Regional Directors Team for East & Southern Africa; and served as Programme Spe-

cialist with the UNFPA Africa Division in New York and UNFPA Nigeria Country Office. Mr. Schreiner has also worked with the United Nations Environment Programme in Kenya and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Thailand.



## Jamshed M. Kazi is the new UN Women Country Representative

Mr. Kazi possesses diverse field and senior management experience spanning across Asia and the Pacific, East Africa, and Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the fields of democratic governance, programme management, inter-agency coordination, human rights, women's empowerment and environmental policy with several UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNV, UNESCAP) and the

NGO sector. Immediately prior to assuming his current function as UN Women Representative in Pakistan, he served as the Director ad interim of UNDP's Global Policy Center (Oslo Governance Center) based in Norway.

A national of Bangladesh, Mr. Kazi holds Masters degrees on Public Administration; Development Studies; and Environmental Assessment and Evaluation, respectively,

from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the London School of Economics and Political Science. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and International Development from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, USA.

## One Voice communication workshops in Quetta



Quetta, 9 – 11 February 2015: Aiming at enhancing the common understanding about the development and humanitarian assistance programmes of the United Nations in Pakistan and strengthening relations with different stakeholders at the provincial level, the UN Communications Group held communication workshops and arranged a media field visit to its projects in Quetta, Balochistan on 9-11 February 2015.

Over 80 public information officers from the government, media representatives and students of mass communication departments attended the workshop. Mr. Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal provincial minister for information and Mr. Abdullah Jan Provincial Secretary for information represented the government of Balochistan.

The Communication team, led by the Director UNIC Mr. Vittorio Cammarota briefed the participants on

the overall work of the 19 agencies in Pakistan and on their projects in the areas of education, health, climate change, refugees, women empowerment, food security and socio-economic development of Balochistan. A group of journalists also visited the UN supported projects in the surrounding of Quetta. These projects included: WFP-PD-MA Humanitarian Response Facility (HRF) situated in Chashma Achozai; FAO Kitchen Garden projects and Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) supported Nursery project on western bypass region of Quetta. A field visit of the UN supported projects, provided an opportunity to the journalists to witness and learn about the engagement of the United Nations in different assistance programmes and their impact on the lives of the people at grass root level.



## FM100: radio talk show on World Radio Day



On World Radio Day, the Director UN Information Centre, Vittorio Cammarota participated in a special live talk show, at FM 100 radio network. He talked about 'youth and journalism' and shared information on the Dag

Hammarskjöld Fund for Journalists Fellowship to radio, television, print and web journalists, which available to developing countries including Pakistan. He encouraged young male and female journalists, aged 25-35 to apply for the fellowship. The selected journalists shall be visiting New York to report on international affairs during the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly this year.

Several heads of UN agencies including Director UNESCO, Vibeke Jensen, Country Director ILO, Francesco d'Ovidio, Country Director UNDP, Marc-André Franche and UN officials from WFP and UNHCR also joined the talk show on line and shared their views about the youth empowerment in the field of journalism.

In addition to the FM100 network, the

talk show was also broadcasted by other FM radio networks, including Dil FM, Power 99, Smile FM, FM Jeevay Pakistan, Radio Awaz and Tribal News Network.

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## Radio Pakistan: exclusive interview with the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova

The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova gave an exclusive telephonic interview to Radio Pakistan on the occasion of the World Radio Day World. During an interview with Radio Pakistan, Irina Bokova, DG UNESCO reaffirmed radio as the best means of communication and recognized its important role in disseminating knowledge and news about health, education, environment and natural disasters to millions of people around the world. Mentioning this year theme, Youth and Radio, she said that youth represents more than fifty percent of

the world population who need to be modernized around the idea of peace, development, elimination of prejudice, stereotypes and to provide them with opportunity to get more knowledge about the world. She said that radio was well adapted to the new communication and information technologies and large number of journalism students and young media professionals were joining this profession. She shared that UNESCO has been establishing hundreds of community radios in many countries and applauded that radio offer young people a

privilege space for youth participation in many countries including Pakistan.

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## Radio Pakistan: significance of Radio in globalized world and empowering youth through radio



of youth in radio programmes and productions. They also stressed on the need for improving the radio contents, with talk shows and the quality needed to attract a greater audience.

Those participated included Sadaf from FM 101, Rabia from FM 100 Islamabad, Nasir Fareed, In charge, FM Radio Station-International Islamic University Islamabad, Humaira Kanwal, Multimedia Producer, BBC Urdu Islamabad, Wajih Akhtar, Director Wavelength / Prominent radio presenter and Amjad Qammar, radio expert.

During a panel discussion English segment, organized by Radio Pakistan in collaboration with UNIC and UNESCO, Vibeke Jensen, Representative/Director UNESCO Islamabad highlighted that radio was a cost effective medium for information sharing in remote areas of Pakistan. A majority of urban populations increasingly rely on televisions, while in rural areas, radio is still an effective medium. She stressed that young people should be managing youth programmes. She further extended that radio was important in emergency and natural disaster situation for information distribution to the target audience. Vittorio Cammarota, Director UN Information Centre highlighted the crucial role being played

by radio. He said that the mutual cooperation of the United Nations with the support of Radio Pakistan, last year produced 35 radio programmes on various themes and issues. A few were broadcasted in Urdu. He applauded the role of Radio Pakistan and extended continuation of the excellent cooperation with PBC.

