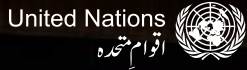


UNITED NATIONS PAKISTAN



Magazine

5 - 6 / 2018



Special Features:

- UDHR 70: Human Rights through Cinematography
- 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence
- HIV & AIDS: know your status
- Food Security
- UN Day



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS

REAL LIVES: STORIES THAT INSPIRE US

Refugee girl aspires to become her country's first female foreign minister
Page 57

NEWS AND EVENTS

Powering sustainable development with access to information
Page 61

GUEST IN TOWN

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and UNHCR's Director for Asia and Pacific visit Pakistan
Page 113

FAREWELL

Bidding Farewell to Dr Assai Ardakani, Former Head of Country Office, WHO in Pakistan
Page 121

MESSAGES AND QUOTES BY ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
Page 122

PHOTO ALBUM

Page 127



United Nations اقوام متحدہ



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171 Editor's note

SPECIAL FEATURE

UDHR 70: HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH CINEMATOGRAPHY

- 191 Human Rights Day 10 December 2018
- 1101 UDHR 70 and Pakistan
- 1111 European Union and Human Rights
- 1121 Fourth edition of Film Festival "Human Rights through Cinematography"
- 1151 COMSATS University observed Human Rights Day and 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

SPECIAL FEATURE

HIV & AIDS: "KNOW YOUR STATUS"

- 1271 World AIDS Day 2018
- 1271 Message by H.E Imran Khan, Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- 1281 Message by Mr. Aamer Mehmood Kiani, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination
- 1291 Strengthening the HIV response in Pakistan
- 1301 World AIDS Day: Know Your Status
- 1311 The time for action is NOW!
- 1321 Commemorating 30th Anniversary of World AIDS Day
- 1341 Round Table Interactive Dialogue with Parliamentarians on HIV and AIDS
- 1351 KNOW YOUR STATUS: Leading by an example: Getting tested for HIV & encouraging others to "know their status"

REAL LIVES: STORIES THAT INSPIRE US

- 1571 Refugee girl aspires to become her country's first female foreign minister
- 1581 A legend in Tharparkar
- 1591 Giving Pakistani Adolescents a second chance in Balochistan
- 1601 Afghan refugee elder sees no progress without girls' education

SPECIAL FEATURE

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- 1171 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 25 November 2018
- 1181 Calling for an end to child marriage in Pakistan at '16 Days' event in Mithi
- 1191 Ending cyber harassment on-campus and off-campus in Pakistan at '16 Days' event at SZABIST University
- 1201 Critical need to establish special health, education and other fundamental facilities for Women with Disabilities
- 1211 CEOs of private companies from Karachi pledge their commitment for action on Gender Equality
- 1221 The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa joins UN Women in saying no to gender-based violence
- 1231 Campus talk in Peshawar
- 1231 Standing up against gender-based violence and sexual harassment in Khairpur, Sindh
- 1231 Theater performance in St. John Vianney High School, Peshawar
- 1241 Campus talk in Balochistan
- 1241 Interactive community theatre in Balochistan
- 1251 Proceedings of awareness sessions on drug abuse and its impact on users, especially women
- 1251 Seminar on gender-based violence in Lahore

SPECIAL FEATURE

UN DAY

- 1371 UN Day
- 1391 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations Pakistan celebrates 73rd Anniversary of the United Nations
- 1401 United Nations staff commemorates UN Day!
- 1411 Thematic art exhibition and discussion with Youth on United Nations Day-2018

SPECIAL FEATURE

FOOD SECURITY

- 1431 World Food Day
- 1431 Zero Hunger: our actions today are our future tomorrow
- 1451 Investing in Zero Hunger in Pakistan
- 1471 "Our actions are our future. A #zero hunger world by 2030 is possible."
- 1481 World Food Day marked by UN Food and Agriculture Organization all over Pakistan.
- 1491 Supporting development of national e-agriculture strategy for Pakistan
- 1511 FAO and Pakistan sign Country Programming Framework 2018-2022
- 1521 Pakistan launches consultation on national action plan for nutrition
- 1531 Pakistan announced fourth largest producer of chickpeas in the world by FAO report
- 1541 New strategies unfold to improve agriculture in Balochistan
- 1551 Promoting exchange of innovative agri-technologies through universities
- 1561 FAO launches Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition

INDEX

NEWS AND EVENTS

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- 1611 Powering sustainable development with access to information

CHILDREN

- 1621 National Complementary Feeding Assessment (NCFA) launched
- 1631 Breastfeeding: foundation for a healthy Life
- 1641 Half of world's teens experience peer violence in and around school
- 1651 On International Day of the Girl, UNICEF calls on improving employability skills
- 1621 World Prematurity Day : care for preterm babies imperative to improve Child Survival Indicators in Pakistan
- 1671 Promoting respect for diversity among children through puppet show

CLIMATE CHANGE

- 1681 Launch of clean and green Pakistan programme
- 1691 Creating a new framework of cooperation to support Climate Action

CULTURE

- 1701 Kalasha practice of Suri Jagek enters UNESCO's Intangible Culture in Need of Urgent Safeguarding List

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- 1721 Japan supports WFP for seasonal livelihood programming in newly merged tribal districts
- 1731 Efforts continue to build disaster resilience

DRUGS AND CRIME

- 1741 Awareness raising campaign against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants rolls out
- 1751 Building the operational capacity of the Anti Narcotics Force
- 1761 Training on "Understanding and Presenting Circumstantial Evidence in Terrorism Trials"
- 1771 Vulnerability of various age and gender groups

EDUCATION

- 1781 International Literacy Day
- 1791 Launch of the Global Education Monitoring

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

- 1801 Engro Energy & UN Women pledge to advance women's empowerment in Thar
- 1811 Building women's capabilities to engage with ICT
- 1821 ICT for Girls
- 1841 Trailblazers of Thar

HEALTH

- 1861 Saving lives of women and girls in cross border areas in Pakistan
- 1871 Mobility support for EPI Programme in Pakistan
- 1881 Kick-starting Pakistan's mass measles immunisation campaign
- 1891 Calling on young innovators to design solutions for improved menstrual hygiene practices
- 1901 "One Team One Goal - Acknowledging, Retaining and Enabling"

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1911 Raising skills of energy professionals and adopting a cluster approach
- 1921 Workshops on Energy Management System Implementation held nation-wide
- 1931 Sialkot Tannery Association and UNIDO organize workshop on cleaner production techniques

LABOUR

- 1941 Exposure visit of government officials from Pakistan to the work on labour inspection in the Philippines
- 1951 Promoting fundamental principles and rights at work in Pakistan's cotton, textile and garment value chains
- 1961 The future of work and the significance of effective collective bargaining and negotiations
- 1971 Global Wage Report 2018/19: What lies behind Gender Pay Gap

- 1981 Awareness raising campaign on OSH in the construction sector of Karachi

POPULATION

- 1991 The State of World Population 2018

REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

- 11001 International Migrants Day
- 11011 UNHCR welcomes Pakistan's decision to extend stay of Afghan refugees
- 11021 Integrated homestead gardening for Afghan refugees in Balochistan
- 11031 Japan pledges USD 2.7 million to support Afghan refugees and Pakistani youth

SDGS

- 11041 Pakistan on the path towards achieving SDGs under One UN Programme III
- 11051 Serena Hotels and UNDP join hands to support Sustainable Development in Pakistan
- 11061 WFP and erstwhile FATA Secretariat renew commitment to national goals

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- 11071 Improving municipal solid waste management critical for sustainable urban development
- 11081 Tencent-UNDP partner to launch Connecting Cities to Solutions

VOLUNTEERISM

- 11091 International Volunteer Day recognizes volunteer's contributions towards building resilient communities

YOUTH'S EMPOWERMENT

- 11101 Royal Norwegian Embassy partners up for the social and economic empowerment of youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- 11111 International Student's Convention and Expo - 2018
- 11121 Balochistan University of Information Technology (BUIITEMS) named SDG Hub for Goal 8 by UNAI

GUEST IN TOWN

- I113| The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and UNHCR's Director for Asia and Pacific visit Pakistan
- I114| Joint Communiqué
- I117| Providing free treatment to poor cancer patients
- I118| Investing in youth will pay dividends for peace and prosperity

- I119| WHO Regional Director praises Pakistan's strong political commitment to achieving universal health coverage on official visit
- I120| UN Women Executive Director takes #HearMeToo to Pakistan

FAREWELL

- I121| Bidding Farewell to Dr Assai Ardakani, Former Head of Country Office, WHO in Pakistan

MESSAGES AND QUOTES BY ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I122 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer – 16 September 2018 I122 International Day of Peace – 21 September 2018 I122 World Tourism Day: "Tourism and the digital transformation" – 27 September 2018 I123 International Day of Non-Violence – 2 October 2018 I123 World Post Day – 9 October 2018 I123 International Day of the Girl Child – 11 October 2018 I123 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – 17 October 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I123 World Mental Health Day – 10 October 2018 I123 World Cities Day – 10 October 2018 I124 International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists – 2 November 2018 I124 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – 29 November 2018 I124 Tsunami Awareness Day – 5 November 2018 I124 International Day of Persons with Disabilities – 3 December 2018 I124 International Volunteer Day – 5 December 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I125 International Anti-Corruption Day – 9 December 2018 I125 International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime – 9 December 2018 I125 International Universal Health Coverage Day – 12 December 2018 I125 International Migrants Day – 18 December 2018 |
|--|---|--|

PHOTO ALBUM

- I127|

United Nations

اقوام متحده



Editor's Note



The 5-6 joint issue of the United Nations Pakistan magazine brings to you an update on the numerous important initiatives that unfolded in the past months. With a new year ahead of us, we look forward to building on this momentum together and keep collaborating on issues of employment, migration, gender equality, food security, health, education, environment and many more.

From 25 November to 10 December, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign galvanized action to end violence against women and girls around the world. Following global movements such as MeToo and TimesUp, the UN theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign was "Orange the World : HearMeToo ". In an effort to make the stories of those who were not yet captured by the limelight of the media heard, events were held across Pakistani provinces. This edition highlights the university talks, theatre performances, awareness sessions, and seminars touching upon varied aspects of Gender Based Violence, and the solutions to put a halt to this phenomenon.

70 years ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed by 48 countries, including Pakistan. A key document then, it has become a foundation underpinning all internation-

al human rights law, an inspiration for countries, people and organisations to protect people's rights. In the occasion of this important anniversary, the fourth edition of the Film Festival " Human rights through cinematography " was held across Pakistani cities, with documentaries featuring themes such as freedom of expression, gender equality, and access to justice among others.

On 1 December, the United Nations in Pakistan commemorated the 30th Anniversary of World AIDS Day in close collaboration with the Government at both Federal and Provincial levels, and with Civil Society Organizations in communities around the country. The year's theme was Know Your Status — a movement envisaged to reach people living with HIV whose status is unknown by encouraging testing and linking them to quality care and life-saving treatment services. By providing one platform for parliamentarians, media, healthcare providers and community activists to come together, the United Nations enabled stakeholders to jointly promote awareness and spread quality information about HIV to the population at large. Efforts towards this end are highlighted in this issue.

World Food Day was also an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in our shared journey toward Zero Hunger. This issue highlights the numerous efforts of the UN entities in Pakistan made towards food security, improved nutritional status, inclusion of women and youth in agriculture. New means of agricultural development in challenging rural areas; the elaboration of comprehensive dietary guidelines for the general public to adopt healthy eating and reduce disease; road mapping an e-agriculture strategy; and the signing of a five-year agreement for the former FATA districts to achieve key goals regarding

food security, are some of the projects showcased.

In addition, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock and UNHCR's Director for Asia and Pacific, Mr. Indrika Ratwatte visited Pakistan during this period. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees met with Pakistan government officials, including the Prime Minister, attended events and met with refugee families returning to Afghanistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan's generosity in hosting one of the world's largest populations for decades was acknowledged.

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka also had her first official visit to Pakistan, aiming to bolster the gender equality agenda in the country, meeting with government officials, participating in interactive dialogues on ending harassment of women with disabilities and drawing attention to UN Women's existing tools for women emancipation and empowerment. In late December, Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean was also welcomed on his first official visit to Pakistan, applauding efforts to boost health and health care in the country.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the UN Communications Group and the UN Country Team for their continued support for this magazine and for working in partnership to communicate and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan.

Neil Buhne
Resident Coordinator, United Nations Pakistan



SPECIAL FEATURE:

UDHR 70: HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH CINEMATOGRAPHY



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS
#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS



Human Rights Day

10 December 2018

By **António Guterres**,
United Nations Secretary-General



“For 70 years, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been a global beacon – shining a light for dignity, equality and well-being... and bringing hope to dark places.

The rights proclaimed in the Declaration apply to everyone – no matter our race, belief, location or other distinction of any kind.

Human rights are universal and eternal.

They are also indivisible. One cannot pick and choose among civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.”

UDHR 70 and Pakistan

By **Neil Buhne**, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Pakistan

Our shared objective of this international film festival was to increase knowledge of human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among Pakistani audience especially students through the creative medium of films. I believe that documentaries and films play a powerful role in understanding the diverse nature of cultures, people and issues around the world

For Pakistan, as for the UN, human rights are an integral concept, and have been from its creation, through joining the United Nations in 1947, being an original signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to such rights being enshrined in the Constitution and being implemented through development programmes including to meet the SDGs.

The achievements on human rights protection and promotion in Pakistan include an unprecedented number of laws being passed in recent years, as well as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women.

Pakistan is a founding member of the Geneva-based Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review, a unique peer review process of every member states' human rights record. Over the last year Pakistan has been among the most active participants in this review process by submitting its own reports to the Council and by



issuing recommendations on human rights challenges to other member states. Pakistan has ratified seven international core human rights treaties, and voluntarily committed to their implementation.

The United Nations in Pakistan works in a wide variety of ways to support the government in helping human rights to be observed and to contribute to sustainable development. This is done through integrating, addressing and promoting human rights in our day to day work.

In the words of the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres: “For 70

years, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been a global beacon – shining a light for dignity, equality and well-being ... and bringing hope to dark places.”

The United Nations family is deeply committed to support Pakistan's own efforts to ensure that the full range of human rights can be enjoyed by everyone in Pakistan.

European Union and Human Rights

By **Jean-François Cautain**, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan

The European Union was born out of WWII, which saw large-scale severe human rights violations across Europe. It is for this reason that the European Union is strongly committed to fostering human rights protection in Europe and around the world. While promoting human rights worldwide, the European Union and its Member States acknowledge that problems do still exist in Europe and that they must be tackled. The films selected to celebrate the 2018 International Human Rights Day show that all around the world, people are still suffering from violations of their basic and fundamental human rights.

Building on the success of the past editions of the Human Rights through Cinematography Film Festival, the 4th edition of the festival is a presentation of 26 documentaries on human rights issues around the world. The festival will run from November 25 to December 10 and will travel to nine cities including Gujrat, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Mardan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Swat. The aim this year is to go to more universities and schools and encourage debates related to Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This year, also, in order to reach out to wide audience including general Pakistani public and students, we are taking the human rights film festival for the first time to Cineplex Cinema



and we will screen three documentaries on gender equality, access to justice and freedom of expression November 29 to December 01, 2018.

Art and Culture in general and documentary film in particular, is increasingly playing an important role for understanding the world and its people. New stories and narratives from all around the world form a basis for more inclusive and in-depth dialogues on human rights issues relevant for all of us. Our aim has been to take this festival to students and universities around Pakistan because we have learnt that it is through ex-

posure, reflection and debate that we gain deeper understanding of each other and the world around us.

No country is exempt from doing its utmost to ensure that human rights are cultivated, protected and enforced at all levels and in all parts of the world. The EU stands firm with Pakistan in its efforts for protection of the human rights with special focus on gender equality, freedom of religion and belief, rule of law, access to justice and freedom of expression.

Fourth edition of Film Festival “Human Rights through Cinematography”



The fourth edition of the Film Festival “Human Rights through Cinematography”, marking the 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights successfully concluded in Islamabad on the Human Rights Day, 10 December 2018.

The festival started on 25 November and presented 27 documentaries from all around the world on various human rights related, featuring themes like freedom of expression, gender equality, minority rights, access to justice and death penalty. Presentations took place in 9 cities in Pakistan including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujrat, Multan, Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar and Charsada.

The objective of the film festival was to deepen among Pakistani audience especially the Youth the knowledge about the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights and human rights challenges people are facing in different corners of the world.

Screenings were followed by discussion sessions with film makers, journalists, government and civil society representatives as well as human rights defenders who shared with participants, including universities and schools’ students their views about human rights violations and the ways how they could be solved.

Led by the European Union and United Nations Pakistan, the festival was supported by a number of partners from member states including Australia, Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the International Film Festival and Forum

of Human Rights, Goethe-Institute, OLOMOPOLO Media, the Centaurus Cineplex, Pakistan Chowk Community Centre, Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services, Justice Project Pakistan and the Pakistan National Council of Arts.

The organizers would also like to express a special thanks to all the young volunteers - students of the universities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi for their dedicated support in engaging the Youth and valuable support of the organizing of the screenings. These universities include: Arid Agriculture University, Bahria University, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Foundation University, International Islamic University, IQRA University, Lahore Crammer School, National Defense University, Nation-



al University of Modern Languages, National University of Science and Technology, Preston University, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, The Institute of Legal Studies, the Millennium University Collage and My University.

A very high value is also having the cooperation with the University of Gujrat, Habib University, University of Swat, Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, University of Baluchistan, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, University of Peshawar, Institute of Business Administration Karachi, UMT School of Law and Policy, National College of Arts and University of Punjab in Lahore and Fatima Jinnah Women University in Rawalpindi.

And finally, thanks to the teams of the United Nations Information Centre and Delegation of the European Union for their relentless support during the whole Film Festival.



COMSATS University observed Human Rights Day and 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Students at the COMSATS University in Islamabad observed the Human Rights Day with thematic messages of peace, tolerance, harmony, co-existence and respect for human rights.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his video message highlighted that human rights are universal and eternal and called on all the people to stand up for human rights — for everyone, everywhere.

Event was organized within a 4-day International Students Convention and Expo 2018 by the COMSATS University in cooperation with Inter University Consortium of more than 50 partner organizations including the United Nations Information Centre in Islamabad.

Rector of the COMSATS University professor Raheel Qamar and Mr. Vlastimil Samek, Director a.i. of the United Nations Information Centre in Islamabad shared with the participants their views about the importance of the human rights-based approach, peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and access to information.

Speakers – young students from Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as from other parts of the world highlighted the importance of peaceful solution of the conflict in Afghanistan, challenges that people living with disabilities are being exposed



to every day, need for peace for sustainable development, especially in the parts of the world affected by armed conflicts, etc.

Thematic multilingual documentaries that included messages in languages spoken of Pakistan explained the concept, importance and principles of human rights and Universal Declaration of Human Rights were also presented during the event.



SPECIAL FEATURE:
16 DAYS
OF ACTIVISM AGAINST
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women **25 November 2018**

By **António Guterres**, *Secretary-General of the United Nations*



Violence against women and girls is a global pandemic. It is a moral affront to all women and girls, a mark of shame on all our societies and a major obstacle to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. At its core, violence against women and girls is the manifestation of a profound lack of respect – a failure by men to recognize the inherent equality and dignity of women. It is an issue of fundamental human rights.

Violence can take many forms -- from domestic attacks to trafficking, from sexual violence in conflict to child marriage, genital mutilation and femicide. It harms the individual and has far-reaching consequences for families and society. This is also a deeply political issue.

Violence against women is tied to broader issues of power and control in our societies. We live in a male-dominated society. Women are made vulnerable to violence through the multiple ways in which we keep them unequal.

In the past year we have seen growing attention to one manifestation of this violence. Sexual harassment is experienced by most women at some point in their lives. Increasing public disclosure by women from all regions and all walks of life is bringing the magnitude of the problem to light and demonstrating the galvanizing power of women's movements to drive the action and awareness needed to eliminate harassment and violence everywhere.

This year, the global United Nations UNiTE campaign to end violence against women and girls is highlighting our support for survivors and advocates under the theme 'Orange the World: #HearMeToo'. With orange as the unifying colour of solidarity, the #HearMeToo hashtag is designed to send a clear message: violence against women and girls must end now, and we all have a role to play.

The same message resonates through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative. This 500-million-euro programme will empower survivors and advocates to become agents of change in their homes, commu-

nities and countries. But while this initial investment is significant, it is small given the scale of need. It should be seen as seed funding for a global movement. Not until the half of our population represented by women and girls can live free from fear, violence and everyday insecurity, can we truly say we live in a fair and equal world.

Calling for an end to child marriage in Pakistan at '16 Days' event in Mithi

Making one of Pakistan's most impoverished districts the first stop of her first official visit to the country, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka today called upon the entire community to end child marriage and voice their commitment to change the lives of girls and young women for the better. 300 residents, notables of the area, government officials, civil society representatives and members of the local press gathered at the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Cultural Complex in the district capital, Mithi, at an event to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign.

Calling on religious and traditional leaders to use their position of authority to take a stand against violence and protect the rights of girls, the Executive Director received pledges to make Mithi a 'zero child marriage' village and set an example for others to follow.

The Minister for Women Development for the Province of Sindh, Syeda Shehla Raza, said that early child marriage is among the contributing factors to both relatively high rates of maternal and child mortality in Tharparkar, which needs urgent attention through multi-pronged interventions.

Pakistan's Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 sets the legal age for marriage at 16 for women and 18

for men. In April 2014, the provincial Sindh Assembly unanimously adopted **the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act**, making marriage under the age of 18 a punishable offence. However, Minister Raza said more public awareness and oversight by relevant authorities are needed to ensure adherence to the law.



Child marriage is a fundamental human rights violation that constitutes a grave threat to young girls' lives, health and future prospects. It is estimated that there are 650 million women and girls in the world today who were married before age 18.

At the national 16 Days of Activism event in this southeast district of Pakistan, the Executive Director encouraged families and the community to be more vigilant to prevent and

report cases of under-aged marriage. She also urged the religious leaders who solemnize marriages to confirm whether the bride and groom are of legal age, stressing the importance of birth certificates and national identity cards for verification child is 18.

Social and gender inequality, a desire to control women's sexuality

and protect family honour, economic hardship and lack of awareness of the harmful impact of child marriage are common driving factors. Working with men and boys is critical to end such marriages as in many communities where men hold the power and make the decisions.

Ending cyber harassment on-campus and off-campus in Pakistan at '16 Days' event at SZABIST University

Cyber harassment on-campus and off-campus is as damaging to women as physical violence and abuse, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said to students and faculty members of SZABIST, the country's leading technological university, as she called for their commitment to speak out for sexual harassment at campuses to end.

