

# Media Update

25 November 2024

## UNDP

PRESS RELEASE

**In a transformative step towards a resilient Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 700 young people have acquired market driven skills through vocational training supported by the Government of Japan.**

**Islamabad, 21 November 2024**— Supported by the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) have successfully concluded a market-driven vocational and technical skills training programme designed to empower youth from Kurram and Orakzai districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). A closing ceremony was held in Islamabad to mark its successful completion.

The three-month programme equipped 700 young individuals, including 375 women, with hands-on skills such as cell phone repair, LED bulb assembly, eco-friendly packaging, jewellery making, motorcycle repair, electrician, plumbing, solar system, and UPS installation. Graduates also received certificates and customized toolkits to help them apply their skills to start small businesses or secure employment opportunities.

Speaking at the occasion, chief guest Mr. Rana Mashood, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, said in his statement, "*Women's empowerment is a key focus of our Prime Minister's Youth Programme. I am delighted to see that 375 women have been trained in hands-on skills under this initiative. On behalf of the people of Pakistan, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Japan, the United Nations Development Programme, and SRSP for their valuable contribution to this skills training program in remote areas.*"

As part of a broader effort to develop youth leadership, empower young women, and generate actionable strategies to build climate resilience, youth

from Kurram and Orakzai also participated in a grand dialogue on “Climate Adaptation and Girls’ Education” during the closing ceremony.

Ms. Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Pakistan, expressed gratitude for the collaboration and said, “We are grateful to the Government of Japan for their long-standing partnership with UNDP. Through their support, this programme has demonstrated the potential of young people in Kurram and Orakzai. By empowering young women and men with skills for income generation, we are confident that this project will foster gender-sensitive economic recovery in the region and contribute to its long-term stability.”

*Mr. ITO Takeshi, Charge d’ Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in his speech, stated, “The long-standing partnership between Japan and UNDP has enabled us to support projects that build strong communities and bring positive change. Our key initiatives have focused on creating safe spaces for women to engage in community decision-making and access economic opportunities. Through these interventions, we have enabled women to take on more active roles contributing to social cohesion and economic stability. Our development partnership is based on the principal of ‘Leave No One Behind’”.*

This initiative is part of an ongoing project worth USD 4.1 million, supported by the Government of Japan and UNDP, that aims to stabilize and help revive economic recovery in Kurram and Orakzai districts through a people- and institution-centered approach. Focusing on social cohesion, local governance, and livelihood creation, the project places youth and women at its core as key agents of change and will benefit over 200,000 people, including 50 percent women

### ### ###

**For additional information, please contact:**

1. Ms. Fizza Bangash, Communications Analyst, UNDP Pakistan, fizza.bangash@undp.org or +92 (51) 835 5631
2. Mr. Sajid Abbasi, Senior Special Advisor, Press and Information, Embassy of Japan in Islamabad sajid.abbasi@ib.mofa.go.jp or +92 333 5117 548

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. Learn more at [undp.org](http://undp.org) or follow at @UNDP.

\*\*\*

# UNICEF

## STATEMENT

### Statement from UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell at the conclusion of COP29

**NEW YORK, 24 November 2024** - "UNICEF stands ready to work with governments, partners, and the private sector to ensure that the new \$300 billion climate finance target agreed today at COP29 is met, and that it is followed by concrete climate action – action which is desperately needed by the world's 2.4 billion children to protect their rights, lives and futures.

"We welcome partners' efforts to emphasize the unique and disproportionate impacts of climate change on children in the Global Goal on Adaptation. This agreement is a positive response to the demands made by children and young people at COP29.

"As we look ahead, we encourage all countries to use the coming weeks and months to increase their ambition in their new national climate plans – also known as National Determined Contributions 3.0 – and in their National

Adaptation Plans. It is essential that these plans prioritize the rights and wellbeing of children.

“Children cannot afford for world leaders to backtrack on their promises when storms are destroying their schools, wildfires are harming their lungs, their homes and health services are being washed away, and life-sustaining crops are dying from droughts.

“We urge world leaders to begin work immediately to ensure the world can reconvene at COP30 with the sense of urgency and ambition required to meet our promises to the world’s children.”

#####

### **Notes for editors:**

NEW: [Subscribe](#) to UNICEF’s global media updates on WhatsApp.

### **About UNICEF**

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

For more information about UNICEF and its work, visit [unicef.org](http://unicef.org)

Follow UNICEF on [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#)

### **For more information, please contact:**

Helen Wylie, UNICEF New York, +1 917 244 2215, [hwylie@unicef.org](mailto:hwylie@unicef.org)