

# Media Update

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## ILO PRESS RELEASE

### **Pakistan advances anti-trafficking efforts with Launch of Phase II of Trafficking in Persons project**

***Efforts under Phase II will increase accessibility, transparency and efficiency in handling TIP reporting, whilst promoting public support for combating human trafficking.***

Islamabad, Pakistan (ILO News) – Phase II of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reporting Enhancement project, funded by the Government of Australia, will advance Pakistan's fight against human trafficking by strengthening the TIP hotline and referral system with upgraded infrastructure and a secure data management system.

Additionally, it will build the capacity of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) through targeted training, enhancing its ability to respond effectively to trafficking cases.

The project was launched in a signing ceremony with H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins, the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, and Mr. Geir Tonstol, the ILO Country Director for Pakistan. The Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency was also present at the occasion.

Phase II of the project builds on the successes of the first phase, which saw the establishment of a Management Information System (MIS) for TIP reporting and developed a framework for a TIP facilitation center. The current phase will further strengthen the capacities of the FIA and users of the TIP Reporting Portal.

Geir Tonstol, the ILO Country Director for Pakistan said, “The ILO is excited to embark on the second phase of support to FIA, which aims to further enhance the capacities of provincial and federal entities in reporting on trafficking in persons, one of the worst forms of forced labour. Through scalable initiatives, we seek to demonstrate the effectiveness of a comprehensive response to trafficking in persons utilizing the approach that looks at prevention, protection, prosecution participation and partnerships.”

He added “The ILO emphasizes the importance of enabling conditions, such as freedom of association, to achieve a world free of unacceptable forms of work. By adopting an integrated approach to fundamental labour rights, we empower workers to voice their concerns and advocate for their rights collectively.”

Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan said, “Australia’s support against human trafficking and modern slavery in Pakistan is about safeguarding human rights, advancing development, and boosting its global standing. Partnering with the International Labour Organization and the Federal Investigation Agency, we’re all working towards a stronger, more coordinated response to protect vulnerable Pakistanis.”

The project addresses the need for a coordinated response to human trafficking and smuggling, aiming to improve domestic and cross-border efforts. By enhancing communication and collaboration amongst relevant authorities, the strengthened TIP reporting system will play a crucial role in preventing trafficking and protecting vulnerable populations.

### **Background:**

Human trafficking remains a critical global issue, impacting individuals and societies profoundly. Pakistan is committed to addressing this challenge, supported by efforts outlined in the Decent Work Country Programme 2023-2027. The government and ILO continue to work together to enhance reporting and responses to human trafficking and related issues.

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