This is a new driver of potential harmful gender inequality as more and more Universities and students gain internet access. To be disconnected from technology in the 21st century, is like having your freedom disrupted: your right to learn, your right to work, your right to meet people, your freedom of speech. We need to constantly make the point about the advantages of education and technology for women. Ms. Nasreen Haque, Vice President of SZABIST, Karachi Campus, speaking on behalf of SZABIST-proposed a Consortium of Chairs of anti-sexual harassment committees of universities of Karachi to share their experiences.

This year, the UN's theme for International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is "Orange the World: #HearMeToo". As the #MeToo and #TimesUp movement picks up in Pakistan, more cases are being reported, making offend-



ers accountable. #HearMeToo aims to support all those whose voices are still not yet being heard.

Pakistan's anti-sexual harassment laws recognize that sexual harassment is a form of discrimination against women and a human rights violation, that occurs in many arenas of life, including schools and

universities. In any University, sexual assault and sexual harassment is unacceptable. The safety and wellbeing of students and staff who disclose or report sexual assault or sexual harassment needs to be the priority of Universities and at the centre of the University response.

Critical need to establish special health, education and other fundamental facilities for Women with Disabilities

Executive Director UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka has advised the government to establish specialized health, education and other fundamental facilities for Women with Disabilities (WWDs) to offset the feeling of being marginalized and lesser human beings. There are a large number of people living with disabilities across the world, however, they have always remained a minority in each society, she observed during a roundtable discussion “harassment faced by women with disabilities”.

Executive Director UN Women said there are over a billion disabled persons in the world, apparently a very large number, and the proportion of women is far higher than that of men. The roundtable discussion was organized by UN Women and Handicap International (HI) to celebrate the resilience of Pakistani Women With Disabilities who have stood up against the challenges of harassment and violence, and was part of ‘16 Days of Activism’ against Gender Based Violence campaign. Participants of the event included dignitaries like Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director UN Women and Under-Secretary General United Nations, Ms. Shireen Mazari, Federal Minister for Human Rights, Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Angelina Robinson, Program Director, Handicap International Pakistan and Mr. Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative of UN Women Pakistan as well as some outstanding women with disabilities from across Pakistan includ-



ing renowned activist and UN Women National Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Muniba Mazari. Minister for Human Rights, Dr. Shireen Mazari informed the audience that the ordinance to protect the rights of persons with disabilities was now going to be part of formal legislation after consent from Parliament as the bill had been approved by cabinet in its recent meeting. The bill, she explained, included clauses on right to education, right to dignity, right to privacy and some other important clauses. Dr Mazari recalled that many human rights laws were not being implemented which, she termed, was very unfortunate. She assured that the

tabled law for disabled persons would be implemented on priority basis.

While briefing about the Empowering Women with Disabilities (EWWDs) project, Ms Angelina Robinson shared initial findings of project baseline – issues, experiences, challenges, opportunities and barriers for WWD. The project was implemented in different areas of the country including Islamabad, Peshawar, Karachi, and some other parts of Punjab and Sindh.

In the concluding remarks, Mr Jamshed Kazi stated that to protect the rights of disabled persons was equal responsibility of everyone.

CEOs of private companies from Karachi pledge their commitment for action on Gender Equality



Karachi: Empowering women to participate fully in economic activities across all sectors and levels is not only essential for improving quality of life for women, men, families and communities but also for building strong economies and achieving internationally agreed goals for development, sustainability and human rights as well as propelling businesses' operations and goals. United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka in her dialogue with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of private companies today stressed upon the corporate leaders to be more proactive towards embracing gender equality in their operations. While responding to the call from Executive Director, CEOs of 10 private companies from Karachi pledged their commitment for action on gender equality.

During the Dialogue, being held as a part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign as a result of collaboration between UN Women and Overseas Investors

Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI), the Executive Director highlighted the fact that the awareness is increasing, and the immense potential of women and girls can simply not be ignored. She encouraged private sector companies to sign the Women Empowerment Principles (WEP) and to take measures for expanding options for women to avail formal employment opportunities in decent work environments. Underscoring the crucial role of private sector in empowering women to participate in economic development, Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and Pacific Anna-Karin JATFORS shared her views on global trends of women's economic empowerment and the benefits earned by the societies by ensuring gender equality. She encouraged private sector companies in Pakistan to establish some level of commitments on implementing gender equality priorities in their respective organizations.

Country Representative of UN Women in Pakistan Jamshed Kazi highlighted the trends of labor force participation in

Pakistan where women work primarily in the home or on the farm while their participation in work outside these areas, particularly in formal employment, is extremely low. Despite growing by more than half over the past two decades, female labor force participation in Pakistan is still well below than other countries with similar incomes, and even among women with a high level of education, labor force participation is low — only about 25% of Pakistani women who have a university degree work outside the home, he added.

UN Women has been working with the Private sector companies in Pakistan since 2015. These companies are encouraged to include and increase the number of women in their workforce at each level. Because of UN Women's efforts, more than 1,000 women have joined the organized sector in Punjab. Fifty-six companies have signed the UN Global Compact and UN Women's 'Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP)' in Pakistan since its launch since April 2015.

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa joins UN Women in saying no to gender-based violence



To commemorate the 16 days of activism for ending violence against women and girls, a launch event was held at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly, Peshawar with the support of UN Women. Speaker, Mushtaq Ghani, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event was attended by members of Provincial Parliament, women caucus members, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW), United Nations, civil society and academia representatives along with students from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University.

Mr. Jamshed M.Kazi, Country Representative, UN Women, also addressed the audience, acknowledging the efforts of the KP government in combating gender-based violence by introducing pro-women laws.

Ending violence against women is one of the top priorities for UN Women, who works with Governments to develop dedicated national action plans to prevent and address violence against women, strengthening coordination among diverse actors required for sustained and meaningful action. The Women Empow-

erment Policy was documented and launched officially by the Chief Minister, KP, Mr. Parvaiz Khattak, which was a milestone achieved.

Campus talk in Peshawar



A Campus talk was held in the University of Peshawar (UoP) to mark the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence. More than 150 students from the department of Social Work, University of Peshawar and college of Home Economics, University of Peshawar, participated in the event along with senior management and faculty Members. The main purpose of arranging the seminar in the University of Peshawar was to orient students and teachers regarding the menace of gender-based violence and on the national law on Harassment at Workplace 2010.

Theater performance in St. John Vianney High School, Peshawar



Standing up against gender-based violence and sexual harassment in Khairpur, Sindh

UN Women and Legal Rights Forum (LRF) as co-chairs of the Sindh Chapter of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW/G) Alliance organized a seminar titled "Standing up Against Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Harassment" at Ladies Gymkhana, Khairpur on December 1, 2018 to mark the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women. The seminar featured a panel discussion, cultural performance, and keynote speech by Ms. Nafisa Shah (local MNA - PPP).



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the newly merged tribal districts have been on the edge for decades. The root cause for violence has a number of reasons, ranging from social fabric to cultural norms and religious beliefs. The diverse social fabric is deeply enrooted and internalized violence in any form available, and women and girls including children are the most vulnerable.

Theater has been a source of direct awareness for years and has been recently adopted by a number of different schools of thought to address issues or identify the gaps in the surroundings and the system. It can be considered an auto messaging system. A theater performance was arranged in a local school to raise awareness among parents and students on eliminating gender-based discrimination and violence.

Campus talk in Balochistan



UN Women office organized a campus talk event at the University of Ba-

lochistan with the theme of “**Orange the World # Hear Me too** sexual harassment at the work place”. 90 Students including faculty members and administration participated in the campus talk event. Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Dr. Javed Iqbal appreciated the efforts made by UN Women in organizing such an event, and added that UOB is one of the oldest institutions in Balochistan. The message deiminated here will be heard throughout the province, the students are the sparks of change and it is them who will carry forward

the theme of **#HearMeToo**, Ayesha Wadood, head of UN Women Sub office Quetta highlighted the fact that UN Women was established to address the issues pertaining to women around the globe. She emphasized on gender equality and equity at all levels, and also briefed the participants about the significance of the day. She added that false interpretation of Quranic verses has created a distorted society, UN Women would soon be launching a book on Sharia Laws based on exact references.

Interactive community theatre in Balochistan



Interaction is the key to success, it promotes cohesion between what is being promoted and what is gained. The idea of spreading messages through community interactive theatre is new but has reaped positive results. An Interactive community theater event was organized at the University of Balochistan, Quetta,

where almost 250 Students, Academic Staff and Administration were sensitized on VAW/EVAW & provisions of equal services for both women and men. The overall objective of the event was to create awareness and gender sensitivity among the university students to ensure that they understand the concept of Hu-

man rights and gender equality at all levels. The activity was organized in collaboration with the Gender studies Department at the Auditorium within the university of Balochistan. The activity was also part of the 16 days of Activism campaign **#HearMeToo**.

Proceedings of awareness sessions on drug abuse and its impact on users, especially women



UN Women in Collaboration with local organization Rights Research & Development Foundation (RRDF), organized four awareness and targeted advocacy sessions on drugs abuse and its impact on users, especially women at the Christian Hospital, Government girls Degree College, Jinnah Town, Hazara Town, and Quetta Central Jail. The objective of these sessions was to raise awareness and was part of the #HearMeToo campaign.

The sessions consisted on information and historical background of drugs, their uses and how it is affecting the lives of the women. This included detoxification methods spanning from a three months program used by RRDF to treat drug abuse patients, to Psycho-social services provided by the organization.

Seminar on gender-based violence in Lahore



Yasmin Rashid, while expressing her views as chief guest, underscored the significance of treating sons and daughters equally within the family and starting the reform process right from home.

Provincial Head of UN Women, Ms. Hafsa Mazhar Siddiqui in her concluding remarks emphasized the need for all stakeholders to adopt an integrated approach to ending violence against women and girls and making sure victims and survivors have access to easy, safe and adequate help mechanisms.

Need for effective implementation of legislative acts and laws for protection of women against violence and equal representation was emphasized by the speakers during a seminar on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Psycho-Social Effects

of GBV, organized by UN Women in collaboration with the Strategic Management Unit, Government of Punjab in Lahore.

Provincial Minister of Punjab for Primary and Secondary Healthcare

HIV & AIDS:
"KNOW YOUR STATUS"



عالمی دن برائے ایچ آئی وی اور ایڈز
ایچ آئی وی اور ایڈز کا علاج مفت ہے



#GetTested
#KnowYourStatus

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SPECIAL FEATURE:

HIV & AIDS:

"KNOW YOUR STATUS"



World AIDS Day 2018 1 December 2018

By **António Guterres**, *Secretary-General of the United Nations*



Thirty years after the first World AIDS Day, the response to HIV stands at a crossroads. Which way we turn may define the course of the epidemic—whether we will end AIDS by 2030, or whether future generations will carry on bearing the burden of this devastating disease. More than 77 million people have become infected with HIV, and more than 35 million have died of an AIDS-related illness. Huge progress has been made in diagnosis and treatment, and prevention efforts have avoided millions of new infections. Yet the pace of progress is not matching global ambition. New HIV infections are not falling rapidly enough. Some regions are lagging behind, and financial resources are insufficient. Stigma and

discrimination are still holding people back, especially key populations— including gay men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgenders, people who inject drugs, prisoners and migrants—and young women and adolescent girls. Moreover, one in four people living with HIV do not know that they have the virus, impeding them from making informed decisions on prevention, treatment and other care and support services. There is still time -- to scale-up testing for HIV; to enable more people to access treatment; to increase resources needed to prevent new infections; and to end the stigma. At this critical juncture, we need to take the right turn now.

Message by H.E Imran Khan, Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

1st December marks the World AIDS Day that is globally celebrated each year to strengthen the resolve and efforts of Governments, affected and infected communities, and people from all walks of life for HIV prevention and control of infection.

It provides an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage people and organizations to join the global fight against the disease. It reminds us that HIV is preventable, HIV is treatable, and HIV is eliminable. The government is strongly committed to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. To meet the global and national targets, gov-

ernment has committed handsome financial resources for HIV prevention and control. Pakistan is moving towards sustainable national financing and will continue to invest in this area. Policies to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require informed, evidence based, efficient, and innovative programming. A location for population approach with focused targeted interventions. We all need to join hands to deliver effective interventions to create awareness, fight stigma and discrimination, provide free of cost HIV testing and treatment facilities. Active

involvement and engagement of Civil Society, NGOs, UN and development partners is needed to complement government efforts in designing and implementing HIV programs according to needs of the country.

I appreciate all those involved in the fight against HIV and AIDS and am sure that the hard work and efforts of the HIV workforce will pay dividends in terms of disease control and elimination. As we observe World AIDS Day, let us join hands to play our role in raising awareness for HIV prevention and control.

Message by Mr. Aamer Mehmood Kiani, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination



Today Pakistan joins the rest of the world in observing World AIDS Day. This day is aimed at increasing awareness, fighting stigma and discrimination and educating people regarding HIV. The theme of this year is "Prevent, Test and Treat". For a holistic and robust HIV response, AIDS needs to be taken out of isolation, HIV prevention and treatment needs to be delivered in all dimensions of programming, including service delivery, demand generation and support for treatment adherence.

As we approach the end of 2018, the Government has marked more intensified, coordinated and integrated approaches to address HIV and AIDS related issues by implementing Pakistan AIDS Strategy III 2017-2021. Government of Pakistan is committed to adopting a high impact approach to end AIDS by 2030. It is vital that we leave no stone unturned in achieving the national and global

AIDS targets. It is imperative for our citizens to understand that every individual is at risk of HIV and AIDS and necessary preventive measures and healthy lifestyles need to be adopted. We must learn to hate the disease not the patient. Despite significant progress over the years, challenges persist in reaching the unreached key affected population. Focus on improving HIV testing and increasing access to HIV treatment for people living with HIV remains a priority for Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. Evidence informed, and human rights-based prevention programs are the need of the hour to address the HIV epidemic in the country.

I am proud to be part of this campaign and take this opportunity to stress upon my fellow compatriots to join hands in defeating the disease. I believe it is the duty of each citizen of this country to ensure that Pakistan becomes HIV and AIDS free.

Strengthening the HIV response in Pakistan

By **Neil Buhne**, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Pakistan

On 1st December 2018, the United Nations in Pakistan commemorated the 30th Anniversary of World AIDS Day in close collaboration with the Government at both Federal and Provincial levels, and with Civil Society Organizations in communities around the country. The theme of this year's event was Know Your Status and the United Nations 'Delivered as One' with support from its One Fund initiatives.

In Pakistan, a critical awareness gap impedes the uptake of prevention, testing and treatment, and this year, the Joint UN Team on HIV and AIDS signaled to communities, policy-makers, care providers and partners that working together is essential if we are to achieve reductions in new infections.

I am proud to say that the United Nations dedicated its efforts towards supporting policy implementation, capacity-building and advocacy work that reiterated its commitment to strengthen the HIV response in Pakistan. By providing one platform for parliamentarians, media, healthcare providers and community activists to come together, the United Nations enabled stakeholders to jointly promote awareness and spread quality information about HIV to the population at large. By taking concrete steps



to address disease associated stigma and discrimination, it also facilitated the uptake of preventive and treatment services in Pakistan.

As a signatory of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, Pakistan has committed to joining the rest of the world to end the AIDS epidemic. Though we have come a long way in the fight against HIV since World AIDS Day was first commemorated thirty years ago, we still have a long way to go. The United Nations remains fully committed to ending the HIV epidemic in Pakistan. Working together with our partners in the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation

and Coordination, the National AIDS Control Programme, UNAIDS, the Joint UN Team, and Civil Society Organizations, we can achieve an HIV-free Pakistan by 2030.

World AIDS Day: Know Your Status

By **Dr. Maria Elena Borromeo**, UNAIDS Country Director for Pakistan & Afghanistan
and **Mr. Asghar Satti**, National Coordinator, Association for People Living with HIV and AIDS



On December 1, the Association for People Living with HIV (APLHIV) in Pakistan stood alongside our partners to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of World AIDS Day. The year's theme is Know Your Status — a movement that is envisaged to reach people living with HIV whose status is unknown by encouraging testing and linking them to quality care and life-saving treatment services.

In Pakistan, the HIV epidemic disproportionately continues to impact key populations at substantially increased risk for HIV infection, and the APLHIV works every day to fulfil our vision of a society where people living with, affected by or at risk of contracting HIV, live with respect and dignity. If we are to stop the spread of this epidemic, we urgently need to address barriers to accessing information and HIV prevention and treatment services, to ensure

that a rights-based approach is taken to recognise the complicated nature of this epidemic.

Correct information is key and we know that knowledge is power and education is indeed a vaccine against HIV. If a person knows his or her HIV status, he/she can make an informed decision on the future course of actions that needs to be taken. As we continue our fight for access, we must ensure that correct information about prevention, testing and treatment is made widely available among at-risk communities as well as among the general population. It is our responsibility to pay close attention to our young people. Today, we are at a critical point where new HIV cases are starting to grow outside of key populations. HIV is a virus that does not differentiate between at-risk communities and the population at large. We call upon our

partners in government as well as parliamentarians, media, religious leaders, private sector and civil society organisations to continue to raise awareness and deepen understanding about HIV and AIDS. Together, we must work to remember that the HIV epidemic is relevant well beyond the groups that experience a disproportionate burden of HIV infections.

From prevention to testing to treatment, stigma and abuses of human rights are still among the biggest barriers to the uptake of all HIV services in Pakistan. When we work with our constituents, we hear again and again of discrimination in healthcare settings. Individuals are judged and morally instructed, and some outreach programmes have even reported instances of staff being arrested by the police. Since 2010, Pakistan has seen an increase of 45% in new HIV infections whereas in the last eight years, youth aged 15-24 has seen an increase of 29%. These figures are alarming and we will be unable to stop this epidemic if stigma, discrimination and unavailability of confidential services continue to deter individuals' pursuit of testing. Human rights, including the right to health, must be upheld at all costs to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

Beyond eliminating widespread in-

formation gaps and stigma, it is imperative that we address factors like unemployment, homelessness, lack of education and lack of access to social and healthcare. We need programming that is people-centered, gender-sensitive, tailored to specific needs and inclusive of meaningful participation from each individual community. By ensuring that the most vulnerable and at-risk are absorbed into social assistance programmes, we can address the inequality that ultimately maintains disparities in their access to health. As we work with our partners in the fight against AIDS, we know that gaining control of the epidemic requires strategic prevention programming coverage for individuals within key populations where the epidemic is concentrated. However, this must happen alongside programmes that address issues of information, access, rights and inequality. Together, our collective commitment can improve the lives of people living with HIV and empower everyone to make dignified choices about treatment and prevention. Stigma and discrimination need to be challenged from within the communities which have a potential in creating enabling environments and ensure easy access to sustained, accessible and affordable services.

The time for action is NOW!

By *Dr. Nima Saeed Abid, Acting WHO Representative in Pakistan*



“Despite the commendable work being undertaken by the country to fight the epidemic, we are still facing obstacles and challenges in providing access to lifesaving treatment and services. While the annual number of new HIV infections in other regions is declining, it is increasing in Eastern Mediterranean Region and in Pakistan the number of new HIV infections has been increasing in recent years. Estimated new infections increased to approximately 20,000 in 2018, which marks the highest rate of increase among all regional countries.

As the HIV epidemic in the country expands, we can no longer wait to scale up access to more comprehensive packages for prevention, testing and treatment. In moving towards the goal of universal health coverage, opportunities exist to strengthen our response to HIV and end the AIDS epidemic, particularly in the areas of ensuring financial risk protection and providing access to quality essential health care services and safe, effective care and treatment. The time for action is now.”

Commemorating 30th Anniversary of World AIDS Day



On 29 November 2018, UNAIDS and its partners came together to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of World AIDS Day (WAD) at Pakistan National Council of Art in Islamabad. Gathering stakeholders from the Government, Civil Society, Media, International Organizations and Academia, participants at this year's event committed to intensifying their cooperation at the National and Provincial levels to ensure that the 2030 Fast Track AIDS Response is successful in Pakistan.

For UNAIDS offices around the world, the theme of this year's event

was "Know Your Status" which has prioritized reaching those people living with HIV whose status is unknown by destigmatizing their experience, encouraging testing and linking them to quality care and treatment.

During a session run by the National AIDS Coalition of Pakistan, Dr. Basier Khan Achakzai, National Programme Manager, National AIDS Control Programme highlighted joint efforts made by the Government, Civil Society and UN Partners to both raise awareness about HIV. Speaking to participants, Dr. Maria

Elena Borromeo, UNAIDS Country Director for Pakistan & Afghanistan said that the HIV infections in the past 7 years (2010-2017) had steadily increased, now at 45%. Philippines, Pakistan and Malaysia are the 3 countries in Asia Pacific where the number of new infections is increasing.

Mr. Asghar Satti, National Coordinator, Association of People Living with HIV and AIDS emphasized on the important role of leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS to creatively and actively engage stakeholders and allies in different seg-



ments of society.

Beyond partners and senior stakeholders, WAD 2018 served as an opportunity to both hear from activists and to engage with the population at large with a musical performance and cycle marathon. Dr. Nima Abid, WHO Representative for Pakistan spoke of marginalization and stigma among at-risk groups. He mentioned that the fear of maltreatment impacts the willingness of many to pursue testing therefore we need to ensure that more facilities are available at the community-level to ensure that testing is accessible and non-judgmental. UNAIDS, NACP and Greenstar Social Marketing also ran a photo contest in efforts to engage youth, increase awareness and destigmatize the testing process. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the photo contest.

In his concluding remarks, the Chief Guest Aamer Mehmood Kiani of the Ministry of National Health Services & Regulations said that the ministry and partners recognize that testing programme coverage plays a critical role in determining the overall impact efforts to control the spread of HIV. We must continue to work together to make strategic investments in the right people in the right places, to destigmatize the disease and to make testing and treatment accessible to those who need it most.

Round Table Interactive Dialogue with Parliamentarians on HIV and AIDS



Around 30 members of the Parliament participated in an interactive roundtable dialogue session, organized by UNAIDS in partnership with WHO, National AIDS Control Program and the Association of people living with HIV, People Living with HIV and Key Populations.

The session aimed at: enhancing and intensifying cooperation with Parliamentarians at national level to work towards HIV Prevention; testing and treatment – WAD Theme “Know Your Status”; Building understanding to reduce transmission of HIV Stigma and discrimination; and supporting the national provincial efforts to strengthen effective data utilization for planning and

mainstreaming HIV in development agenda including budgets. During the session, The National AIDS Control Programme Dr. Basseer Khan Achakzai shared that we estimate that among the approximately 150,000 people living with HIV in Pakistan, only 22,000 know their status and even fewer are receiving treatment. As partners in the fight against AIDS, coalition members and Parliamentarians need to come together to address policy and structural barriers to testing and care throughout the country. Dr. Nima Abid, WHO Representative from WHO mentioned that only 16% of people know their HIV status. Government and Parliamentarians can play a key role in the

awareness by their ownership. In this regard, government should increase the efforts in awareness of HIV testing and treatment.