Ghulam Qadir Baig, Director News and Current Affair, Radio Pakistan said that Radio Pakistan was the biggest broadcasting network in Pakistan. He said that Radio Pakistan's emphasis was engaging people of all walks of life, with a particular focus on youth.

During the Urdu segment, "empowering youth through radio", participants discussed the engagement





# Out in the open

This week I attended the Pakistan Conference on Sanitation, PACOSAN II, which took place in Islamabad. Among the many interesting issues raised, one stood out as a serious problem for communities within Pakistan. I am talking about the problem of open defecation.

Too many people throughout the country do not have proper toilets. They are forced to relieve themselves under the open sky, and involuntarily cause a major public health problem.

When I was growing up in Delhi, we lived in a middle class neighborhood that bordered a poorer community of cow herders and dairy farmers. Faeces on the ground and open drains were part and parcel of my environment, even though we had a toilet in my home and I lived in a modern neighborhood. My mother constantly nagged me not to run barefoot on the streets.

I constantly suffered from intestinal worms and parasites which was a source of constant worry for my mother. I was painfully thin and looked malnourished.

Many children die because of diarrhea and other infectious diseases that are linked to poor sanitation.

Others develop a chronic infection of the gut, a condition which shows no acute symptoms, but over a long period of time hinders the intake of important nutrients.

These children become chronically malnourished and if nothing is done against it before their second year of age, it becomes too late. They become stunted; their physical and mental development is irreversibly damaged.

If we want to tackle stunting we need to stop open defecation. Current statistics show that over a third of the population in South Asia practices open defecation. In Pakistan alone 41 million people do not have access to a household toilet. This is both a challenge and an enormous opportunity for improvement.

Access to sanitation facilities could also reduce violence against girls and women, violence that is more likely when they have to walk far from home to defecate privately. Access to sanitation facilities in schools, that takes account of menstruation, will give adolescent girls less reason to miss class or drop out of school.

Investing in sanitation and hygiene will allow us to achieve healthi-

er, more productive communities who live in dignity and are part of a stronger economy.

The writer is the deputy executive director of Unicef.

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**Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta,**  
Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Children's Fund



## International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

27 January 2015

Seventy years ago today, allied forces liberated Auschwitz Birkenau, the German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp. More than a million inmates, primarily Jews, were brutally and systematically killed in the place where the Nazis introduced the monstrous concept of “industrialized murder”. Among the other victims were non-Jewish Poles, political prison-

ers, Soviet prisoners of war, Sinti and Roma, homosexuals, disabled persons and Jehovah’s witnesses. The mission of the United Nations was shaped by the tragedy of the Second World War and the Holocaust. We are committed to protect the vulnerable, promote fundamental human rights and uphold the freedom, dignity and worth of every person. The violence and bias we see

every day are stark reminders of the distance still to travel in upholding human rights, preventing genocide and defending our common humanity. We must redouble our efforts to eradicate the deep roots of hatred and intolerance. People everywhere must unite to stop the cycles of discord and build a world of inclusion and mutual respect.

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## World Radio Day 13 February 2015

On World Radio Day, we celebrate a medium that captures the imagination and brings people together.

Every year, United Nations Radio broadcasts over 1,200 documentaries, news items and editorials over the airwaves.

This year's observance of World Radio

Day highlights the importance of radio to the world's 1.8 billion young women and men. Radio matters for youth across the world. As the international community shapes new sustainable development goals and a new global agreement on climate change, we need to hear the voices of young

women and men, loudly, strongly and urgently.

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## World Day of Social Justice 20 February 2015

This year's commemoration focuses on the scourge of human trafficking and the plight of approximately 21 million women, men and children in various forms of modern slavery. New

instruments such as the ILO Protocol and Recommendation on forced labour and human trafficking are helping to strengthen global efforts to punish perpetrators and end impunity. We

must continue to do more. We simply cannot achieve development for all if we leave behind those who are socially and economically exploited.

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## World Wildlife Day 3 March 2015

Illegal trade in wildlife has become a sophisticated transnational form of crime, comparable to other pernicious examples, such as trafficking of drugs, humans, counterfeit items and oil. It is driven by rising demand, and is often facilitated by corruption and weak governance. There is strong evidence of the increased involvement of organized crime networks and non-State armed groups. Illegal wildlife trade undermines the rule of law and threatens national security; it degrades ecosystems and is a major obstacle to the efforts of rural communities and indigenous peoples striving to sustainably manage their natural resources. Combating this crime is not only essen-

tial for conservation efforts and sustainable development, it will contribute to achieving peace and security in troubled regions where conflicts are fuelled by these illegal activities.

Getting serious about wildlife crime means enrolling the support of all sections of society involved in the production and consumption of wildlife products, which are widely used as medicines, food, building materials, furniture, cosmetics, clothing and accessories. Law enforcement efforts must be supported by the wider community. Businesses and the general public in all countries can play a major role by, for example, refusing to buy or auction illegal ivory and rhinoceros

horn, and insisting that products from the world's oceans and tropical forests have been legally obtained and sustainably sourced.

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# United Nations Pakistan



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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.

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