Dr. Maria Elena Borromeo, UNAIDS Country Director appreciated that Pakistan is one of the first countries in the world to have developed national legislation that protects transgendered people. Ensuring a supportive, enabling environment, free from stigma and discrimination will help Pakistan in achieving its commitment of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. ”

In the end Mr. Qasim Khan Suri, Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan agreed on common recommendations provided by all the parliamentarians to prevent HIV by getting oneself tested, treated, taking affirmative actions to end stigma and discrimination by acting as a bridge between Parliament, the statutory and voluntary sectors, providing a forum for the exchange of information; ensuring that domestic funding for HIV/AIDS is increased & sustained, and AIDS remains high in the political agenda through parliamentary debates and questions, and meetings with Ministers and communities.

KNOW YOUR STATUS:

Leading by an example: Getting tested for HIV & encouraging others to "know their status"



"This is the 2nd time I had my HIV test, the first time, I had it, more blood was extracted from my vein, and it was painful. I had to return to get my result after two weeks. But this time, it's so easy, quick not painful at all and I can get the result in 15 minutes and it's been already given to me. So I would encourage everyone, come, have yourself tested, save yourself and save your loved ones."

Maria Elena F. Borromeo, *UNAIDS Country Director for Pakistan & Afghanistan*



"I Just had my HIV test done, very fast, very simple and very quick. I recommend it for others too. Getting an HIV test is easy. Anyone who thinks they are at risk should take one. If they are at risk should take one. If they are positive they can get treatment right away and prevent others contracting HIV".

Neil Buhne, *Resident Coordinator, United Nations Pakistan*



"It's really very easy, much easier than what I expected, in no time rather in few seconds, painless, free of charge and I will get the results in 15 minutes. Know your status".

Dr. Nima Saeed Abid, *Acting Representative, WHO Pakistan*



"Come and get yourself tested & Know your status "

Dr. Baseer Khan Achakzai, *National Programme Manager, National AIDS Control Programme*



UN DAY



SPECIAL FEATURE: UN DAY

United Nations
اقوام متحدہ



UN Day 24 October 2018

Messages from **António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations



United Nations Day marks the birthday of our founding Charter – the landmark document that embodies the hopes, dreams and aspirations of “we the peoples”.

“Every day, the women and men of the United Nations work to give practical meaning to that Charter.

Despite the odds and the obstacles, we never give up.

Extreme poverty is being reduced but we see inequality growing.

Yet we don’t give up because we know by reducing inequality we increase hope and opportunity and peace around the world.

Climate change is moving faster than we are, but we don’t give up because we know that climate action is the only path.

Human rights are being violated in so many places. But we don’t give up because we know respect for human rights and human dignity is a basic condition for peace.

Conflicts are multiplying - people are suffering. But we don’t give up because we know every man, woman and child deserves a life of peace.

On United Nations Day, let us reaffirm our commitment.

To repair broken trust.

To heal our planet.

To leave no one behind.

To uphold dignity for one and all, as united nations.”

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and United Nations Pakistan celebrates 73rd Anniversary of the United Nations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN country team jointly organized a ceremony at the Foreign Office today to mark the 73rd anniversary of the United Nations Day. Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi outlined the Government's priorities with a particular focus on social and economic development, poverty alleviation, job creation and institutional reforms. Acknowledging the role and contribution of the United Nations in these endeavours, the Foreign Minister ex-





pressed Pakistan's willingness to further build on this partnership. The Foreign Minister highlighted the seminal role played by Pakistani diplomats in shaping global norms, negotiating international treaties and steering deliberations in the fields of peace, security and development. He also expressed deep appreciation for enduring contribution of Pakistani troops and police personnel to the UN peacekeeping and paid tribute to the 156 Pakistani peacekeepers for their ultimate sacrifice for world peace.

Mr. Neil Buhne, the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan said the growing interdependence among countries and communities, and the importance to development of partnerships with civil society and the private sector, showed the importance of the UN's work in building trust

The UN Secretary General's video message was also played on this occasion. A photo exhibition capturing the visual history of Pa-

kistan's diplomatic engagement at the United Nations since 1947 had also been arranged.

The Foreign Secretary, heads of diplomatic missions and UN agencies, senior civil and military officials, former Pakistani Ambassadors and officers of the Foreign Ministry were present at this well-attended event

UNITED NATIONS STAFF COMMEMORATES UN DAY!



Thematic art exhibition and discussion with Youth on United Nations Day-2018

The Arts and Media Department of the Foundation University, Rawalpindi in cooperation with UNIC Islamabad organized an interactive discussion and thematic art exhibition dedicated to the United Nations Day on 25 October 2018.

Art pieces showcased in the exhibition reflected visions of the students in respect of the United Nations' mandate, agenda and role with the focus on peacekeeping, sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, women empowerment, climate change as well as many other relevant topics.

UNIC Director a.i Vlastimil Samek discussed with students and University representatives about the UN Secretary General's Youth 2030 agenda and role of United Nations in the youth development. He also visited the Media Department's TV, radio and media production studios.





SPECIAL FEATURE: FOOD SECURITY



World Food Day 16 October 2018

By **António Guterres**, *Secretary-General of the United Nations*



“In our world of plenty, one person in nine does not have enough to eat. About 820 million people still suffer from hunger.

Most of them are women.

Some 155 million children are chronically malnourished and may endure the effects of stunting for their entire lives.

And hunger causes almost half of the infant deaths worldwide.

This is intolerable.

On World Food Day, let us commit to

a world without hunger -- a world in which every person has access to a healthy, nutritious diet.

Zero hunger is about joining forces.

Countries and companies, institutions and individuals: we must each do our part towards sustainable food systems.

Today, we renew our commitment to uphold everyone’s fundamental right to food and to leave no one behind.”

Zero Hunger: our actions today are our future tomorrow

By **José Graziano da Silva**, *Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*



Just three years ago, in September 2015, all United Nations Member States approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The eradication of hunger and all forms of malnutrition (Sustainable Development Goal number 2) was defined by world leaders as a cardinal objective of the Agenda, a sine qua non condition for a safer, fairer and more peaceful world.

Paradoxically, global hunger has only grown since then. According to the latest estimates, the number of undernourished people in the world increased in 2017, for the third consecutive year. Last year, 821 million people suffered from hunger (11 per-

cent of the world population - one in nine people on the planet), most of them family and subsistence farmers living in poor rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

However, the growing rate of undernourished people is not the only big challenge we are facing. Other forms of malnutrition have also increased. In 2017, at least 1.5 billion people suffered from micronutrient deficiencies that undermine their health and lives, at the same time, the proportion of adult obesity continues to rise, from 11.7 percent in 2012 to 13.3 percent in 2016 (or 672.3 million people).

Hunger is mainly circumscribed to specific areas, namely those ravaged



by conflicts, droughts and extreme poverty; yet obesity is everywhere, and it is increasing all around the world. As a matter of fact, we are witnessing the globalization of obesity. For example: obesity rates are climbing faster in Africa than any other region – eight of the 20 countries in the world with the fastest rising rates of adult obesity are in Africa. Furthermore, childhood overweight affected 38 million children under five years of age in 2017. About 46 percent of these children live in Asia, while 25 percent live in Africa.

If we do not call for urgent actions to halt the increasing obesity rates, we soon may have more obese than undernourished people in the world. The growing rate of obesity is happening at a huge socio-economic cost. Obesity is a risk factor for many non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some types of cancer. Estimates indicate that the global economic impact of obesity is about USD 2 trillion per year (2.8 percent of the global GDP). This is equivalent to the impacts of smoking or armed conflicts.

This year, World Food Day (celebrated every 16th of October) aims to remind the international community of its fundamental political commitment to humanity – the eradication of all forms of malnutrition – and raise awareness that achieving a Zero Hunger world by 2030 (so in 12 years-time) is still possible. The experience of Brazil is a good example to have in mind.

According to FAO estimates, hunger in Brazil was reduced from 10.6 percent of the total population (about 19 million people) at the beginning of the 2000s to less than 2.5 percent

in the 2008-2010 triennium, which is the minimum value in which FAO can make meaningful statistical inference. This reduction in the number of undernourished people was mainly possible due to the firm commitment of former President Lula and the implementation of public policies and social protection programmes addressing extreme poverty and the impacts of prolonged droughts in the northeastern part of the country.

In fact, governments have the most fundamental role in achieving Zero Hunger by ensuring that vulnerable people have sufficient income to buy the food they need, or the means to produce it for themselves – even in times of conflict.

However, world leaders have to bear in mind that the concept of Zero Hunger is broader and not limited to the fight against undernourishment. It aims to provide people with the necessary nutrients for a healthy life. Zero Hunger encompasses the eradication of all forms of malnutrition. So it is not just about feeding people but nourishing people as well.

Current global food systems have increased the availability and accessibility of processed food that is very caloric and energy-dense, high in fat, sugar and salt. Food systems must be transformed in a way so that all people can consume healthy and nutritious food. We need to address obesity as a public issue, not as an individual problem. This requires the adoption of a multisectoral approach involving not only governments, but also international organizations, national institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and citizens in general.

It must be a collective effort towards

healthy diets that include, for instance, the creation of norms such as labelling and the banning of some harmful ingredients), the introduction of nutrition in the school curriculum, the adoption of methods to avoid food loss and waste, and the establishment of trade agreements that do not hamper access to locally grown, fresh and nutritious food from family farming.

“Our actions are our future” is the message of World Food Day 2018. It is time to renew our commitment and, even more important, the political support towards a sustainable world free from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.



Investing in Zero Hunger in Pakistan

By **Minà Dowlatchahi**, Representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Pakistan



World Food Day this year calls upon us to take timely action for achieving Zero Hunger by 2030. This year's theme "Our Actions are our Future. A Zero Hunger World by 2030 is possible" reminds us of the need to ensure that everyone has access to safe, affordable and nutritious food at all times to live a healthy and happy life.

According to the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018 for the third year in a row, there has been a rise in world hunger. The absolute number of undernourished people, that is those facing chronic food deprivation, has increased to nearly 821 million in 2017, from around 804 million in 2016. These are levels from almost

a decade ago. Pakistan in 2015-17 had a Prevalence of Undernourishment (POU – a measure of hunger, is also one of the indicators of SDG 2) in the total population of 20.5 per cent. This has barely improved since 2004-06 when it was 23.3 per cent, and has actually risen since 2014-16 when it was 19.9 per cent reflecting a world-wide trend of increasing hunger. This means the number of undernourished people in Pakistan increased from 35.5 million to 39.5 million (three year average).

On the 2017 IFPRI Global Hunger Index, Pakistan ranked at 106 among 119 countries, with a score of 32.6. This level is described as 'serious', and is on a par with Afghanistan, which ranked 107. By comparison Bangladesh was ranked 88 and India was ranked 100.

Food security is a fundamental element of poverty alleviation. However achieving food security is a necessary but not sufficient condition to prevent malnutrition and ensure adequate nutrition for all. Understanding the pathways from inadequate food access to malnutrition is important. When there is an uncertain access to nutritious, safe and varied food for a household or an individual, that household or individual is food insecure.

Food insecurity can both -- directly

-- through compromised diets, and indirectly through impact on infant feeding cause child wasting, stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. Recurrent infections and disease are serious contributing factors to wasting and stunting in children. Nutritional knowledge and food habits as well as improved sanitation may play a role by moderating the effects of household food insecurity on diet, health and, consequently, on nutritional outcomes.

The link between food insecurity and overweight and obesity also passes through diet, which is affected by the cost of food. Nutritious, fresh foods often tend to be expensive. Thus, when household resources for food become scarce, people choose less expensive foods that are often high in caloric density and low in nutrients.

The negative effect of food insecurity on diet quality has been documented in low-, middle- and high-income countries alike particularly in urban settings.

So what should be done? There is need for implementing and scaling up interventions aimed at guaranteeing sustainable production and access to nutritious foods, breaking the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition perpetuated by undernourished girls becoming un-



dermalnourished mothers at risk of giving birth to infants with low birth weights. Any action plan or policy implementation must pay special attention to the food security and nutrition of infants and children under five, school-age children, adolescent girls and women.

The first National Food Security Policy and the Water Policy provide the framework for action, putting emphasis on agriculture diversification and value addition, resilient climate smart agriculture and water management, improved livelihoods of small holder farmers and tenants, safe drinking water and a National Zero Hunger Program.

What is a Zero Hunger Program? Key pillars of a Zero Hunger Program are school-feeding programs combined with educational modules on nutrition, hygiene, food preparation and homestead kitchen gardens in rural and peri-urban areas; conditional income support targeting women in the most vulnerable households; knowledge, technology and asset creation (such as quality seeds, modern irrigation systems, processing equipment) and market linkages, including . Further pillars such as nutritional supplements, essential basic services would also be required in the most vulnerable and poor areas. Close inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral coordination among the Ministries of Food Security, Water, Health and Climate Change, and a strong alliance with civil society is also needed.

Zero hunger is a definitive call for a transformation of the rural economy where the majority of the poor are, of food systems, coupled with

a change in the diets of households and individual.

What can you do to help? You can start by looking at what you eat in one day and compare that with the Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for your age group and if there is anything you should change; seeing how much food and water goes wasted in a day in your home and what you can be done to reduce it; buying directly from small holder farmers and advocate for Zero Hunger in Pakistan.

“Our actions are our future. A #zero hunger world by 2030 is possible.”

By **Finbarr Curran**, Representative and Country Director, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Pakistan



World Food Day is an opportunity to take stock of the progress we have made in our shared journey toward Zero Hunger — one of the 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by 193 countries. The SDGs commit us to work together to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030, here in Pakistan and around the world. The day calls on us to renew our commitment to end hunger for every child, women and man - saving countless lives and helping build a brighter future. Ending hunger means creating a world where everyone, everywhere, has access to adequate affordable nutritious food.

The 2018 State of Food Security report, published in September, revealed that 821 million people around the world are still suffering from chronic hunger: 60% of these are women, which

means that the misery of hunger will inevitably also be felt by their children. In fact, 45% of infant deaths worldwide are related to undernutrition. Globally, 151 million children under the age of 5 are affected by a condition known as stunting, where the child is too small for their age. Stunting is caused by chronic under-nutrition during the most critical periods of growth and development in early life.

The world produces enough food for everyone - but the devastating effects of conflict and climate change, unequal access to food, and food wastage mean that after a decade of progress the global hunger rate has started to rise once again. While most countries have achieved significant gains in the last 25 years in reducing hunger and undernutrition, progress in the majority of nations affected by conflict has stagnated or deteriorated. At the same time, one-third of all the food produced in the world is lost or wasted, at an estimated cost of USD 2.6 trillion.

Despite improvements in many areas, Pakistan still faces significant challenges. Between 2004-2016, undernourishment fell from 23.3% to 19.9%, but in the same period the number of undernourished people rose from 35.7 to 37.6 million. Pakistan's Prime Minister has noted that stunting is a key concern of his government, given that Pakistan has the world's third largest population of stunted children, with a 44% prevalence rate, and a similar propor-

tion of chronically malnutrition children aged between 6-59 months. In 2013, 40% of women across the country were overweight, while 18% of women of reproductive age were underweight. One of the major challenges faced by Pakistan is not so much the lack of food, but rather the lack of nutritious food. Pakistan is a large producer of rice and wheat, but this alone cannot guarantee a nutritious diet for her citizens. It is for this reason that the World Food Programme and the government of Pakistan, with the aid of international donors, have worked together to introduce locally developed specialized nutritious foods (SNFs) to improve the population's nutritional intake.

The government of Pakistan is making significant efforts to tackle food and nutrition security and accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Vision 2025 – its national development programme. WFP is committed to collaborating with the government and all our other partners – including NGOs, civil society, academia, private sector and other UN agencies - to achieve these shared ambitions for a better future.

I am confident that, working together, we will find lasting solutions to the root causes of malnutrition in Pakistan and banish hunger to the history books once and for all.

World Food Day marked by UN Food and Agriculture Organization all over Pakistan



World Food Day 2018 was marked at the National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC) Islamabad, and all over Pakistan by FAO on 16 October 2017. The theme for World Food Day this year was “Our Actions are our Future. A Zero Hunger world by 2030 is possible” Various organizations including Ministry of National Food Security Research, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Food Programme (WFP), Oxfam and research institutes came together

to organize the ceremony. Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Mr. Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan was the chief guest at the ceremony. Messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were read at the ceremony in which the long standing partnership Government of Pakistan and FAO was highlighted. Ms. Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan also addressed the ceremony. Highlighting the completion of 40 years of FAO in Pakistan she

said “We all have to continue to play our respective roles for achieving Zero Hunger in Pakistan. It is encouraging to see Pakistan taking steps in the right direction for reaching this goal. The first National Food Security Policy and the Water Policy provide the framework for action, putting emphasis on agriculture diversification and value addition, resilient climate smart agriculture and water management, improved livelihoods of small holder farmers and tenants, safe drinking water and a National Zero Hunger Program.”

Mr. Finbarr Curran, Country Director and Representative, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Pakistan said at the occasion that ending hunger will require investments in agriculture, rural development, nutrition, social protection and gender equality. Director General NARC, paid vote of thanks in the end.

Various offices across Pakistan marked the World Food day with unique celebrations:

Chitral

World Food Day was celebrated in Chitral with male and female farmers of Booni village of upper Chitral. FAO has been leading multiple initiatives across the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 2, which is aiming for zero hunger around the globe

by 2030. Substantial work has been done in Chitral through projects such as ‘Imparting smart techniques to women farmers in Chitral’ through the FSL interventions. FAO Chitral team spent the day in the field with beneficiaries of turnip value addition activity in a formal gathering.

The team apprised the beneficiaries with the importance of the day in perspective of UN sustainable development goals. Informative was exchange and the progress made in the region was highlighted on the occasion.

Gilgit

FAO in Gilgit celebrated the World Food Day in collaboration with the Karakoram International University, Gilgit. A four kilometer walk around campus was organized to celebrate the event, which was attended by more than 40 university faculty, and 400 hundred students along

with the FAO team. After the walk, a formal ceremony was held where the vice chancellor of the University Dr. Khalil Ahmed spoke about the importance of food security in Pakistan. Dr. Sajjad Hussain, head of department for the food sciences gave a presentation about the food situation in the country,

and FAO's Abdul Basit narrated the FAO Director Generals message to the attendees, which was taking actions in relation to our future in order to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Hyderabad

The joint report 'Food Security and Nutrition in the World' was presented to the audience of academia and civil society representatives at the event marking the World Food Day in Hyderabad. This report was a collaboration of FAO, World Health Organization, and International Fund for Agriculture Development, and the United Nations Children's Fund.

At the event, FAO policy consultant

Genevieve Hussain pointed that efforts made to counter world hunger need to be expedited in order to fight malnutrition around the globe. Syed Khadim Shah of the World Food Program explained that ending hunger means availability of nutrient-rich food to people, especially mothers and those who are pregnant. Masood Lohar of Global Environmental Finance-United Nations Development Program said that Pakistan was lagging behind in achieving

the set targets.

By highlighting focus areas and recognizing the work done in the region by FAO Pakistan, the event reiterated the importance of achieving zero hunger around the globe by 2030, to the audience comprised of academia and members of the civil society.

Quetta

FAO in collaboration with World Food Programme celebrated World Food day in Quetta at a ceremony highlighting this year's message "Our Actions are Our Future". Mr. Ahmed Jan Essa, Deputy Chief of Party FAO said the worldwide celebration of the World Food Day promotes worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food secu-

rity and nutritious diets for all. He also said that the FAO had been working for 40 years in Pakistan working towards achieving food security. Asmatullah Khan, Secretary Livestock Balochistan, Dr. Ghulam Hussain Jaffar, Director General Livestock and Dairy Development, Inaam Shinwari, Director General Extension agriculture, along with male and female farmers attended that event.

Peshawar

FAO marked the World Food Day at Pakistan Academy for Rural Development. Mr. Muhammad Israr Khan, Secretary Agriculture KP and Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister was the Chief Guest.

Supporting development of national e-agriculture strategy for Pakistan

In an effort to identify a roadmap for the national e-agriculture strategy in Pakistan, a two-day consultation workshop was organized in Islamabad.

FAO in collaboration with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) brought together representatives from the ministries of National Food Security and Research, Climate change, provincial departments, National Disaster Management Authority, telecommunication companies and private sector stakeholders engaged in agricultural service development and delivery in Pakistan for the workshop.

Hashim Popalzai, Secretary Ministry of National Food Security and Research inaugurated the two day workshop.

Welcoming participants Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan said this workshop will be helpful in identifying effective and efficient ways for reaching more farmers, transferring knowledge, adaptation to climate change and supporting modernization of Pakistan's agri sector by using the available information and communication technologies.

During the two-day workshop, participants exchanged knowledge and experience gained from best practices in the sustainable use of information and communication technologies in agriculture. They



also identified available services that can help bridge the challenges faced by farmers in growing crops, rearing livestock and small-scale fish farmers including e-extension advisories and precision farming techniques. They also discussed the way forward for improved coordination between various stakeholders to implement sustainable e-agriculture solutions in Pakistan. Gerard Sylvester from FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and Ismail Shah Area Representative for Southeast Asia & Timor-Leste, International Telecommunication Union also attended the workshop.

FAO and Pakistan sign Country Programming Framework 2018-2022



The implementation of this CPF will contribute to achievement of SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 14: Life below Water; SDG 15: Life on Land; SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

FAO and the Government of Pakistan today signed the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF) setting out the development priorities for collaboration with Pakistan. This CPF will cover the period 2018-2022, aligned with the priorities of the government and the UN planning cycle OP11.

This comes as a result of extensive consultations at the federal level, provincial and regional levels, and supported by extensive review of published materials, new policies and regulatory frameworks developed in the period.

Mina Dowlatchahi FAO Representative in Pakistan and Sahibzada Mahboob Sultan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Re-

search signed the CPF.

Based on the findings and recommendations of the Country Programme Evaluation, the CPF in line with development priorities outlined in Vision 2025, will directly contribute to the attainment of Pakistan's sustainable agriculture and food security related priorities through the implementation of targeted technical assistance in three thematic areas: Zero Hunger: Healthy, Safe and Nutritious Food for All; Climate Smart Resilient Agriculture and Sustainable Ecosystems including Forests, Fisheries, Livestock, Rangeland and Water Management; and Inclusive and Efficient Agriculture and Food Systems.

Pakistan launches consultation on national action plan for nutrition



WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with the communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists 80 million people in 80 countries.

A National Action Plan to address the scourge of nutrition in Pakistan came one step closer to reality today through a national consultation in the capital Islamabad.

The Nutrition Section of the Ministry for Planning Development and Reforms and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) are coming together with government, academia, sister UN agencies and development partners to turn Pakistan's Multi Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (PMNS) into action.

The strategy reflects the determination of government and stakeholders to lower the human, social and economic burden of malnutrition. Key consultations, plans and policies from sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture and social protection, which all impact nutrition, con-

tributed to the elaboration of the PMNS. With financial and technical support from WFP, this strategy builds on existing policies to forge a national framework, ensuring nutrition is supported by multiple sectors and stakeholders in Pakistan. WFP has prioritized rigorous research and consultation with stakeholders to identify challenges and potential solutions through an integrated approach to nutrition and food security for the poorest of the poor. Technical consultations at provincial and regional level are being conducted to ensure key nutrition interventions have been prioritized, with objectives, actions, indicators and timelines aligned with the strategic objectives of the PMNS. WFP will continue its work with the government of Pakistan to develop a final National Action Plan.

Pakistan announced fourth largest producer of chickpeas in the world by FAO report

Pakistan is the fourth largest producer of chickpeas in the world, and has a huge potential to export potatoes to the Middle East. This was revealed in the Punjab Food Outlook Report 2018 that was launched at a ceremony in Lahore today by Malik Nauman Ahmed Langrial, Minister of Agriculture government of Punjab.

This first of its kind report has been prepared in response to a request from the Punjab government with the technical support provided by FAO and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), following the lines of FAO's Global Food Outlook. Punjab produces 84% of chickpeas, 77% of wheat and 95% of potato - three key Rabi crops of the country's total production, according to the Punjab Food Outlook Report 2018. This report also provides forecasts for cultivated area, yield and production levels for wheat, potato and chickpeas across different agro-ecological zones of Punjab.

Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan said the Punjab Food Outlook Report provides timely and accurate data that will enable government, extension workers and small farmers to make informed and evidence-based decisions by monitoring food supply, demand and other key indicators for assessing the overall food security situation. It will eventually help reduce poverty and improve food security and nutrition in



Pakistan.

The report will also help strengthen national capacities for managing and utilization of food security related information.

Malik Nauman Ahmed Langrial, Minister of Agriculture government of Punjab termed the report as the dawn of a new era for agriculture in Punjab and appreciated the efforts of FAO and IFPRI in the preparation of the report to help agriculture enter a new era of evidence based decision-making.

According to the report, some of the key factors that have impacted wheat cultivation during the last decade include the prices of key inputs such as fertilizer, irrigation water availability and competition from other crops.

Raza Khan, advisor to the Punjab Agriculture department said that the publication will facilitate preventive actions by anticipating upcoming shocks and help set benchmarks by making an assessment of associated opportunities and risks. Stephen Davies, Senior Research Fellow at IFPRI gave details of the report in his presentation.

FAO in close collaboration with the federal and provincial governments is providing technical support to Punjab Agriculture Department for initiatives including the preparation of Punjab Agro-Ecological Zones and a study on SMOG.



New strategies unfold to improve agriculture in Balochistan

In an effort to enhance household incomes, improve food security and the nutritional status of men, women and youth in agriculture in Balochistan, two projects were inaugurated at a ceremony in Quetta. FAO in collaboration with the government of Balochistan and with the financial support of the Australian government's Department of Foreign Aid and Trade (DFAT) will address the challenges faced by rural communities dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods in Balochistan through these projects. Mitta Khan Kakar, Advisor to Balochistan Chief Minister on Livestock and Dairy Development, Brek Batley, Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan and Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan were the key guests at the ceremony.

Minà Dowlatchahi said women make huge contributions to the rural economy by engaging in on and off farm activities and by looking after the household and family nutrition. Investing in women's empowerment along with men helps eradicate poverty, improve food security and nutrition and helps achieve economic growth. She also thanked the government of Balochistan and the Australian government for their continuous support to the work of FAO in Pakistan. Building upon its first phase, Aus-



tralia Balochistan Agri Business Programme Phase II (AusABBA II) is a 6 year partnership between Government of Australia and FAO. 175,000 male and female farmers in various districts of Southwest Balochistan benefitted from Phase I. In Phase II, resource-poor, male and female crop and livestock farmers will be organized in informal Farmer Marketing Collectives (FMCs) and connected to markets for Balochistan-specific commodities such as onions, fruits, livestock, wool, meat, poultry and dates. Traders, exporters, processors, wholesalers and fresh buyers of modern and traditional retail and wholesale markets will also benefit from the linkages created as a result. The second project is strongly linked with AusABBA II, is helping

empower women associated with agriculture in Balochistan. 445 women have already been trained in agri-business. Women enterprise development in the agriculture sector in Balochistan will be the main focus as a result of which 10 women agri-enterprises comprising of 200 women will be able to operate their own businesses and increase their income by 25%. In addition, 400 women will receive literacy and numeracy training in Chaghai, Nushki and Quetta districts.

The project will help in the local adoption of new improved approaches, knowledge and capacities to make sustainable and long lasting impact on the lives of farmers.

Promoting exchange of innovative agri-technologies through universities



ing bio-fortified food crop varieties, and improved technologies for minimizing postharvest losses of food crops.

The collaboration will stimulate the exchange of innovative technologies between national and international universities to benefit local farming communities, students and the UOS Faculty.

FAO is collaborating with University of Sargodha (UOS) Faculty of Agriculture Outreach Extension Educational Program, to enhance institutional capacities in the seed sector. An agreement was signed between FAO and UOS, which is effective for the next two years. The collaboration builds upon FAO's experience in developing the capacity of the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department to facilitate seed and plant supply industry regulation.

Mina Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan, and Ishtiaq Ahmed, Vice Chancellor University of Sargodha, signed the agreement. Speaking at the ceremony,

Mina Dowlatchahi said FAO is pleased to begin this collaboration, which will present opportunities to smallholder farmers in the area and help promote entrepreneurship and provide employment to young men and women.

This agreement will also help enhance institutional capacity in line with the Amended (2015) Seed Act 1976 and the Plant Breeders' Rights Act, 2016. It will also be instrumental in achieving results in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, strengthening agricultural research programmes in the adoption of modern seed technology, climate smart agriculture practices, nutrition includ-

FAO launches Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for Better Nutrition

The Ministry of Planning and Development/Reform Commission of the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with FAO launched the 'Pakistan Dietary Guidelines for better Nutrition' (PDGN) in Islamabad. Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Development and Reform Kanwal Shauzab was the chief guest on the occasion.

FAO has jointly developed comprehensive dietary guidelines for the general public to adopt healthy eating practices and prevent and reduce the risk of infectious and chronic diseases.

Welcoming participants, FAO Representative in Pakistan Mina Dowlatchahi said it was an opportune time to disseminate the dietary guidelines, when the country is confronted with challenges of diet associated conditions. The dietary guidelines have been developed through an extensive consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders, technical experts and professionals from across the country. Speaking on the occasion, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Development and Reform Kanwal Shauzab appreciated the initiative and called it a result of a long-standing partnership between the government of Pakistan, FAO and other partners. She also said the country-specific food based dietary guidelines are important for main-



taining healthy dietary practices, weight management, and making smart food choices to prevent nutritional disorders. She added that the present government has given a high priority to address human malnutrition by focusing on its education and awareness.

The launch was also attended by representatives of various UN agencies: Katherine Goos, Deputy Country Head of WFP and Sarwat Adnan participated on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. Aslam Shaheen, Chief Nutritionist also spoke on the occasion. The guidelines called for a balanced diet in 'One Plate' composed of meat and pulses, cereals and cereal products, vegetables, fruits, milk and milk products, and edible oil/ghee. These guidelines will be useful for multi-sectoral pro-

professionals and policy makers to formulate appropriate policy, plan and programmes. These guidelines will also facilitate provincial good and drug authorities to implement food quality standards in their respective provinces for ensuring that foods are safe and of better quality.

Diet is one of the strongest determinants of health and nutritional status. The balanced diet provides adequate nutrients at different stages of life for good nourishment to be healthy; physically and cognitively. Good nutrition is thus important for enhanced productivity, individual's performance, which implicates into socio-economic development and economic prosperity of the country. Nutrition is as such considered a maker and marker of sustainable development.

Refugee girl aspires to become her country's first female foreign minister



Growing up in a refugee camp, Safia was engulfed by fear and uncertainty – but she never gave up and continued chasing her dream to get an education. Safia Ibrahimkhel's parents fled Afghanistan when civil war broke out in the country in the 1980s. Born and raised in the sprawling Kacha Garhi camp in Peshawar, Safia, 25, was passionate about education – with special interest in international relations and aspirations to be the first female foreign minister of Afghanistan. After passing 6th grade in Kacha Garhi camp, Safia moved to another location and studied until the 12th grade. She completed her masters in political science at Peshawar University in 2014. “Don't let your fears dominate your thoughts. Once you break the bar-

rier of fear, you achieve success,” she said, quoting her mother. When Safia was studying at school, she would see people addressing the United Nations General Assembly. “My dream came true when my essay for the UNHCR's global youth advisory council got selected,” she recalls. Safia had a fear of flying but she made it to Geneva to represent the region and provided her inputs and recommendation for Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). “I stressed that refugees and host communities should work together to identify and address issues and find solutions,” she said. At another High Commissioner's dialogue event, she spoke about imparting quality education, the involvement of academia

and shedding light on how they could both play a positive role in peace-building. Safia taught English and computer studies for one year at a school near her house in Peshawar and worked with different NGOs. Now she has decided to enroll herself in a masters in philosophy, focusing on international relations. Being an active youth activist working for women's social and economic empowerment, she is hopeful that the women of Afghanistan will make progress and play their part in rebuilding their country. She wants peace in the region. “Love is beyond border and nationality,” she said. “I believe women are good decision-makers and also good peacemakers.”

A legend in Tharparkar

Kasunbi Meghwar belongs to village Sakri Taluka Nagarparkar, District Tharparkar. She is a committed community member working for village development with the support of School Management Committee (SMC) and schoolteachers. She is a homemaker, but what really distinguishes her from other village women is her vision of progress for local girls.

When UNESCO's implementing partner Baanhn Beli under the Girls Right to Education (GREP) program conducted the community meeting in village Sakri for the first time, she participated in the meeting and was unanimously selected as the President of a mothers group.

She continues to serve in this voluntary capacity even today, with the same dedication and spirit with which she started, and has inspired other community members to become a part of the change. Ms. Meghwar was able to mobilize village volunteers, who collected data on Out of School Children (OOSC), and as a result 32 children (21 Girls and 11 Boys) were enrolled in the Government Primary Schools in village Sakri. She worked together with the SMC and teachers to provide necessary support from the community. She stresses that the community must cooperate with



the local education department for improving the situation and investing the future of girls of her village. Ms. Meghwar shared, "Development is impossible without girls' education, so we must enroll our girls in schools and treat them on equally". She also appreciated the efforts of the UNESCO team for supporting the enrollment of Out of School Children in the village. Since 2015, UNESCO's GREP is being implemented through nine provincial and area-specific sister projects in selected districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh, and the four federal areas of Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad Capital territory.

Giving Pakistani Adolescents a second chance in Balochistan



For Safeerullah Khan, the day begins even before dusk. After saying his morning prayers, he tucks his belongings under a wooden shelf, puts on his worn-out joggers and runs to the main road to catch public transport. Then he hops onto one of the many commercial vans speeding to a suburban area where the city's biggest fruit market is located.

Quetta is famous for its fruit. Countless number of trucks from various parts of the province arrive at the city's fruit market at day break. Fruit and vegetable cartons are offloaded, counted, strengthened by putting metal strips on them, and then sold to local fruit vendors. In the wee hours of the morning, this is where thousands of people earn their livelihood by working as labourers – some of them children. Safeerullah is only 14 but he has already seen the tough side of life. His father, the only breadwinner of the family, died four years ago, leaving behind a widow and eight children. The family lives in a modest two-room house in a poor neighborhood. Neither Safeerullah nor any of his siblings have ever been to school. Since the death of his father, Sa-

feerullah and his older brother have become the family's breadwinners.

One year after his father died, Safeerullah had a surprise he never expected - a lady came to see the family and asked his mother to let him learn. Because Safeerullah had never been to school, he could not enrol in the regular educational system. But the lady, who turned out to be a school teacher, said that there was still an option for him: non-formal education centres. UNICEF has been supporting the Government of Pakistan to put children back in school through non-formal education services. This gives a second chance to the nearly 23 million Pakistani children who have never been to school or dropped out – one out of two school-age children. The centres offer special methodologies to help boys and girls catch up with their studies for free. They operate with more flexible hours, making it easier to convince parents to send their children. The centres teach an accelerated curriculum, helping young people catch up with the years of schooling they lost and reintegrate the mainstream education system. UNICEF currently

supports 400 non-formal education centres across Pakistan thanks to generous funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). 15,000 children have benefited from the project in the province of Balochistan alone so far, including Safeerullah. A crucial task to ensure the success of the programme is to convince families to send their children to the centres. This is what Raheela Ja-been, the lady who visited Safeerullah's house, does. Raheela says that Safeerullah has a gift for mathematics, and will soon graduate from primary education. What he has learnt at the center has already helped the boy improve his living conditions. Safeerullah plans to go on studying in secondary school, where he should be able to attend classes only in the afternoon thanks to a double shift system. His mother no longer objects to his studying as it has already helped raise the family's standard of living. Safeerullah has also become a role model for others. Thanks to the programme, UNICEF is hoping to reach many other Safeerullahs.

Afghan refugee elder sees no progress without girls' education

Though Mohammad Agha and his children could not acquire an education for themselves due to war and poverty, he has now become an advocate for education and visits local homes to convince parents to send their children, especially daughters to school.

Mohammad Agha is an Afghan refugee who lives in Saranan refugee village, in Pishin district, Balochistan. Agha, 55, who belongs to Sari Pul in Afghanistan moved to Pakistan due to war some 31 years ago. They had to travel for several days to reach Pakistan. He has since struggled as daily wage worker to earn a living for his family.

Knowing the importance of education, he is now an active member of the Educate a Child (EAC) initiative. This is a global initiative launched by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar, which aims to reduce the number of children worldwide who are missing out on education.

In addition to encouraging students to attend school, the programme includes sessions for weaker students, campaigns and activities to increase enrolment, supports accelerated learning programmes, as well as the provision of school supplies, learning materials and teacher training.

Some 800 students were enrolled in schools in 2018, including girls in



Saranan refugee village. Agha used his influence in the community to persuade families to send their boys and girls to schools.

Mohammad Agha said he witnessed fighting back in Afghanistan but now realises that education is the only way to keep peace.

His children are earning and are financially stable, and Agha believes that education of girls is of crucial importance.

Now many local female teachers are serving in the Saranan camp. Agha called for more incentives for teachers to promote education and skills development trainings for students and make the community self-sufficient.



Powering sustainable development with access to information

To mark the third international Day for Universal Access to Information, UNESCO jointly with the European Union, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Embassy of Sweden organized the IPDC talks in Islamabad on September 27. The event engaged 115 participants from different walks of life and included talks and panel discussions on roles of free media, duty bearers and right holders in promoting access to information.

Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative for Pakistan welcomed the participants and emphasized that access to information is essential for inclusion and dialogue. Ms. Jensen stated that the implementation of exemplary RTI laws in KP and Punjab could bridge the gap between duty bearers and right holders.

Khizar Shah, Director (Press), Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and Heritage, in his opening remarks said that access to information is essential for good governance and democracy and media plays a critical role in the process.

Speakers and panelists presented data on access to information, communication channels and their penetration in different areas and its effect on political participation. Innovative and crosscutting initiatives that foster public access to information were presented and discussed from the perspective of duty bearers and media.



Panelists shed light on existing state mechanisms to promote accountability and role of RTI commissions complemented by civil society research, advocacy and awareness raising. Student groups, youth startups and CSOs also presented their ideas and innovative approaches to promote access to information as right holders. The innovations included an open data portal, augmented data software, a compliance-tracking website, animations for social awareness, and an RTI tracker.

Deputy Head of Delegation Anne Marchal delivered the concluding remarks at the event, noting the importance of access to information in terms of accountability, participation and transparency, which are the pillars of democracy.





CHILDREN



National Complementary Feeding Assessment (NCFA) launched



The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSR&C), Government of Pakistan launched the National Complementary Feeding Assessment (NCFA), study of practices around feeding children, today in Islamabad. The study was conducted with financial support of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the technical support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Inappropriate complementary feeding practices for children aged 6-23 months are a major cause of under nutrition and stunting. Lack of information has been a bottleneck in reversing the

trend and improving the situation. The NCFA provides an in-depth analysis on the feeding practices, related barriers and boosters as well as guidance to improve the said practices in the country. The study is aimed at determining the factors contributing to the adverse complementary feeding practices and the nutritional status of children aged 6-23 months. Only 15% children in the abovementioned age-group in Pakistan are receiving minimum acceptable diet for effective growth and development in Pakistan – a critically low figure. The NCFA has achieved all four of its objectives: (1) An in-depth analysis of variations in dietary diversity and min-

imum acceptable diet among children under two years of age; (2) Qualitative Formative Research, which guides us in finding reasons of low levels of complementary feeding in the country as well as how to address this issue; (3) Cost of Diet (COD) analysis that determines the availability, affordability as well as acceptability of nutritious diet; and (4) OptiFood Analysis which identifies the problem nutrients and validates the NCFA recommendations. Various representatives of the provincial governments, diplomatic community, the United Nations and DFID were also present on the occasion.

Breastfeeding: foundation for a healthy Life



From the earliest moments of a child's life, breastfeeding practice can make a difference between a healthy and an unhealthy life. Breastfeeding is a newborn's first and potent vaccine vitalizing their immunity boost.

A new report by UNICEF and WHO reveals that an estimated 78 million babies – or 3 in 5 – are not breastfed within the first hour of life, putting them at higher risk of death and disease and making them less likely to continue breastfeeding. Most of these babies are born in low and middle income countries.

There are many reasons as to why millions of women are unable to start and continue breastfeeding successfully. Among others, in Pakistan one predominant reason is that many women give birth without access to the quality care, counselling and support they

need from qualified health workers. Another big reason is ease of access to infant formula or other substitutes in the market, starting from the maternity facilities onward. These health facilities push their commercial agenda ahead and seriously compromise the lifelong health quality of the newborn.

Breastfeeding is not a one-woman job as the nursing mothers require assistance and support from their health care providers, families, employers, communities, and governments so they can provide their children with the healthiest start to life. Together, we can support women to breastfeed and protect the health and well-being of future generations.

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1 to 7 August to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the

world. It commemorates the Innocenti Declaration signed in August 1990 by government policymakers, WHO, UNICEF and other organizations to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. Breastfeeding is the best way to provide infants with the nutrients they need. WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour after birth until a baby is 6 months old. Nutritious complementary foods should then be added while continuing to breastfeed for up to 2 years or beyond. This year, WHO is working with UNICEF and partners to promote the importance of helping mothers breastfeed their babies within that crucial first hour of life. Skin-to-skin contact along with suckling at the breast stimulate the production of breastmilk, including colostrum, also called the baby's 'first vaccine', which is extremely rich in nutrients and antibodies

The Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative is a global initiative led by UNICEF and WHO and aims at improving exclusive breastfeeding rates by implementing the **Ten steps** to successful initiation and continuation of breastfeeding. The Ten steps to successful breastfeeding are: 1) hospital policies; 2) staff competency; 3) antenatal care; 4) care right after birth; 5) support mothers with breastfeeding; 6) supplementing; 7) rooming-in; 8) responsive feeding; 9) bottles, teats and pacifiers; and 10) discharge.



Half of world's teens experience peer violence in and around school

Physical fights and bullying disrupt the education of 150 million 13-15-year-olds worldwide



Photo: UNICEF/Zehbrauskas

Half of students aged 13 to 15 worldwide – around 150 million young people – report having experienced peer-to-peer violence in and around school, according to a new report released by UNICEF today.

Peer violence – measured as the number of children who report having been bullied in the last month or having been involved in a physical fight in the last year – is a pervasive part of young people’s education around the world. It impacts student learning and well-being in rich and poor countries alike.

The Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack recorded at least 203 attacks on schools in Pakistan between 2013 and 2017. During August, this year, 15 schools in dis-

trict Diامر of Gilgit Baltistan, were attacked. Most of these were girls’ schools. In the past, schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have also been attacked. Corporal punishment is still prevalent in most of the public schools despite a ban imposed on it by the National Assembly of Pakistan.

“Violence in Schools: An Everyday Lesson” is released as part of the UNICEF #ENDviolence global campaign. It is also a part of a collective effort to shed light on and spark action to #ENDviolence in and around schools by organisations including UNICEF, the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), UNESCO, other members of the Global Partnership to

End Violence Against Children and UNGEI.

To end violence in schools, UNICEF and partners are calling for urgent action in the following areas: Implementing policies and legislation needed to protect students from violence in schools; strengthening prevention and response measures in schools; urging communities and individuals to join students as they speak up about violence and work to change the culture of classrooms and communities; more effective and targeted investments in proven solutions that help students and schools stay safe; and collecting better, disaggregated data on violence against children in and around schools and sharing what works.

UNICEF is encouraging young people around the world to raise their voices to #ENDviolence in and around schools and to tell us how they are working together and what solutions they are using to #ENDviolence in and around schools once and for all.



On International Day of the Girl, UNICEF calls on improving employability skills



Photo: UNICEF/A. Sami Malik

On International Day of the Girl, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) calls on improving girls' access to education and employment in Pakistan and worldwide.

Today's generation of girls are preparing to enter a world that is being transformed by innovation and automation. Educated and skilled workers are in great demand, but roughly a quarter of young people in the world – most of them female – are neither employed, nor in education or training.

Right now, many girls are not developing the skills they will later need to secure work. In Pakistan, nearly 23 million children are out of school, the majority of them girls. Girls tend to face specific limitations on their ability to make decisions affecting their education and work.

Girls need to be taught the transfer-

able skills – such as self-confidence, problem solving, teamwork and critical thinking – which are critical to succeed in the rapidly changing world. Helping them develop the skills for employability they need to enter the workforce and access decent work opportunities will help reap long term economic benefits and defeat the cycle of poverty.

Under the theme, **With Her: A Skilled GirlForce**, International Day of the Girl marks the beginning of a year-long effort to highlight, advocate for and invest in girls to develop skills and enter the workforce.

To that end, the global community must: Rapidly expand access to inclusive education and training; Improve the quality and gender-responsiveness of teaching and learning to enable girls to develop foundational, transferable and job-specific skills for life and work; Cre-

ate inclusive and accessible schools, training and learning opportunities to empower girls with disabilities; Change gender stereotypes, social norms and unconscious bias to provide girls with the same learning and career opportunities as boys; Increase girls' participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning; Create initiatives to support girls' school-to-work transition, such as career guidance, apprenticeships, internships and entrepreneurship; Deliver large-scale public and private sector programming for girls' skills and market-adapted training; Enable access to finance and enterprise development for female entrepreneurs; and Form strategic partnerships with governments and private companies which can act as thought leaders and financiers, helping to train girls and bring them into the workforce. On International Day of the Girl, let's stand with girls – the future freelancers, entrepreneurs, teachers, scientists, and software engineers which Pakistan needs – to develop skills now and remove other gender barriers she faces, so that she and every girl can join **A Skilled GirlForce**.



World Prematurity Day : care for preterm babies imperative to improve Child Survival Indicators in Pakistan



(Photo: UNICEF/Sayina Bashir)

Each day over 600 new-borns die in Pakistan due to complications related to Birth Asphyxia, Prematurity and Sepsis, says the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Every year, 15 million babies in the world are born prematurely and nearly 1 million die due to related complications. This makes preterm birth one of the leading causes of child deaths under age 5.

While supporting the new initiatives taken by the Government of Pakistan to reduce preterm births and new-born mortality due to related complications, UNICEF calls for Working Together: Partnering with families in the care of small and sick new-borns, which is also the theme, this year for the World Prematurity

Day, being observed globally on November 17, 2018.

UNICEF has supported the Government of Pakistan in establishing 38 Sick New-born Care Units at public health facilities across the country. The Kangaroo Mother care initiative is being introduced in these centres, and awareness raising activities are on-going towards improving care for the new born at home including timely and appropriate referrals for small and sick new-borns.

Collaborated efforts have helped in reducing the new-born mortality rate from 55 deaths per 1,000 live births to 42 deaths per 1,000 live births during the last five years. However, the number of new-born deaths is still unacceptably high and contin-

ued efforts are imperative to save precious lives.

With support from UNICEF, KMC will be initiated in the Pakistan Institute for Medical Services (PIMS) Hospital, this month. Training of health care providers from various provinces and areas at PIMS will help scale up the initiative over the next few years to reach the most in need in the neighbouring districts and areas. Good hygiene care can help prevent multiple infections while early initiation of breast-feeding within the first hour can particularly help prevent deaths. UNICEF emphasises that the reduction in premature births and new-born deaths can be achieved by strengthening health policies and services with focus on maternal nutrition and improving access and care for mothers and new-borns.

Promoting respect for diversity among children through puppet show



The Embassy of the Argentine Republic, in connection with International Students' Day, organized a Puppet Show at the premises of the Argentine Embassy in Islamabad.

The show aimed at promoting respect for diversity and difference and offered an opportunity to join children from very poor, middle class and high-income backgrounds to respect one another and enjoy an art form that has a very long tradition in Pakistan.

The nationally famous puppeteers of the Rafi Peer Theatre brought their show from Lahore and enthralled the audience with songs and improvised situations about the importance of respect among children.

The children belonging to different backgrounds were invited to watch the show, including those who would never have the opportunity to witness such kind of shows. Some

of the state run, private and special education schools were also invited to make sure the message of solidarity reached everyone.

The Mayor of Islamabad, Sheikh Ansar Aziz, was the Chief Guest.

In his speech Ambassador of Argentina H.E. Ivan Ivanissevich underlined the idea that very often children and grown-ups reject those who are different because of ignorance regarding their abilities, beliefs, their different appearances, habits or traditions.

This is a natural thing, but it is also something that can be overcome by talking to one another, listening and finding out what we all share. Rejection or bullying against those who are less well-off or different to us produces situations where nobody wins; making an effort to understand one another, sharing games or helping one another will always make our lives so much

more enjoyable, may develop our creativity and ensure a better future for everybody.

Thanks to the kind cooperation of Serena Hotels, the children were given lunch boxes, and through the sponsorship of Atlas Sports of Sialkot, each school received a bag with footballs and volley balls.

The project was also supported by the Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad and the United Nations.



CLIMATE CHANGE

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Launch of clean and green Pakistan programme



The physical launch of Clean and Green Pakistan campaign was held at Saidpur Village Islamabad on October 13, as part of the call by the Prime Minister of Pakistan for a “Clean and Green Pakistan”. The cleanliness campaign in Saidpur

Village was jointly organized by the Ministry of Climate Change, UN Habitat, Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust (AHKMT), and National Clean-

er Production Centre (NCPC) in collaboration with the Chairman Union Council Saidpur. Mr. Malik Amin Aslam, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and the focal person for the Clean and Green Pakistan was the Chief

Guest. Ambassadors of Netherlands, China, Kenya, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Sudan participated in the programme.

Mr. Malik Amin Aslam highlighted that Pakistan is facing serious environmental issues which unfortunately have been getting worse as the country's economy expands and the population grows. He emphasized that Clean and Green Pakistan Programme focuses on launching of nationwide programme for environmentally sound disposal of solid and liquid waste; provision of public toilets; creation of complete ODF villages and starting a volunteer scouts programme to help support the campaign. He added that we would like to develop Saidpur Village into a model, serving as a center of attraction for international tourists and visitors.

Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, Habitat Programme Manager, UN Habitat stated that the Integrated Resource Recovery Center (IRRC) offers a highly cost-effective way of improving waste management and cleaning the environment in the fast-growing cities of Pakistan. For every dollar invested, the IRRC model offers USD 10 in benefits. The benefits are particularly significant in relation to improved public health and climate change mitigation, although employment creation also plays a part. The IRRC diverts 90 per cent of waste from centralized disposal and is a factor of ten cheaper than providing centralized disposal facilities.

The community members; students of schools & colleges; sanitary workers of Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), AHKMT and local sanitary workers at the village level collected the solid waste. The dig-



nitaries invited also participated in cleanliness campaign. Integrated solid waste management model was demonstrated on site to promote the principles of "3R's" i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle of waste management. Hygiene messages including importance of hand washing was imparted to the community members especially mothers, adolescence girls and boys and young children. Awareness sessions with the local community were conducted on open defecation free environment especially improvement of the toilet facilities in the

village. A painting competition reinforcing the sense of personal responsibility towards the cleanliness drive was held among the Behbood school children and prizes were distributed by the chief guest.

The first pilot Integrated Resource Recovery Center in Pakistan established in Sector G-15, Islamabad, in 2014 by UN Habitat in collaboration with Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust (AHKMT), and support of UNESCAP.



Creating a new framework of cooperation to support Climate Action



A Statement of Intent (Sol) was jointly by the University of Baltistan, Skardu, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide a framework of cooperation and strengthen collaboration for research and development activities in the Baltistan region. The University of Baltistan is a Public-Sector University mandated to conduct research and education activities in the areas of environment, climate change, natural resource management and sustainable development. Under this new collaboration, UNDP will facilitate the University in undertaking action-based research in

innovative interventions, and identifying nature-based and gender-responsive solutions for issues pertaining to areas such as ecosystem degradation and restoration of flow of eco-system-based goods and services. UNDP and the University of Baltistan will also collaborate to explore potential risk factors in mountain areas related to glacial lake outburst floods, and to identify means for the mitigation of these risks. The University of Baltistan will engage students in research in the areas of environment, agriculture, climate change adaptation, natural resource management and other related disciplines, and will explore avenues for creating awareness related to

the Sustainable Development Goals. FAO and the University of Baltistan will cooperate to conduct a survey for non-timber forest products -especially medicinal plants and mushrooms - to scope their economic and ecological benefits, and evaluate ecosystem services and functions of the dry temperature zone for initiating 'payment for ecosystem services'. Under the framework, key factors responsible for forest degradation and for landscape restoration will be identified, and current mountain agriculture practices will be reviewed with a focus on developing sustainable practices for implementation.

Kalasha practice of Suri Jagek enters UNESCO's Intangible Culture in Need of Urgent Safeguarding List

The thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) took place in Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius, from 26 November to 1 December 2018.

Chaired by the Honourable Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun, Minister of Arts and Culture of the Republic of Mauritius, the meeting inscribed, among many practices, the practice of Suri Jagek from Pakistan's indigenous Kalasha people on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

This is the first exclusive inscription for Pakistan - the other two being Nauroz and Falconry, shared with neighbouring countries in the region. Suri Jagek (literally, observing the sun) is a Kalasha meteorological and astronomical practice carried out in December on the winter solstice, and is based on the observation of the sun, moon and stars in reference to the local topography.

Ms Sajida Vandal, a UNESCO ICH expert, and Mr Naushad Khaliq, a section officer at the National History and Literary Heritage division, attended the meeting and spoke on the importance of the practice for the Kalasha community, a slowly-diminishing group of around 4000 people settled in three valleys in the Chitral district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Members of Kalasha community spearheaded the process leading up



to the nomination, and were facilitated by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the National History and Literary Heritage Division, UNESCO Islamabad, and the Canadian and Swiss embassies with the research for the process carried out by Trust for History, Art and Architecture in Punjab (THAAP) and Institute for Art and Culture (IAC), Lahore-based organizations.

The successful inscription of Suri Jagek on the ICH List is a testament to the country's rich cultural diversity and to Kalasha's positive contributions towards Pakistan through revenue generated by the increasing number of tourists, domestic and foreign, who visit the valleys every year.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Japan supports WFP for seasonal livelihood programming in newly merged tribal districts

The government of Japan has announced its support to the United Nations WFP for Seasonal Livelihood Programming in former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The official announcement was made by the Secretary for Livelihood and Production Department, Abdul Latif, and the Ambassador of Japan in Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Takashi Kurai, during a press event in Islamabad.

WFP Country Director and Representative Finbarr Curran and representatives from the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Secretariat and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Government were also present at the occasion.

Geographically, the districts formerly known as FATA are vulnerable to disasters, and poorly constructed mud and stone houses and other weak infrastructure are often washed away by rains and flash flooding. The frequency of climatic shocks, as well as conflict, calls for the strengthening of disaster risk management systems to mitigate risk. Crisis preparedness capacities need to be boosted to reduce the time it takes for families to recover



and for systems to be restored. Seasonal Livelihood Programming is a risk-informed planning tool to identify interventions suited to a variety of contexts and time frames. It provides the foundations for resilience planning and brings humanitarian and development interventions together by combining seasonal, livelihood, gender, crisis and programme aspects. Communities, government, and partners, are consulted to design cross cutting plans.

The programme will also pave the way for the digitalization of informa-

tion gathering and the development of a centralized data hub. This will include the refinement and cleaning of data from key thematic areas and linking to the Decision Support System of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Efforts continue to build disaster resilience

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Concern Worldwide in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) launched Phase-II of the project “Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan” (BDRP) with the financial assistance of Department for International Development (DFID) at an inception workshop in Islamabad.

During the second phase, the project will cover 9 districts in Punjab and Sindh with the addition of KP, and will enhance resilience of the disaster prone communities, building capacities of institutions engaged in disaster management.

Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Omar Mahmood Hayat highlighted the need for collective planning, coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders at national and provincial level to address the challenges that natural disasters present to Pakistan. He mentioned BDRP Phase II will be instrumental in helping reach these goals and will also help in mitigating the effects of natural disasters in Pakistan.

FAO Representative Minà Dowlatchahi said the agriculture sector suffers the most when natural disasters hit. Therefore, building resilient communities against natural disasters is vital for sustainable agriculture development.

Representatives from DFID, NDMA,



PDMA, line departments, FAO, UNDP, WFP, Concern Worldwide, its consortium allies participated in the workshop.

The BDRP project would ensure risk mitigation through risk assessment, improved preparedness, building capacity of institutions and the ability to respond to emergencies. Deputy Head of Office DFID, Ms Kemi Williams and Country Head Concern Mr Mubashir were also present. The key milestones achieved during the Phase-I of BDRP were also presented on the occasion.



DRUGS AND CRIME



Awareness raising campaign against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants rolls out

UNODC Country Office in Pakistan in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency is rolling out a nation-wide public awareness campaign against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM).

The campaign is supported by the Australian Department of Home Affairs, the U.S. Department of State and the European Union under the framework of the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO. ACT). The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness on the risks, issues and challenges associated with human trafficking and migrant smuggling, to create community-led efforts as well as a national discourse on the topic, which will ultimately lead to the engagement of policy makers.

The awareness campaign is being implemented at the national level with a focus on high-risk areas and will utilize several institutionalized tools to engage stakeholders. This includes the distribution of brochures and display of banners in key districts, a social media page focused on TIP and



SOM, and the dissemination of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) through local and terrestrial radio as well as through sms. The nationwide roll out will officially commence Monday, 24 September 2018 and run until December 2018.

TIP within Pakistan accounts for thousands of people being forced into bonded labor at brick kilns, in agriculture, the carpet industry and majority of the victims are women and children. Criminal networks have be-

come increasingly good at luring vulnerable people into being exploited. More and more efforts are needed to help prevent TIP and SOM. UNODC urges civil society to play its vital role in helping to raise awareness and to prevent TIP and SOM.

Mr. Cesar Guedes, UNODC Country Representative for Pakistan, said much more needs to be done in terms of raising awareness amongst a broader section of society, including local communities, policy makers, local government representatives and the media.

UNODC understands that it is crucial for the government and civil society to work in close partnership to fight human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The fight will only succeed in a joint effort by raising the level of awareness among a much broader mass and relevant stakeholders. This campaign is important as it combines both, prevention with protection strategies, which will in turn benefit civil society organizations as well as victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants directly.

Building the operational capacity of the Anti Narcotics Force

Cesar Guedes, the UNODC Country Office Representative in Pakistan and Yusuke Shindo, Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan, handed over 200 drugs and precursors identification kits to Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) during the handing-over ceremony at ANF Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

The UNODC test kits, developed and produced by the Laboratory and Scientific Section, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, was one of the agreed deliverables under the Japanese funded UNODC project, which is aimed at strengthening border security against illicit drug trafficking and related transnational organised crime. This is also part of UNODC efforts to enhance the operational capacity of drug law enforcement, especially ANF, in line with its Country Programme (2016 - 2019). Senior officials from Embassy of Japan, UNODC and ANF were present at the occasion.

Brig. Sheikh Ali Muhammad, Chief of Staff, ANF thanked the officials of Japan and UNODC for their continuous support to the Government of Pakistan, especially ANF, for building their operational capacity in countering numerous existing and emerging challenges posed by drug trafficking in the country and the region.

Cesar Guedes, the UNODC Country Office Representative in Paki-



stan, said that UNODC along with its international donors especially Japan is committed to strengthening operational capacities of ANF and other LEAs for addressing the drug trafficking and global organised crime issues through proactive responses.

Shindo, Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan reaffirmed Japan's commitment to helping Pakistan combat all types of transnational organised crime including illicit drug trafficking which hinder the economic development and over all prosperity of the country. He noted that enhancing the border security between Pakistan and Afghanistan is crucial as the stability of the region is essential to not only the national security of Pakistan, but also the effort of interna-

tional society on defeat of the global drug trafficking.

UNODC is leading global efforts against drug trafficking and is the guardian of all international conventions on drugs and transnational organised crime. UNODC Country Office in Pakistan has been active for over 35 years and works in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan. Its mandate is to assist the national institutions in their efforts to overcome the challenges associated with transnational organised crime, thereby contributing towards the nation's development.



Training on “Understanding and Presenting Circumstantial Evidence in Terrorism Trials”



UNODC under the framework of Pakistan’s Action to Counter Terrorism (PACT) Project organized a four-day training in Islamabad on “Understanding and Presenting Circumstantial Evidence in Terrorism Trials” for Prosecutors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), and the Prosecution Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Thirty prosecutors, including 11 females and 19 male prosecutors, from six districts of Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa, attended the training. During the four-day training, the prosecutors were briefed on the international best practices related to evidence collection, preservation including on the importance of chain of custody, while improving their skills for presenting circumstantial evidence in terrorism trials in the courts. The training was based on interactive sessions in which participants had the opportunity to learn from both the trainers and their peers from other districts. Over the course

of the training, various national legal experts delivered sessions on the prevailing legal framework on the subject while providing clarity on the role of circumstantial evidence and its admissibility.

In addition to this, a special session was organized on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations, Pakistan’s legal instruments for countering terrorism financing including its obligations under various UN Security Council Resolutions, which was delivered by the former Federal Law Minister of Pakistan Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi. After the session the participants had a chance for a close-interaction with Mr. Soofi to discuss legal limitations and challenges prosecutors face in convictions related to terrorism financing offences.

During the closing session of the training, Cesar Guedes, UNODC Representative, along with Jaffar Khan, Director General Counter-Terrorism NACTA and Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Former Federal Law Minister delivered their closing remarks and highlighted the important role prosecutors play in ensuring due-process, justice and respecting the rights of offender through a fair trial. At the end of the workshop, certificates were distributed amongst the attendees. The training was made possible with the support of the European Union.

Vulnerability of various age and gender groups



The number of people worldwide using drugs at least once a year remained stable in 2016 with around 275 million people, or roughly 5.6 per cent of the global population aged 15-64 years.

Looking at vulnerabilities of various age groups, the Report finds that drug use and the associated harm are the highest among young people compared to older people. Most research suggests that early (12-14 years) to late (15-17 years) adolescence is a critical risk period for the initiation of substance use and may peak among young people (aged 18-25 years).

Cannabis is a common drug of choice for young people. However, drug use among young people differs from country to country and depends on the social and eco-

nomical circumstances of those involved. There are two extreme typologies of drug use among young people: club drugs in nightlife and recreational settings among affluent youth; and use of inhalants among street children to cope with their difficult circumstances.

Drug use among the older generation (aged 40 years and older) has been increasing at a faster rate than among those who are younger. This, although there is only limited data available, requires attention, the Report finds. People who went through adolescence at a time when drugs were popular and widely available are more likely to have tried drugs and, possibly, to have continued using them.

Older drug users may often have multiple physical and mental health

problems, making effective drug treatment more challenging, yet little attention has been paid to drug use disorders among older people. The majority of people who use drugs are men, but women have specific drug use patterns, the Report finds. The prevalence of non-medical use of opioids and tranquillizers by women remains at a comparable level to that of men, if not actually higher. While women may typically begin using substances later than men, once they have initiated substance use, women tend to increase their rate of consumption of alcohol, cannabis, cocaine and opioids more rapidly than men as well as rapidly develop drug use disorders.

Women with substance use disorders are reported to have high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and may also have experienced childhood adversity such as physical neglect, abuse or sexual abuse. Women continue to account for only one in five people in treatment. The proportion of females in treatment tends to be higher for tranquillizers and sedatives than for other substances. Drug use treatment and HIV prevention, treatment and care should be tailored to the specific needs of women.



EDUCATION



International Literacy Day

By **Audrey Azoulay**, Director General, UNESCO



“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free”, wrote Frederick Douglass in the nineteenth century, an emancipated black American slave, champion of the abolitionist cause and author of several books.

Literacy is the first step towards freedom, towards liberation from social and economic constraints. It is the prerequisite for development, both individual and collective. It reduces poverty and inequality, creates wealth, and helps to eradicate problems of nutrition and public health.

Since the times of Frederick Douglass, considerable progress has been made in all regions of the

world, and millions of men and women have been lifted from ignorance and dependency through a broad-based movement of literacy and the democratization of access to education. However, the prospect of a world in which every individual has fundamental knowledge remains an ideal.

Today, worldwide, more than 260 million children and adolescents are not enrolled in school; six out of ten children and adolescents – around 617 million – do not acquire the minimum skills in literacy and numeracy; 750 million young people and adults still cannot read and write – and among them, two-thirds are women. These seriously debilitating shortcomings lead to a de facto exclusion from society and perpetuate a spiral of social inequalities and gender inequalities.

A new challenge is now being added to this: a world in flux, where the pace of technological innovation is continuously accelerating. In order to find a place in society, get a job, and respond to social, economic and environmental challenges, traditional literacy and numeracy skills are no longer enough; new skills, including in information and commu-

nication technology, are becoming increasingly necessary.

Preparing young people and adults for jobs, the majority of which have not yet been invented, is a challenge. Accessing lifelong learning, taking advantage of pathways between different forms of training, and benefiting from greater opportunities for mobility has thus become indispensable.

The theme of this year’s International Day, “Literacy and Skills Development”, focuses on this evolving approach to education. UNESCO is actively engaged in the redefinition of literacy policies and encourages innovative educational practices. It also supports various forms of public and private sector cooperation, since only a comprehensive understanding of the education cause can enable an appropriate response to the needs of a world that seems to be reinventing itself every day.

On this International Day, I call on all stakeholders in the world of education, and beyond, because it is a cause that concerns us all, to mobilize so that the ideal of a fully literate global society becomes more of a reality.”

Launch of the Global Education Monitoring



Following its global launch on 20 November, the 2019 GEM Report was launched in Islamabad on 22 November in Islamabad, at a ceremony organised by UNESCO Islamabad Office in collaboration with UNHCR. The ceremony was well attended by a wide range of stakeholders from the education sector, development partners, media and civil society organisations. The theme of this year's GEM report is **“Migration, displacement and education: Building bridges, not walls”**.

At its third edition, the GEM Report provides its assessment of the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal on Education (SDG-4) and its targets. The 2019 Report elucidates the relationship between migration, displacement

and education and presents evidence on the scale and characteristics of different types of migration and displacement and their implications on education and vice versa.

While education opportunities often serve as a major driver in the decision to migrate, the complex process of migration can also interrupt education. Pakistan is hosting 1.4 million registered Afghanistan refugees in the country. The constitutional amendment in 2010 guarantees the right to free, compulsory education for all children aged 5 to 16. Most registered refugee children have access to both formal and non-formal education facilities in the country. Special provisions are also available for students in professional colleges and universities. Yet there are issues in access

and quality of education for refugee children, especially girls, which are being addressed by the federal and provincial government authorities.

Mr Shafqat Mahmood, Federal Minister, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training shared that the Government of Pakistan has instituted a well-coordinated mechanism for the return of the temporarily dislocated people in the country and most of them have returned to their native areas. Highlighting the Government's education sector reforms, he shared that a task force on education has been formed to propose concrete solutions to the problem of out of schoolchildren, uniformity in education, quality education and skill development.

During the presentation of the key findings of the 2019 GEM report, Ms Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan highlighted the importance of a cross-sectoral coordination and planning mechanism to meet the challenges of financing education for migrants and refugees. The report calls on governments to address the education needs of migrants and displaced populations with the same attention they give to host population by protecting their rights, making national systems more inclusive and building institutional capacity for the same.



GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Engro Energy & UN Women pledge to advance women's empowerment in Thar



In a bid to advance women's empowerment activities and initiatives in Thar, Engro Energy Limited (EEL) along with its subsidiaries Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC); Engro Powergen Thar (Pvt.) Limited (EPTL) and Thar Foundation (TF) signed the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs), with support of UN Women.

By becoming a signatory to the "Women's Empowerment Principles" (WEPs), Engro Energy Limited pledged to forward the agenda of empowering women through seven key focus areas. The charter of

agreement was signed by Shamsuddin Shaikh – Chief Executive Officer of Engro Energy – in presence of Jamshed M. Kazi, Country Representative of UN Women and senior officials from both sides.

The adoption of the WEPs – which is an initiative launched jointly by UN Women and United Nations Global Compact – calls for broad based interventions for advancing the gender equality agenda. These include treating women fairly at work whilst ensuring their health, safety and well-being; promoting equality and female professional development

and deploying supply chain and enterprise development opportunities for females, amongst other areas. The collaboration with UN Women is an extension of Engro Energy's adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whereby the Company has already implemented various programs to promote gender equality in Tharparkar.

In moving towards realization of gender equality and women's empowerment, UN Women Pakistan provides support to innovative initiatives that promote women's human rights, with special focus on their economic security, political participation and elimination of violence.

UN Women's delegation also discussed the best practices being implemented by local and international businesses across the world which help provide agency and financial inclusion of women around the world. To date, 56 Pakistani companies have made a public commitment of support over the last two years by signing onto the Women's Empowerment Principles.

Building women's capabilities to engage with ICT

Information and communication technologies are changing the socio-economic dynamics of every field or profession. New avenues of information are opening up, IT-driven jobs are soaring, e-commerce is bringing entrepreneurs online and the growth of the digital economy is becoming an indicator of a country's performance. Whether or not these dynamics are factoring in women and girls, bears a question mark. If we look closely, women and girls often face restrictions to access technology, and the inequality between how women and girls, men and boys are given an access to technology is prevalent.

UN Women along with the Ministry of ICT and Universal Service Fund (USF) it came up with a solution "ICT for Girls" that aims to spur the socio-economic uplift of women and girls through the use of technology. UN Women and USF signed a letter of Intent aimed at promoting cooperation between both the partners to take on joint initiatives of strategic importance around Entrepreneurship and Women's Economic Empowerment.

Recently, both organizations came together to conceptualize a training of trainers programme for 32 selected teachers from WEC and Government Schools and Colleges, where they were oriented to the concepts of why ICT is considered such an indispensable enabler for the economic and social empowerment of adolescent



girls and women, and how it can be used to promote entrepreneurship or work readiness. The primary purpose of the project is to provide Information Communication Technology (ICT) Infrastructure—latest hardware, high-speed Internet, software and trained human resource, to the women empowerment centers. Through this Mega project, the aim is to increase the prospects of women and girls to get employment in Pakistan, so that they are financially empowered to take care of their families and themselves. Under this initiative, 144 computer labs were established in collaboration with Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal and computer labs in collaboration with Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) for 226 schools of Islamabad. Harness-

ing this technology to advance gender equality and women's empowerment is not only vital for women and girls, but critical throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The conversation on ICTs needs to move beyond just accessibility. The conversation should also be about meaningful accessibility, focusing on the affordable and context-appropriate use of digital connectivity, and building a woman's capabilities to engage in ways that can expand her strategic life choices. UN Women looks forward to collaborating more closely on finding ways to make sure that these girls and women can turn their ICT skills into employment, as well as becoming entrepreneurs.



ICT for Girls

“ICTs for Girls” is an endeavor by the Pakistan Computer Bureau - Ministry of Information Technology and Universal Service Fund - Pakistan in collaboration with UN Women Pakistan to spur the socio-economic uplift of this very important segment of our society.

UN Women and USF signed a letter of Intent aimed at promoting cooperation between both the partners to take on joint initiatives of strategic importance around Entrepreneurship and Women's Economic Empowerment.

Recently, a training session for trainers was conducted which highlights how ICT instructors can play a pivotal role to promote economic empowerment of girls and women.

Meet Ghazia, who has a Master's degree in Information Technology. She currently teaches basic MS Office, Databases and IT related subjects at the Women Empowerment Centre, Jhelum.

“Since I was a child, I was fascinated by offices. I wanted to get a job that would allow me to have my own office one day. Whenever I would see someone in their office, I would tell myself ‘that will be me one day, I’ll be sitting in an office like that’. I have been offered a job from a bank, but I wasn’t allowed to join. My father told me that I should go for teaching instead, as it has less working hours and there are schools near our house. I found my way to a Women’s Empowerment Centre while I wished to complete my studies along the way.

Students scarcely come to join us. The ones that do come and join, often ask me, ‘what is the point of learning how to use computers when we don’t have a computer in our home?’

Women in empowerment centres want to learn the skills fast to earn money. People in our area are quite sceptical about learning and teaching



computer, especially to women and girls as they believe technology will prompt them to go against the values of society and become rebellious. I think learning to use ICT has become the need of the time, just like sleeping and eating. It is very important to change the prevailing mindset that restricts women’s and girls’ access to new avenues for learning, we all have to fight against that [set] mindset.

For the first time in my life, I travelled to Islamabad to attend a workshop on entrepreneurship and learned about the ways to start online businesses. These insights are not only useful for myself but also for other teachers and women in empowerment centres. This way women of empowerment centres, who are so skilled, can start their online businesses and earn money from it.”

Meet Fatima, who is a primary level computer teacher at Islamabad Model School for Girls. With a diverse teaching background in private sector schools, she shares her unique view on teaching Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in schools.

“There are three categories of students in my class; ones who know how to use the computer, ones who have an idea but never used it and ones who have never used or seen a computer. It is the third category that requires the most work.

Using phones, tablets or computers is still a fantasy for many students. I have changed their mindset as they still think that they will get an electric shock if they touch the computer. In some instances, these girls were shivering while using a mouse.

Lack of access to technology stems from the discriminatory attitude towards girls. Girls are discouraged from the start as it is believed that technology can mislead girls, and they are often told they cannot learn technology as it is for boys. Parents need to make a difference in the lives of these girls.

In order to solve these issues, we need to face the problems head-on. One solution that can work is to educate parents and empower women and girls so they can use whatever circumstance they are in, to their advantage.”





Trailblazers of Thar

Saheb Khatoon, 37, belongs to Mithi, Thar and has undergone the training for women dump truck drivers. With little knowledge of driving any vehicle before, it was quite scary for Saheb Khatoon to take up this challenge. It was partly due to the childhood dreams of driving a vehicle, and partly due to the financial condition of her family.

“The whole journey has been transformational: I was very scared in the beginning, of the truck and this world. I never thought I would ever be able to ride a bike or rickshaw, let alone a dump truck. But, now I have been trained enough to maneuver any and every sort of vehicle. It kind of empowered me; my fear of facing the world has vanished with this training and I believe that women will change the fate of Thar. Before, the world knew nothing about me but now everyone knows me by my profession - **Saheb Khatoon, the women dump truck driver.**

I could not study till my high school; discontinued my studies because it was financially burdensome for my family, but who knew I would become financially independent, one day. Everything is coming to me as a surprise and as I am learning to take charge of my life with informed decisions, I am realizing my potential and I believe now is the time to fulfill another dream.



I aspire to continue my studies; my husband also encourages me to pursue my dream of studying further. I know I am a bit over the age bracket for entering a college, but it's better late than never. After completing my studies, I will pursue teaching. Next generations of Thar will be educated and more empowered than us.”



Rukhsana, a woman dump truck driver from Nagarparker, gave up on her dream to become a doctor due to financial constraints, but now, nothing can stop her in making a mark in the male-dominated field.

“My brother told me about the women dump truck driver’s program and I wasn’t sure if this was made for me. Women knew of roles as mothers or housewives, but women as dump truck drivers was something never heard of, or done, before. I had my fair share of anxiety before signing up for this program - because this was a world I hadn’t seen before. How to talk? How to dress? How to hide my fear of walking into a new place? These questions were on my mind when I walked in for an interview. After getting the job, I used to travel

for 5 hours just to get to my office. I would leave my home by 5 AM and reach the field by 10 AM and would leave the office by 6 PM and reach home by 11 PM. It was a tiring routine for me, but I never wanted to give up on myself and my strength. I rented a house in Islamkot just for this job.

For now, I am enrolled in the training batch; the prospect of earning more money increases once we pass out from this training program. With my money, I am getting an education for my two sons and since we have a secure income, I can dream of sending my sons to college and university, in the future. They will become what I couldn’t - doctors.

Back in my community, women are not empowered. They have never

seen the outside world, therefore one thing that defines them is fear - fear of men, fear of facing the world, fear of becoming financially independent, fear of being mocked by the society, fear of being labeled as a ‘rebel’ or called names.

Through this training, I gained the strength and courage to face the world. Initially, I got a lot of criticism from my community, but I knew in my heart that this is made for me and I shouldn’t let this chance slip by.”

HEALTH



Saving lives of women and girls in cross border areas in Pakistan



Nearly 1.4 million Afghan refugees and 700,000 undocumented Afghans currently live in Pakistan. Many are women and girls who have suffered unspeakable trauma on their journey to safety. Based on MISP[1] estimates, there are more than 56,000 pregnant women within a year, who urgently need maternal health care. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency for sexual and reproductive health, currently providing life-saving services to ensure every childbirth is safe. But shortages of supplies and trained midwives continue to threaten the lives of mothers and their children in camps and hosting areas. UNFPA in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and funding support of the

Government of Australia launched a three year Sexual and Reproductive Health program on 17 September 2018. The aim is to increase access of Afghan women and girls, temporarily displaced persons, and host communities to quality Sexual Reproductive Health services in order to prevent unplanned pregnancies and ensure that no mother dies while giving life. In this regard, Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in partnership with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) jointly organized the programme launch on September 17. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Chief Commissioner, Commissionerate Afghan Refugees (CAR), while welcoming the guests, explained the programme aims to

target 360,000 individuals. CAR will facilitate and provide strategic oversight on this initiative as a means of ensuring that maximum benefits are achieved at the end of the three years. He stressed that all implementing partners and stakeholders would have to make concerted efforts for the women and girls in Pakistan. Dr. Sharman Stone, Ambassador for Women and Girls, Australia also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the role of sexual and reproductive health services in improving the lives of women, girls and communities. UNFPA Representative in Pakistan, Dr. Hassan Mohtashami conveyed that UNFPA is committed to protecting those who are in transit. Its humanitarian programmes are protecting women, girls and young people in 60 countries today. Other dignitaries that spoke at the event included, H.E. Margaret Adamson, High Commissioner of Australia who stressed that Governments and civil society have a collective responsibility to contribute to international and national efforts to improve the safety of women and girls and create opportunities for them so that they can live their lives with dignity and respect.

Mobility support for EPI Programme in Pakistan

Vaccination is a cost-effective method to improve the health status of the population, and the EPI programme intends to protect all under-23 months' children from vaccine preventable diseases.

However, the immunization coverage remains low in the country, and Pakistan continues to experience outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. Investments in vaccination programs will help in expanding access to immunization and to reach the poorest of poor section of the community.

One of the issues faced by the programme leading to low coverage is the mobility of vaccinators. To facilitate and overcome this issue, the World Health Organization Pakistan has procured 1,500 motorcycles for distribution among vaccinators working in EPI programme throughout the country.

These are procured with a grant received from GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. Out of 1500 motorbikes based on the provincial requirement; 585 are for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 150 for Punjab, 340 for Balochistan, 380 for Sindh and 15 each for Azad Jammu and Kashmir, FATA and Gilgit Baltistan. The distribution was done in full consultation with the National and Provincial EPI programme.

Vaccinators will use the motorcycles, improving their mobility to provide outreach and mobile vaccination ser-



vice. This will enable them to reach far-flung and hard to reach communities and thus will improve equity in immunization coverage. To ensure

that the vehicles are used for the EPI official work only, WHO has imprinted the EPI logo on the motorbikes.



Kick-starting Pakistan's mass measles immunisation campaign



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) joined the Government of Pakistan in kick-starting a nationwide measles campaign to vaccinate more than 32 million children – one-sixth of the population. During the two weeks of campaign, all children between nine months and five years of age will be targeted for vaccination against the deadly measles virus, which attacks the respiratory tract and is exceptionally contagious.

More than 110,000 professionals are mobilised across Pakistan to help eliminate measles -- a disease that can be prevented with a simple vaccine. More than 32,000 suspected cases of children infected with the virus have been reported in the country since the beginning of the year.

Measles remains a leading cause of death among children, with survivors often left with life-long disabilities such as blindness, deafness or brain damage.

The USD 30 million mass immunisa-

tion campaign is taking place in all provinces and areas of the country between 15 and 27 October 2018. It is funded by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and the government of Pakistan.

The campaign will contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, which aims to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age by 2030.

Calling on young innovators to design solutions for improved menstrual hygiene practices



Photo: UNICEF/ Gloria Lihemo

A new challenge is calling on young innovators across Pakistan to design solutions that will help improve girls' knowledge and practice of safe menstrual hygiene.

During an event held in Islamabad today, UNICEF and the School of Leadership invited all Pakistani nationals between the ages of 14-24 to come forward with innovative ideas on tools, models and services to enable girls and women to manage their menstruation. Many adolescent girls in Pakistan miss school every month when on their period because they lack both knowledge, and access to proper facilities or supplies, to manage their menstruation in a hygienic way.

Applicants from all over the country have four weeks to come forward. Fifteen shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a three-day design workshop in Islamabad in November. They will be coached and mentored to develop their solutions, using the Human-Centered Design approach. At the end, the five most promising ideas will be selected, with each young innovator receiving up to USD 1,000 and two months of coaching to help her/him implement their project. The five projects will participate in a global competition in 2019, with the winner receiving USD 20,000 and tailored mentorship support to help scale up the project.

The Youth Challenge is taking place in 16 countries worldwide, including Pakistan. It is part of a new global and regional partnership, #WeTheFuture / #GenerationUnlimited, launched during the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The goal is to provide every young person with quality education, training or employment by 2030.

Generation Unlimited brings together partners to co-create and support solutions that are proven and have the potential to deliver results at scale, and to develop a platform on which young people can share knowledge, engage and co-create.



“One Team One Goal - Acknowledging, Retaining and Enabling”



The WHO Staff Retreat was held on 29-30 March 2018 in Avari Hotel and Green Fields Farm in Lahore. Participants consisted of WHO Staff from Federal and Provincial WHO Offices. The total number was 140, which exceeded the expectations of organizers of the retreat and it was heartening to see a significant number of female participants and new comers as partakers.

In addition to the official organizers, facilitators and career councilors were engaged to organize team building exercises, enhancing professional skills, building networks within and outside the organization in the retreat.

Renowned trainer and facilitator of international acclaim, Mr Qaiser Ab-

bas along with his team engaged the participants of the retreat with various team-building exercises. These activities proved to be catalyst for bringing out the best managerial, organizational and coordination abilities in the participants.

The second day consisted of motivational lectures to create a learning and introducing different perspective of dealing with day to day work related scenarios, coping with work load, work pressure, handling stress at work and on improving skills working in a team, behavioural changes and being a productive and positive team member in the organization. Setting a tone, which encouraged the participants to share their experiences at the work place and seeking

guidance from the facilitators on how to manage and cope with work related stress and simultaneously exhibit as an efficient and cooperative team member.

The retreat provided an excellent opportunity to everyone to socialize, enabling them to meet with team members who they don't see frequently and also to exchange views on different issues. It was bridging gap between the management and staff members, making learning a fun-filled experience.

A retreat is an investment by the organization in its human force for joint enhanced performance, better coherence and working towards achieving joint goals

Raising skills of energy professionals and adopting a cluster approach

Within the framework of the UNIDO/GEF project entitled “Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries”, UNIDO organised twin events marking the concluding of its country-wide Training Program on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

The events were widely attended by various stakeholders, both from the industry and Government officials from relevant Ministry and line departments. Present among the prominent dignitaries were the officials of various relevant ministries as well as representatives of various organizations, such as the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB), National Productivity Organization (NPO), National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) and Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA).

Nadia Aftab, Country Representative UNIDO, on the occasion, shed light on the role of UNIDO during its nearly 50 years of presence while highlighting some hallmark achievements of UNIDO assisting the sustainable development process of Industrial sector in Pakistan. She stressed upon the importance of training courses for promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Pakistan.

In his introductory remarks about the subject, Carlos Chanduvi, the Project Manager, highlighted the objective of cluster development as well as pointed out the importance of the UNIDO



training program. He appreciated the participation of all major stakeholders in this event and called on all stakeholders to contribute to the sustainability of the UNIDO's initiatives. He also stated that trained experts on Energy Efficiency and integrated Energy Management Systems would become ambassadors of the sustainable use of energy in Pakistan.

Asad Mehmood, Representative of NEECA, Ministry of water and power in his remarks termed the industrial sector in Pakistan as one of the main contributors to the national GDP, as well as a major consumer of energy and electricity, which was characterized by high dependence on fossil fuels. He said that UNIDO's initiative was a commendable one to unlock indigenous capacity to tap into the

great potentials of industrial production of Pakistan.

UNIDO presented key highlights of the recently concluded training program, which gave insight into the various training modules and their objectives and targets.

The participants actively participated in the event and the group discussions on the Cluster development and came up with new ideas in developing clusters for Renewable energy and energy efficiency. Key beneficiaries from the training program representing various sectors, also shared the audiences with their training experiences and informed the benefits that they and their organization received from these trainings.



Workshops on Energy Management System Implementation held nation-wide

With the aim of assessing and aligning competencies of energy professionals and public actors on Energy Management Systems (EnMS), focusing especially on ISO-50001, a number of nationwide workshop were organized in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad from 4 to 12 December.

These workshops were conducted by international trainers and were attended by a large number of private sector energy professionals; as well as officials from Public Sector, Central bank and financial institutions, the chamber of Commerce and Industry, academia and various development sector organizations.

These Workshops were conducted under the framework of the UNIDO programme: 'Sustainable Energy Initiatives for Industries in Pakistan', funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The objective is to avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by developing and promoting a market environment that will stimulate energy efficiency projects, which will in turn support industrial development in Pakistan.

The aim of the workshops was to devise strategies by engaging relevant stakeholders on articulating roles and functions of different national actors for the promotion of Energy Efficiency (EE) through building a strong ground for Energy Management System Im-



plementation. Insights were provided to the public on what the instruments for promoting the Energy Efficiency from the regulatory, financial and social perspective could be. The trainer presented best global models and policy level interventions, which could be replicated at National Level.

The participants presented their findings during the workshops, highlighting challenges faced during EnMS Implementation and the instruments that could be put in place to initiate Energy Savings and achieving Energy Efficiency targets.

One of the main highlights was an exclusive session on Energy Management system organized for female energy professionals. The motto was to leave no one behind and to ensure gender-mainstreaming by encouraging women energy professionals, to play

an active role in the Energy Efficiency process.

Moreover, separate sessions were arranged for assessing and aligning the training Programs on Energy Management System for Energy Auditors & Managers, aligning Certification Bodies in National Energy Efficiency and EnMS Implementation Strategy and to assess the competencies of national trainers, consultants and energy managers in line with ISO 50001 EnMS.

The workshops concluded with some concrete recommendations that could be put in place to promote the Energy Efficiency and Energy Management System in Pakistan.

Sialkot Tannery Association and UNIDO organize workshop on cleaner production techniques

Within the framework of the UNIDO/GEF project entitled “Sialkot Tannery Zone “, the workshop on Advances in Cleaner Production for the leather sector, and the introduction of Best Available Techniques and practices was held in Sialkot.

The workshop was chaired by Director General of TDAP Qamar Zaman. Chairman and CEO STAGL, Environmental Protection Department, SME-DA, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, Leather/Tannery related Zone association, representatives of international development agencies, Government Officials, and members and civil society attended the workshop.

Ahtesham Gillani, CEO STAGL, appreciated the collaboration from UNIDO-GEF, TDAP, EDP Govt. of Punjab and STAGL in spearheading the development of leather sector of Pakistan. He appraised that Cleaner production seeks to achieve improvements in the entire leather production process, from design, materials procurement, production techniques to workflow, through the application of advanced technologies and management practices.

The implementation of CP technologies is also integral part of Leather Working Group (LWG). The Chief Guest Director General TDAP, Qamar Zaman appreciated the theme of the workshop.

This workshop covered four key initiatives - awareness promotion; on-



site improvement by using cleaner production techniques; demonstration of BAT/BEP practices and its impacts on the effectiveness of overall productions.

A key-note Speaker from International Islamic University Islamabad, Muhammad Irfan Khan explained the role of waste management in the context of circular economy transition which is facing challenges in moving beyond the perception of ‘waste as a problem’ to ‘waste as a resource’. He explained that both waste prevention as well as a widespread growth in circular economy activities will require a coherent and holistic approach that takes recovery options into account at every stage of the leather product life cycle.

The workshop resulted in advising Professional and technical support, which is instrumental in improving

tanneries production processes and mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation efforts through sharing of experience and best practices. The panel hoped that proceedings of the workshop would lead to development of recommendations for better leather productivity and arranging such awareness promotion activities are useful to encourage tanneries to participate in the programme, and strengthen their awareness and knowledge of cleaner production technologies and practices.



LABOUR



Exposure visit of government officials from Pakistan to the work on labour inspection in the Philippines



The Philippines is known in the Asia region for its vital labour inspectorate reforms advanced in recent years. With the technical support of the ILO Manila's US DoL funded Project on "Building the Capacity of the Philippines Labour Inspectorate", the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) Philippines is striving to improve its inspection system in ways that support a stronger approach on labour standards enforcement. The system of labour inspection in the Philippines aspires to attain the broad participation of social partners at the workplace, sectoral, regional and national levels.

Inspired by this progress in improving labour administration, the ILO Islamabad office under its Dutch funded project on Strengthening Labour Inspection System in Pakistan (SLISP)

organized an exposure visit for Government officials from Pakistan in order to help them grasp some of the good practices in the Asia region and possibly bring back replicable lessons.

The ILO supported the participation of the following officials accompanied by two ILO officials in undertaking a three day study visit to Manila i.e. from 10 to 12 September 2018.

The exposure visit focused on the following components of the project on "Building the Capacity of the Philippines Labour Inspectorate": advancement of regulatory and developmental strategies in labour inspection; development and implementation processes of Labour Laws Compliance System Management Information System (LLCS-MIS); strategies that enhanced active involvement of both employer and

workers' representative in the inspection process; data analysis and case building of violations of labour laws and conduct of targeted, inter-agency coordinated inspection and/or compliance campaigns; and capacity building of the Labour Inspectorates.

The participants of the exposure visit were given the opportunity to meet with the highest officials of the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), Employers and Workers organizations in Philippines. The delegates also found the opportunity to visit a regional/field office of DOLE where the application of a Management Information System (MIS) was demonstrated to the study group.

Promoting fundamental principles and rights at work in Pakistan's cotton, textile and garment value chains



The International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with its constituents, key partners and stakeholders organized a three day strategic planning workshop on child labour, forced labour and fundamental principles & rights at work (FPRW) in the cotton, textile and garment value chains in Pakistan. The workshop was convened from 11-13 September 2018 in Islamabad under two projects: Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour in the Cotton, Textile and Garment Value Chains: an Integrated Approach funded by the European Union (EU) and “Promoting Fundamental Principles & Rights at Work in the Cotton Supply Chain” funded by INDITEX.

These multi-country projects aim to improving respect for FPRW for a sustainable cotton supply chain in Pakistan.

A significant number of relevant

stakeholders, ILO officials and development partners from Pakistan participated in the captioned planning workshop and provided recommendations and pragmatic strategies to promote FPRW in Pakistan.

Various speakers including representatives of the ILO's constituents; Mr Azhar Iqbal Hashmi Deputy Secretary Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr Mhuammad Rehan Nabi Labour and Human Resource Department Government of Punjab, Mr Fasihul Karim Siddiqi, Secretary General of the Employers Federation of Pakistan and Mr Zahoor Awan, Secretary General of Pakistan Workers Federation, Dr Shakeel Ahmed Khan, Seed Sector Expert Food and Agriculture Organization, Mr Muhammad Tahir Waqar, Senior Programme Manager, National Rural Support Programme, Dr Shafiq Ahmad, Pakistan Country Manager, Better Cotton Initiative,

Dr Khalid Abdullah-Cotton Commissioner Ministry of National Food Security and Research Government of Pakistan, Ms Nadine Osseiran Programme & Operations Officer IO engaged actively in the deliberations in the panel and group discussions. The participants identified challenges related to child & forced labour and other FPRW in the cotton, textile and garment value chains. The priority districts, major stakeholders and time scoping for the two projects were also discussed and identified.

The workshop participants unanimously validated the outcomes of the two interventions and proposed major outputs and interventions for the two projects. Based on the outcomes of the workshop, work-plans for the two projects would be redefined in delivering the desired results.



The future of work and the significance of effective collective bargaining and negotiations



A four day training on collective bargaining and negotiations skills was organised by the German funded project on Labour Standards in Global Supply Chain's (LSGSC) implemented by International Labour Organization from 24-27 September, 2018 in Lahore. An intensive three days course on negotiation skills was designed for employers and workers organizations. Around 60 constituents from all over the country participated in the training. The International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC/ILO) supported the design and delivery of the training. The first day of the training looked at the issue of collective bargaining in the global context, its application in Pakistan and the role of tripartite stakeholders in its strengthen-

ing. The training featured lively discussions through group work, role plays and mocks which helped participants practice key techniques of needs and interest based negotiations, exploring best alternatives to negotiated agreements. The participants also reflected on commonly made mistakes during negotiations, moving away from adversarial to mutually acceptable positions.

As a result of the training the participants identified key priority issues: data and knowledge sharing, communication and consultation, that they would like to address in their respective roles and organizations to promote effective social dialogue.

The ratification of Convention 87 on

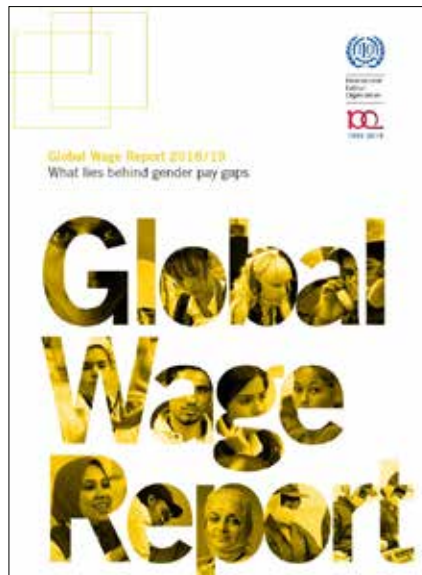
Right of Association and Convention 98 on Right of Collective Bargaining by Pakistan in the earlier years after independence, paved the way for adoption of legislation favouring workers' right of association and collective bargaining. In the aftermath of 18th amendment to the constitution, the enactment of the provincial legislation on industrial relations has been ground breaking for the trade union movement. However, issues like informal economy, exclusions of categories of workers from the right to organise, thresholds on formation of unions and collective bargaining agents and complexities related to the transnational establishments negatively impact the trade unions.

Global Wage Report 2018/19: What lies behind Gender Pay Gap

As part of the ILO Country Office for Pakistan's centenary activities, a technical session on the Global Wage Report 2018/19 was organised jointly by the ILO project on 'Labour Standards in Global Supply Chains: A Programme of Action for Asia and the Garment Sector' (LSGSC) project, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and ILO's Project 'Sustaining strengthened national capacities to improve ILS compliance and reporting in relevant EU trading partners' (DEVCO), funded by the EU.

The session drew the participation of various stakeholders such as; Department of Labour representing Provincial Governments, Workers representatives, transgender communities, academia, UN agencies and development partners. The findings of the report were presented by Mr Xavier Estupinan, ILO Wages Specialist, Decent Work Technical Team – South Asia.

The Global Wage Report is a flagship publication of the ILO that highlights important wage trends. This 2018/19 Global Wage Report highlights gender pay gaps as a phenomenon which represents one of today's greatest social injustices. The report indicates that gender inequalities in pay is a problem in all countries and that, on average,



women earn 20 per cent less than men globally. Factors that often determine wages such as education do not full account for observed gender pay gaps around the world.

The report shows that mothers earn less than non-mothers which the report refers to as the "motherhood gap". The report indicates that the global wage growth fell to 1.8 per cent in 2017, the lowest growth rate since before the Global Financial Crisis in 2008. The report also highlights the wage and gender wage gap situation in Pakistan. According to the report, Pakistan has the highest overall hourly average (mean) gender pay gap of the 73 countries for which comparable data are available. In particular the gender pay gap for Pakistan was

identified to be 34 per cent, which is more than double the global average.

The ILO in Pakistan is ready to provide relevant technical assistance to the Federal and Provincial Governments in making progress and reporting on the governments' obligations, under international law. Consistent advocacy, outreach and awareness raising is creating momentum and translating into concrete outcomes, such as the recent adoption of a new Domestic Workers Policy in Punjab province and the Home-Based Workers Act in Sindh province.

Consensus was reached on access to decent work environment, family friendly workplaces, safe transportation for commuting to and from work, the importance of quality childcare services, inclusive employment opportunities for all including transgender persons, addressing stereotypes, awareness raising on the value of alternative work modalities for women, as ways to move forward for closing the gender pay gap and a means to achieving social justice for working women in Pakistan.



Awareness raising campaign on OSH in the construction sector of Karachi

The ILO under its project on Strengthening Labour Inspection System in Pakistan (SLISP) funded by the Dutch, supported the Labour and Human Resources Department of Sindh in launching an awareness raising campaign on OSH in the Construction Sector of Karachi. The campaign design and its implementation was an outcome of the recommendations that the stakeholders ascertained in a tripartite plus consultation on 10th April, 2018 at National Institute of Labour Administration and Training (NILAT) Karachi. The consultation that brought together the representation from labour inspectorate, workers, employers, academia and the civil society organizations advocated improvement in the information and sensitivity towards OSH related risks and hazards in the construction sector.

The awareness raising campaign on OSH in the Construction Sector of Karachi was implemented from 12th to 16th November 2018. During this campaign a variety of construction sites across Karachi were visited including high-rise commercial buildings, residential blocks, roads, bridges, underpasses and metro transport. A set of seven teams consisting 16 technical labour inspectors of the Labour and Human Resources Department of Sindh visited 66 construction sites. The teams carried out on site awareness raising sessions with workers, site supervisors and employer representatives and attempted to enhance the



information and sensitivity regarding OSH related risks and hazards in the construction sector. The teams distributed vernacular informative posters amongst the audience and also provided the copies of Sindh OSH Act that provides legal coverage of OSH to almost every sector of the economy.

The teams met every evening upon completing the field visit and exchanged lessons. The campaign concluded on 16th November 2018. Participants excitedly enumerated the following achievements that reflect the pro-activeness of the province in improving OSH standards:

Sindh was the first province to enact an OSH law takes and also took lead on launching the first ever OSH campaign in the construction sector of Pakistan.

The Labour and Human Resources Department of Sindh has recruited 18 officials who could carry out inspection of the construction sites. The campaign helped reach a large number of workers and employers directly and educated them about the severity of OSH risks in the construction sector. The campaign, which covered 66 construction sites, was an opportunity to interact with the large-scale construction and contracting firms. The message that was delivered on one site of such firms will automatically reach to other sites contracted under the same firm. It is expected that in this way a great ripple effect will be created as far as the sensitivity towards OSH risks and information about legal provisions are concerned.

The State of World Population 2018



The global trend towards smaller families is a reflection of people making reproductive choices to have as few or as many children as they want, and when they want. Once people lack choice, it can have a long-term impact on fertility rates, often making them higher or lower than what most people desire, according to *The State of World Population 2018*, published today by UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.

Pakistan is the fifth most populous country in the world with 208 million people and a population growth rate of 2.4% per year. The growing population is likely to outstrip developmental gains, and continue to adversely affect the economy, environment, health, education and quality of the lives of all

citizens. Family size is closely linked with reproductive rights, which, in turn, are tied to many other rights, including the right to health care, education, and jobs. Where these rights are stifled, people often fail to achieve their full potential, impeding economic and social progress, according to the new report, entitled, “The Power of Choice: Reproductive Rights and the Demographic Transition.”

The global report found that no country can claim that all of its citizens enjoy reproductive rights at all times. Most couples cannot have the number of children they desire to have because they either lack economic and social support to achieve their preferred family size, or don’t have the means to control their fertility. The unmet need for modern contracep-

tion prevents millions of women from choosing smaller families.

Since the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, reproductive health and rights have substantially improved around the world. People have more information about their reproductive rights and choices, and a greater capacity to claim their rights. “The historic transition to lower fertility,” says the report, “has emerged through people claiming their right to make choices about their reproductive lives, and to have as few, or as many, children as they want, when they want.”

The report classifies all countries in the world by the current dynamics of their populations’ fertility. It makes specific recommendations for policies and programmes that would help each country increase reproductive choices. To make freedom of choice a reality, says the report, countries can prioritize universal access to quality reproductive health care, including modern contraceptives; ensure better education, including age-appropriate and culturally-sensitive sexuality education; advocate for a change in men’s attitudes to be supportive of the rights and aspirations of women and girls; and make it easier for couples to have more children, if they want them, by enabling greater work-life balance through measures such as affordable child care.



International Migrants Day

Message by **António Vitorino**, Director General International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Migration is a great issue of our era. Migration With Dignity (#WithDignity) is the theme of 2018's International Migrants Day, observed on 18 December.

Treating all migrants with dignity is the fundamental requirement we face before anything else we attempt on migration because our future depends on it. So, too, does our present.

Migration is a force for dignity because it allows people to choose to save themselves, protect themselves, educate themselves, or free themselves. It lets millions choose participation over isolation, action over idleness, hope over fear and prosperity over poverty.

We must dignify those choices by paying them respect.

We also have the choice. To answer migrants' hopes with our acceptance; to answer their ambition with opportunities. To welcome rather than repudiate their arrival.

We must also respect and listen to those who have become frightened of the changes that migration brings to their lives. Whether their fears are warranted or not, they are authentic and deserve to be addressed with dignity.

Unless we give all citizens the assurance their choices, too, are respected, we risk losing a real opportunity for progress.

The adoption earlier this month in Marrakech of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) by an overwhelming majority of UN Member States takes us one step



towards dignity for all, and towards a more balanced discourse and widespread cooperation on migration.

The GCM strikes a delicate balance between the sovereignty of nations and the security, and dignity, we

The Compact stresses all states need well-managed migration, and that no one state can achieve this on its own. Cooperation at all levels is fundamental to addressing migration.

For many people, the mere act of migration exposes them to great dangers. IOM's data show that close to 3,400 migrants and refugees have already lost their lives worldwide in 2018. Most died trying to reach Europe by sea; many others perished attempting to cross deserts or pass through dense forests seeking safety far from official border crossings. These numbers, compiled daily by IOM staff, shame us.

IOM reaffirms that migration is a driving force for progress and development not just for those on the move, but also for transit countries and especially, receiving communities in destination countries.

We renew our call to save lives by ensuring migration is safe, regular and dignified for all.

UNHCR welcomes Pakistan's decision to extend stay of Afghan refugees



Afghan refugee elders sit and talk in the Khazana refugee village, Peshawar. © UNHCR/Sam Phelps.

The UN refugee agency welcomed the federal government's decision to extend the Proof of Registration (PoR) cards to some 1.4 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan until 30 June 2019.

The decision will provide relief and predictability to Afghan refugees who were facing uncertainty and anxiety, said UNHCR Country Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Ruven drini Menikdiwela.

She met with Arbab Shahzad, Adviser to the Prime Minister on establishment on Friday.

Ms. Menikdiwela appreciated the people and government of Pakistan for hosting Afghan refugees for nearly four decades. She affirmed that UNHCR will continue to support any future government policy which supports voluntary repatriation in dignity and safety, and will keep striving for international support to Pakistan for Pakistani host communities and Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

Ms. Menikdewela also briefed the advisor on the upcoming ministerial conference being organised by the

government of Afghanistan and the United Nations on 27-28 November 2018 in Geneva, saying that preparations for the conference are underway, adding the objective is to firmly show the solidarity of the international community with the people and government of Afghanistan.



Integrated homestead gardening for Afghan refugees in Balochistan



UNHCR and FAO are working together in district Chagai, Balochistan to introduce homestead gardens to Afghan refugees.

This collaboration will enable refugees to establish kitchen gardens that will provide them opportunities to engage in economic activities and eventually improve food security and nutrition for their families.

FAO will advise UNHCR on enabling Afghan refugees to establish kitchen gardens in the districts, including the provision of tools, seed, irrigation kits and other essential inputs. FAO will also link UNHCR beneficiaries with the trained Government facilitators in the district. Training on enterprise and agri business development for UNHCR districts will also be conducted.

In this connection, FAO in collaboration with UNHCR also organized 5 days training on integrated homestead gardening at the FAO model vegetable kitchen garden in the Balochistan Agricultural Research and Development Centre (BARDC), Quetta.

40 men and women from FAO, district community facilitators, government of Balochistan and UNHCR staff and their implementing partner in Chagai were trained on various aspects of vegetable production including seed selection and production; seed bed preparation; sowing, irrigation, mulching; integrated pest and diseases management; fertilizer application; nutritional aspects of vegetables and fruits; harvesting and processing as well as the economic aspects of vegetable production.

Within the framework of the Australian Government funded Australia Balochistan Agri Business Programme (AusABBA) FAO establishes vegetable kitchen gardens in six districts in South West Balochistan. Fruits and vegetables are produced, poultry and goats are raised and honey is also produced on a small scale at these kitchen gardens.

Mr Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR appreciated the collaboration between UNHCR and FAO to help build sustainable livelihoods for Afghan refugees.

Adopting a Farmer Field School (FFS) approach on the establishment and operation of these gardens FAO equips women with knowledge and skills to maintain their own gardens back home in their districts. Integrated Homestead Gardening is instrumental in increasing rural production and consumption of vegetables and fruits and to enhance the nutritional status of mothers and children in the villages. A marketable surplus as a result of these activities helps generate income for the women.

Japan pledges USD 2.7 million to support Afghan refugees and Pakistani youth

The government of Japan pledged a contribution of USD 2.7 million to support refugees and host communities across Pakistan.

This contribution will support UNHCR's interventions in the areas of health, livelihoods, as well as the provision of legal support to around 1.39 million registered Afghan refugees. The new funding will benefit some 475,000 refugees and youth in host communities in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab.

Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. Takashi Kurai and UNHCR's Country Representative in Pakistan, Ruvendrini Menikdiwela signed the agreement with Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Saleem Khan, in attendance.

Part of Japan's contribution will be invested in the health sector to improve access to healthcare services in Pakistan. This will support some 430,000 Afghan refugees with health issues. The assistance also will provide the legal aid services for Afghan refugees.

UNHCR's aid and legal advice programme is implemented through partners in nine centres in the main refugee-hosting areas across Pakistan. The new funding will support some 45,000 Afghan refugees and help continue the provision of free legal advice and legal aid, as well as court representation for refu-



gees who have been detained. In addition, Japan's aid will be spent on bolstering refugee's self-reliance. UNHCR will provide livelihoods support to Pakistani youth and Afghan refugee youth through vocational and technical skills training.

Speaking at the occasion, Ruvendrini Menikdiwela commended the people and government of Japan for the contribution saying this will allow UNHCR to continue supporting vulnerable Afghan refugees and youth of the Pakistani host communities.

Japan highly appreciates the efforts made by the Pakistani people in host communities who have been accommodating Afghan refugees

for nearly four decades.

Last year, the Government of Japan also provided some US\$ 3.8 million specifically to UNHCR Pakistan while Japan has been assisting Afghan refugees in Pakistan and their host communities for over ten years with grants of some USD 200 million.

Pakistan continues to host 1.39 million Afghan refugees. Around 4.3 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan since 2002.

PROMOTING SDGs



Pakistan on the path towards achieving SDGs under One UN Programme III

The United Nations in Pakistan is focused on supporting the country to achieve the SDGs. Efforts continue to tackle development challenges in Pakistan under the UN Sustainable Development Framework for the period 2018-2022.

This was highlighted at the 6th Provincial Steering Committee meeting of the One UN Operation Plan III (OPIII) that was held at the Planning and Development Department Secretariat in Quetta today.

Mr Sajjad Ahmed Bhutta, Additional Chief Secretary Development chaired the meeting. Co-chairs of the Balochistan Steering Committee, Mr Neil Buhne United Nations Resident Coordinator and Ms Minà Dowlatchahi, FAO Representative in Pakistan elaborated upon the approaches to align the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework with the priorities of the government of Pakistan.

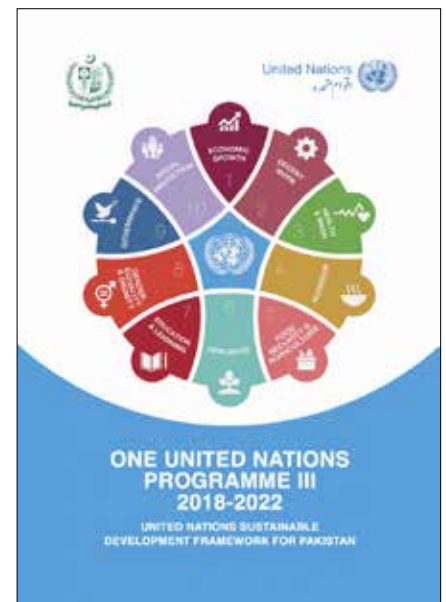
Successes achieved over the past year were also presented to the participants, which included high-level officials from various government departments in Balochistan.

Pakistan is amongst the first coun-

tries that adopted the SDGs as National Development Goals and one of the few countries that are investing their own resources to achieve the SDGs.

The 5-year partnership framework sets out the direction of the UN's support to the government of Pakistan to achieve the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

Delivering as One UN is about UN partners working together more closely to increase effectiveness, improved results, relevance, alignment with national priorities, efficiency, reduced duplication and transaction costs at country, regional and global levels.



Serena Hotels and UNDP join hands to support Sustainable Development in Pakistan

UNDP in Pakistan and Serena Hotels signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a strategic collaboration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This partnership aims to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate and strengthen collaboration under UNDP's mission to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, helping build and share solutions towards sustainable tourism, biodiversity protection and wildlife conservation, and under Serena Hotels' Corporate Social Responsibility targets of promoting responsible management of natural resources, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

Serena Hotels in Pakistan continues to play its part to help advance the Sustainable Development Agenda set out by the United Nations (UN) and is committed to foster innovations and programmes that respond to the needs of the environment, economy and communities.

UNDP recognizes the private sector as a key partner towards achieving the universally adopted Sustainable Development Goals.

With support from Serena Hotels', UNDP will enhance efforts to achieve the SDGs and eradicate poverty and inequality in all its forms, by tackling the dual threats of climate change and disasters.



The MoU was signed by Mr Aziz Boolani, CEO, Serena Hotels Pakistan and Mr Ignacio Artaza, Country Director, UNDP Pakistan.

Mr Aziz Boolani said Serena Hotels, with this MoU, is committing to a continued engagement with UNDP to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr Ignacio Artaza said UNDP was very grateful to Serena Hotels for their commitment to protect the environment.



WFP and erstwhile FATA Secretariat renew commitment to national goals



WFP and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) - formerly the Federally Administered Tribal Areas Secretariat - today signed a five-year agreement for the newly merged districts, to achieve key goals regarding food security and nutrition. The MoU was signed by Captain Retired Sikander Qayum, Additional Chief Secretary of erstwhile FATA Secretariat and Finbarr Curran, Country Director and Representative of WFP Pakistan. The agreement aligns WFP's work to the pillars of local and national development, including the three-year FATA Transition Plan, Ten Years' Socio-Economic Development Plan, Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy and Pakistan's Vision 2025 - underpinning Pakistan's commitments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WFP will extend its sup-

port to improve nutrition, livelihoods, education, disaster risk reduction, climate change risk management, supply chain services and emergency preparedness and response in the newly merged districts of KP. WFP will work closely with relevant technical line directorates in the areas, the Department of Education, UN agencies and other stakeholders. WFP will continue its community-based livelihoods and Disaster Risk Reduction/Management support and will address immediate food and cash needs. In addition, through WFP's Food Assistance for Assets programme communities will restore assets while building resilience. Efforts to boost capacities and skills within communities will focus on involving women. Statistics for the newly-merged districts

underline the need for multi-sectoral action; more than one in three households are moderate to severely food-insecure and the most recent nutrition survey indicates 58 percent of children under 5 years of age are stunted - too small and short for their age - , while 19.5 percent suffer from acute malnutrition - above the critical threshold. Education and early dropout rate among school children are also challenging with four out of five girls not finishing primary school, and results for boys only slightly better. Under the MoU, WFP will continue its education support programme to help encourage children to enroll and stay in school, and help raise nutrition awareness among students and communities.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Improving municipal solid waste management critical for sustainable urban development



The first pilot Integrated Resource Recovery Center in Pakistan established in Sector G-15, Islamabad, in 2014 by UN Habitat in collaboration with the Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust (AHKMT), and support of UNESCAP, was visited by the Federal Minister for Climate Change, senior government officials and a large number of stakeholders, community members, civil society organizations and universities.

The event was organized in commemoration of the World Habitat Day. It brings attention to UN-Habitat's mandate to

promote sustainable urban development policies that ensure adequate shelter for all. This year's theme is Managing Municipal Solid Waste. It is estimated that 20 million tons of solid waste is generated annually in Pakistan with annual growth rate of about 2.4 percent. Rapid urbanization has resulted in a corresponding increase in the volume and complexity of solid waste. Open burning of waste is estimated to account for a quarter of Pakistan's reported carbon emissions. Dumped waste is also a major cause of diarrheal diseases. In

order to solve the problem it is imperative to shift from the conventional end-of-the-pipe waste management system towards a resource management approach. A community-based approach to waste management addresses these problems. Integrated Resource Recovery Center (IRRC) is a decentralized community-based recycling and composting facility which can be built and operated at low costs by using limited mechanical technology, ensuring low operational costs and with minimal equipment breakdowns, while creating job opportunities. UN Habitat provides technical assistance for establishment of IRRC.

The IRRC model in Islamabad demonstrates the potential for community-based waste management to improve public health, mitigate climate change and create safe jobs. For every dollar invested, the IRRC model offers USD 10 in benefits. The benefits are particularly significant in relation to improved public health and climate change mitigation, although employment creation also plays a part. The IRRC diverts 90 per cent of waste from centralized disposal and is a factor of ten cheaper than providing centralized disposal facilities.



Tencent-UNDP partner to launch Connecting Cities to Solutions



Humanity faces mounting challenges as global population increases in a climate stressed world. Cities find themselves at the forefront of these grand challenges. Cities have an instrumental role to play in tackling climate change, as they consume close to 65 per cent of the world's energy and generate for more than 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. They also drive growth, accounting for 80 per cent of global GDP. Given these trends, we need to ensure that cities have more opportunities to adopt innovations that can improve quality of life. Tencent is the inaugural supporter to the UNDP's new initiative, Connecting Cities to Solutions, with the objective of setting up an easy system that facilitates adoption of innovative solutions that boost sustainable development. This will be done through a web-based platform that records the challenges

(i.e. water, energy, transportation, etc.) and invites entrepreneurs and solution providers to engage in addressing the problem. It is important there to be high quality "market signaling" mechanisms between government bodies and local/international technologists and entrepreneurs. The initial pilot in Islamabad, Pakistan, will work with the Municipal Corporation Islamabad on the pressing issue of water scarcity. Islamabad has significant challenges with water scarcity and quality. Over the past five years, water shortage in Islamabad has been elevated to the level of crisis. In 2017, 74 per cent of the water supplied was contaminated leading to a hepatitis rate of 25 per cent. Currently, at 50 million gallons per day Islamabad gets less than 40 per cent of the water it needs, while losses in delivery hover around 30 per cent. Severe droughts and water outages are expected by

2025. Toward this end, UNDP will support Islamabad to clearly articulate its water challenge and help broadcast it to the rest of the world. An online system will be available for international and local solutions providers to engage with the city around this grand challenge. Innovation will play a pivotal role in tackling our most intractable development challenges. Through this important collaboration, lives of underserved communities will be improved, and this will be a testimony of how a new generation of partnerships between UNDP, governments and private sector actors will help achieve the SDGs. With current low levels of foreign direct investment, this is a welcome opportunity, especially as it aims to boost engagement and exchange between global solution providers and the city of Islamabad.

VOLUNTEERISM



International Volunteer Day recognizes volunteer's contributions towards building resilient communities

International Volunteer Day, held each year on 5 December, celebrates the efforts of volunteers and organizations. This is the occasion to promote their work among their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, government authorities and the private sector. This year's theme "Volunteers build Resilient Communities" celebrates volunteer efforts that strengthen local ownership and the resilience of the community in the face of natural disasters, economic stresses and political shocks.

The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme in Pakistan joined to support the International Volunteer Day celebrations in Islamabad. The United Nations State of World's Volunteerism Report 2018 was also launched.

Ignacio Artaza, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Director in Pakistan announced the official inauguration of the Pakistan volunteer awards to honour young men and women who are making extraordinary and selfless contributions to society.

The event was attended by Ms. Shandana Khan, Member National Assem-



bly, Ms. Quratulain Marri, Senator, Wajih Akram, Parliamentary Secretary Education, Heads of UN Agencies, Members of Diplomatic Corps, Representatives from Civil Society and Media, Youth and Students.

In 2002, Pakistan was amongst the 142 Member States that co-sponsored the UN General Assembly Resolution 57/106, which requested the UN Secretary-General to factor volunteerism into his reports on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. In the last 10 years, UNV has mobilized more than 350 national and international volunteers from more than 12 countries,

including Pakistan. These volunteers have worked with almost every UN agency in Pakistan in various capacities.

Earlier, António Guterres, UN Secretary-General in his statement also recognized the important role of UN Volunteers in promoting sustainable development. "The diverse and dynamic role of volunteerism in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals merits strong support from Governments and other stakeholders. On this International Day, I thank volunteers for their efforts to leave no one behind," he said.



YOUTH'S EMPOWERMENT



Royal Norwegian Embassy partners up for the social and economic empowerment of youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

To support social and economic empowerment of youth in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the Royal Norwegian Embassy signed a partnership agreement of USD 2.87 million with UNDP. The agreement builds on the momentum and repository of knowledge, experience, and linkages established during the implementation of the Youth and Social Cohesion Project, a predecessor project supported by the Government of Norway in the province.

During the first phase of the project, UNDP established 6 multi-functional community centres in D.I. Khan and Bannu districts, provided livelihoods and mentorship trainings to more than 2,000 young people, organized sports and recreational activities for more than 90,000 people, and developed the open source Virtual Platform for Peace and Development (VPPD) to promote informed decision making in the peacebuilding domain in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The software was developed in collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Peshawar. In this regard, the second phase of the ini-



tiative will have broader geographical outreach and strategic engagement of essential actors at the policy level as its key pillars. More specifically, the partnership will help provide social enterprise development trainings to 5,000 young people, business development and management practices to 3,000 youth, and livelihood skills and psycho-social skills to more than 200 young people.

The partnership will also pave the way in creating an empirically informed narrative on peace and development related issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This will be achieved

by training 200 young journalists from mainstream and regional press on accurate and informed reporting based on reliable data. More importantly, in collaboration with the Department of Youth, Home and Tribal Affairs, and the Planning and Development Department in the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the programme will help to foster sustained interactions and dialogues between youth and critical power actors in the Government, resulting in active inputs from young people in future provincial development policies.

International Student's Convention and Expo - 2018

The Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan (IUCPSS) in partnership with the UN Information Centre and several other partners organized first of its kind and largest ever International Students Convention and Expo in Islamabad.

Some 300 students from 30 countries and over 1,000 delegates from 70 top ranking universities in Pakistan attended the convention. The youth have been engaged in more than 30 sessions and competitions throughout the session on 12 – 13 December 2018. These activities included: international conferences on youth development, vice chancellors forum on Sustainable Development Goals, Asian Peace Festival, diplomat forum & corner, university pavilion, books pavilion, digital technologies pavilion, tourism & culture pavilion, job fair, career counselling sessions, model UN and National Assembly sessions, talent hunt, ideas corner, workshops, seminars, and many others.

Representatives from the United Nations, NGOs, Academia and development sector took part in Vice Chancellors Forum on Sustainable Development Goals and Role of and highlighted work of the UN and effective role of universities in achieving SDGs.

UNIC Director, a.i also participated in the Model UN sessions and discussed with young delegates about



their roles and responsibilities in achieving a better future.

Around 21,000 people visited the youth convention and the expo on 12 – 13 December 2018. Taking this opportunity of greater visibility, UNIC set up a booth in the centre of the pavilion of the expo and displayed publications including, UN charter, UDHR in English, Urdu and Pashto

languages, Basic Facts about the United Nations, newsletters, magazines, reports, leaflets and brochures about the work of the UN entities. Students took keen interest in the UN's publications.

The convention was one of the largest participated event by the youth in the county.

YOUTH'S EMPOWERMENT



Balochistan University of Information Technology (BUIITEMS) named SDG Hub for Goal 8 by UNAI

The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences in Pakistan has been named the SDG Hub for SDG Goal 8 by United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) as it announces its inaugural class of SDG Hubs.

The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (Pakistan) is dedicated to providing quality education with a focus on research and equipping students to be productive members of society while contributing to the socio-economic uplift of Pakistan in general, and the region of Balochistan in particular. It believes that quality education can contribute to economic growth and it has incorporated entrepreneurship in its curricula for all major degree programs and encourages its students and alumni to launch their own start-ups. To extend support to its students, the university in collaboration with Ministry of Information Technology, established a National Incubation Center on campus. The university also launched the Enterprise Challenge Programme, which is an inter-school



competition designed to inspire and instill entrepreneurial and business acumen among young people and also to encourage them to consider entrepreneurship as a career option.

The United Nations Information Centre in Pakistan congratulates BUIITEMS on this impressive achievement and is looking forward to successful future cooperation.

Learn more

SDG Hubs:

<https://bit.ly/2AhvGuk>

United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)

<https://academicimpact.un.org/>



Visit: UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and UNHCR's Director for Asia and Pacific visit Pakistan



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock and UNHCR's Director for Asia and Pacific, Mr. Indrika Ratwatte were welcomed in Islamabad on a three-day visit.

During the visit, the High Commissioner held meetings with Pakistan government officials, attended various events, as well as visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where he met refugees and refugee families returning to Afghanistan.

Among the official meetings, the High Commissioner and Mr. Mark Lowcock met with the Prime Minister of the Is-

lamic Republic of Pakistan. The two UN officials expressed their gratitude to the people and the Government of Pakistan – acknowledging Pakistan's generosity in hosting one of the world's largest refugee populations for decades.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister affirmed his government's commitment to refugee repatriation remaining voluntary despite the internal challenges that Pakistan faces. He also noted UNHCR's generous financial contribution and support provided to the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Peshawar.

Mr. Lowcock confirmed his determination to mobilize greater international support for areas hosting refugees and

other communities affected by displacement. He said there was a major opportunity now to help the people of the tribal districts to improve their lives, and that the international community must do all it can to support the Government in this.

Before coming to Pakistan, the High Commissioner visited Iran and Afghanistan.

Since 2002, around 4.3 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan with UNHCR's assistance. The country still hosts some 1.4 million Afghan refugees. Some 67 per cent live in urban or rural areas, while 33 per cent reside in 54 refugee villages.



Joint Communique

By the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions issued following joint communique:

- This Communique is being issued in pursuance of the High Commissioner's meetings with the representatives of the Government of Pakistan, notably the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary SA-FRON.
- The High Commissioner acknowledged the hospitality of the Government and people of Pakistan in having generously hosted one of the world's largest protracted refugee situations for nearly four decades. He highlighted the important contribution that Pakistan's generosity has continued to make to regional stability (including in the context of the challenging situation in Afghanistan), but also more broadly to the refugee cause. In this regard, the High Commissioner appreciated the unique relationship between the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR which provided important experiences and the development of best practices globally.
- The Government of Pakistan encouraged robust development projects in Afghanistan, particularly in the potential areas of return for sustainable repatriation with ensured practicality and implementation details to incentivize the returnees. The Government of Pakistan also highlighted the imperative need for including the voluntary returnees in the overall resolution of the Afghan conflict and development plans



in Afghanistan and would help in sustainable reintegration of returnees.

- The High Commissioner apprised the Government of Pakistan of his discussions with the Government of Afghanistan and commended the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan, at the highest levels, to finding solutions to the long-standing displacement issues. He underlined concrete steps taken in this regard, including Afghanistan's resolve to implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the increasing engagement of both humanitarian and development actors in supporting sustainable reintegration of all categories of returning Afghans, and UNHCR's efforts to support sustainable reintegration, notably in 15 areas of high return selected jointly with the Government of Afghanistan. The High Commissioner also welcomed the important progress that has been made within the framework of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan on Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS), including the establishment of a bilateral working group on refugee returns and reintegration.
- The Government of Pakistan referred to its pro-active engagement in global discussions pertaining to the Global Compact on Refugees, its agreement to extend the SSAR+ framework for 2018-19 and its progressive implementation of the Comprehensive Policy on Voluntary Repatriation and Management of Afghan Nationals, adopted by the Federal Cabinet in 2017, including notably the recent registration of nearly 880,000 undocumented Afghans.
- The High Commissioner strongly appreciated these efforts and reiterated UNHCR's commitment to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, the SSAR+ and the forward-looking Comprehensive Policy of the Government of Pakistan which recognizes the complex nature and context of mixed cross-border movements and reconciles the fundamental principles of refugee protection and migration management. In this regard, the High Commissioner commended the measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to register and document the undocumented Afghans and to work with the Government of Afghanistan in ensuring that they can obtain Afghan passports and Pakistani visas. He also encouraged the Government of Pakistan to extend the validity of the Proof of



Registration (PoR) cards for Afghan refugees beyond September 2018.

- The Joint Government-UNHCR Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative has since its launch in 2009 provided vital assistance (with a total of over USD 200 million) to 10.6 million individuals, including both Afghan refugees and their Pakistani host communities. The continued and reinvigorated support of the international community for RAHA is an essential demonstration of tangible burden-sharing and solidarity with Pakistan for hosting one of the world's largest protracted refugee situations. The High Commissioner underlined that UNHCR will continue to pro-actively engage with a variety of partners and advocate for commensurate support by the international community for

this purpose, in line with the central commitments of the Global Compact on Refugees.

- Both the High Commissioner and the Government of Pakistan noted that traditional approaches are no longer sufficient to address the protracted Afghan displacement situation, in view of the prevailing challenges in Afghanistan. As such, and in order to maximize the impact in an environment of shrinking humanitarian resources globally, it is vital to pursue innovative solidarity approaches and joint advocacy and resource mobilization, including through various follow-up measures presented in the Global Compact on Refugees.
- The upcoming international fora, including notably the 2018 Geneva Conference on Afghanistan, will provide important opportunities to further raise the protracted

Afghan refugee situation higher on the agenda of the international community, acknowledge the immense contribution and experience of Pakistan as a principal host country, and advocate for greater responsibility-sharing and support for both i) voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan and ii) support for host communities pending return and reintegration.

Providing free treatment to poor cancer patients



Mahira Khan cutting the ribbon at the radiotherapy ward at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital in Peshawar.



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi unveiling the plaque at the radiotherapy ward at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in Peshawar.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi commended the charitable work of the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital saying providing free-of-cost treatment to underprivileged cancer patients is a noble act.

The High Commissioner was accompanied by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock and film star, Ms. Mahira Khan.

The UN refugee agency has provided high-tech machines worth Rs.710 million (USD 6.2 million) for Peshawar's Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer hospital to support free-of-cost treatment to cancer pa-

tients, including Afghan refugees.

The radiotherapy machines will be fully operational by the end of this year. Radiotherapy uses high-energy radiation to break down cancer cells and treat tumours in the body. UNHCR will also provide training to the technicians to operate the equipment effectively. The new cancer equipment will provide some 30,000 treatment sessions to both Pakistanis and Afghan refugees in 2019.

Speaking in the hospital, the High Commissioner thanked the people and provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for currently hosting some 800,000 Afghan refugees in the spirit of Islamic values of hos-

pitality and generosity.

Dr. Faisal Sultan, Chief Executive Officer of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre appreciated the support from UNHCR for the construction of the Emergency Assessment Unit and provision of the state-of-the-art equipment.

UNHCR constructed the emergency assessment room and provided other medical equipment to the Peshawar Shaukat Khanum hospital in 2015.



Investing in youth will pay dividends for peace and prosperity

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi Friday said empowering youth and investing in their future will pay dividends for peace, security and prosperity.

The UN refugee agency through the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) enrolled 40 students in January 2018 for six-month vocational and technical skills training in the automobile and heavy machinery trades.

The training courses have been completed and graduates have been awarded internationally recognised certificates and start-up tool kits, which will help them to make a sustainable living to meet their basic needs. The High Commissioner also presented certificates to the students.

Pakistan continues to host 1.4 million Afghan refugees and 74 per cent are the second or the third generation born in Pakistan. Of the total registered Afghan refugees, around 64 per cent are youth.

Centre director, Colonel Imran Ilahi briefed the delegation on the project. The institute has provided diplomas to some 30,000 Pakistani students so far. Ilahi said this is the first batch presented to Afghan refugees.



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi awarding a certificate to an Afghan refugee who has recently completed his training at the Construction Technology Training Institute in Islamabad. © UNHCR/A.Shahzad



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visiting Construction Technology Training Institute in Islamabad. © UNHCR/A.Shahzad

Visit: WHO Regional Director

WHO Regional Director praises Pakistan's strong political commitment to achieving universal health coverage on official visit



Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, has concluded his first official visit to Pakistan, applauding efforts to boost health and health care in the country.

The two-day visit, from 17-18 December 2018, included meetings with several Government officials and field visits. The Regional Director spoke to the President of Pakistan, HE Arif Alvi, who noted that health and education are strategic priorities of the new Government, which is firmly committed to improving the social conditions of the people and investing in human development.

Federal Minister of Health HE Aamer Mehmood Kiani thanked WHO for its continued support to Pakistan's public health endeavors, vowing to enhance mutual collaboration in priority health areas.

The Regional Director commended the Ministry's leadership in polio eradication and also advancing the Government's UHC agenda. He congratulated the Minister on a recent breakthrough immunization campaign, which saw more than 38 million children vaccinated

against measles.

Al-Mandhari also acknowledged the Ministry's initiatives to curb population growth, expand health insurance and strengthen family-based health care in selected districts in Pakistan. He welcomed the Government's decision to impose a "health tax" on tobacco and sugary drinks, with the revenues generated being earmarked for health.

Assad Hafeez, Director General of Health briefed the WHO delegation on the Government's 5-year National Action Plan for Health. In a ceremony attended by HE Federal Minister of Health and other officials, Al-Mandhari handed over 32 vehicles donated by GAVI to Extended Program of Immunization (EPI) in Pakistan to strengthen health service delivery.

Jean Gough the UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia joined Al-Mandhari on a visit to the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for Polio Eradication in Islamabad.

Field visits to a Basic Health Unit (BHU) and a Health House in Shah Allah Ditta, where a family practice project is being piloted were also held. Al-Mandhari

applauded the heroic efforts of polio frontline staff and Lady Health Workers (LHWs), who play a crucial role in providing essential health services to community members.

Meeting with Federal Minister of Finance HE Asad Umar and HE Kanwal Shauzab, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Development and Reforms, the Regional Director reiterated his vision that Health For All cannot be achieved by the Ministry of Health alone, but requires input from everyone.

Addressing participants at a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on Infant and Young Children Feeding, the Regional Director noted the importance of nutrition in fulfilling physical and psychological health needs of the children. He urged to focus more on addressing stunting as a serious public health matter in the country, which has also been given special attention by the Prime Minister.

Al-Mandhari concluded his visit by meeting with the staff of WHO country office in Pakistan. He expressed his gratitude to the country team.

Visit: Executive Director, UN Women

UN Women Executive Director takes #HearMeToo to Pakistan

UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, held her first official visit to Pakistan as part of her travels during the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**. The visit aimed to bolster the gender equality agenda in the country. On the final day of the Executive Director's mission in Pakistan, she met with the Women Parliamentary Caucus, where she stressed the importance of full, equal participation and leadership for women at all levels of decision-making is the key to unlocking the transformative change in the societies and achieve sustainable development.

The Executive Director drew attention to UN Women's existing resources, such as **iKnowPolitics**, an international knowledge platform that fosters knowledge exchange for all who are engaged in promoting women's political participation, and the recently launched flagship publication **Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific** which informs about SDGs and the gender equality related indicators.

Member of National Assembly and WPC Secretary, Munaza Hassen raised some key challenges for women, among those the low number of women MPs and parliamentary leaders. In Pakistan's lower house, women represented 25.2 per cent of the total 272 members; while in the Upper



House, it remains low at 18.8 per cent. Later in a meeting with Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari, the Executive Director encouraged effective implementations of a quota system for more women's representation in the legislation for more gender-sensitive laws.

Minister of Human Rights welcomed the Executive Director's initiative to strengthen its closer collaboration on developing a guidebook for women survivors of violence.

The Executive Director participated in an interactive dialogue on ending harassment of women with disabilities, joined by Minister of Human Rights, Shireen Mazari; Resident Coordinator, Neil Buhne; and Jamshed Kazi, Country Representative of UN Women.

Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari, informed the audience that the ordinance to protect the rights of

persons with disabilities was now going to be part of legislation after consent from Parliament, as the bill had been approved by cabinet in its recent meeting. The bill, she explained, includes clauses for the right to education, right to dignity, right to privacy and some other important points.

The final meeting of the Executive Director's mission in Pakistan ended with an affirmation of commitment and support of the Honourable Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Tehmina Janjua.

The reviews should include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender perspective.



Bidding Farewell to Dr Assai Ardakani, Former Head of Country Office, WHO in Pakistan

An august farewell gathering was organized by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (MoNHSR&C) on 27 August 2018 in the Committee Room of the Ministry of Health. High officials from the MoNHSR&C, representatives of various UN Agencies, UN Partners and WHO Pakistan were in big attendance at the event. Mr Mazhar Nisar, Director Implementation MoNHSR&C, moderated the event.

Captain (Retd.) Zahid Saeed, Secretary Health MoNHSR&C, welcomed Dr Assai Ardakani, WHO Head of Country Office in Pakistan.

Mr Secretary termed the tenure of Dr Assai as an outstanding tenure in Pakistan and said that the relationship between the Ministry and WHO during Dr Assai's tenure has been exemplary.

While addressing the gathering, Dr Assai Ardakani, WHO Head of Office in Pakistan, said that it is impossible for him to say goodbye to Pakistan, he can never do that as he is more Pakistani than an Iranian. Dr Assai encapsulated the initiatives taken jointly with the MoNHSR&C and how WHO in Pakistan and the Ministry, together, have achieved milestones in improving the health care system in Pakistan, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Pakistan has a long way to go in terms of improving and strengthening the health care system and aiming toward achiev-



ing Universal Health Coverage where health care is accessible to everyone and everywhere sans, cast creed and religion.

Representatives of UN agencies and other high officials from the Ministry of Health spoke on the occasion and spoke highly of Dr Assai and his valua-

ble contributions in the sector of health in Pakistan. Dr Assai was termed as 'Friend of Pakistan' by the participants.

Dr Assai Ardakani was presented a shield and bouquet by the honorable Secretary of Health, Captain (Retd.) Zahid Saeed.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

16 September 2018

“This has been a year of record-breaking heat around the world. It is also a pivotal time for climate action.

The landmark Kigali Amendment, which enters into force on 1 January 2019, sets its sights on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), powerful climate-warming gases still used in cooling systems.

So far, 46 countries have ratified this new instrument; I call on all others to follow suit and show their commitment to a healthier planet. I expect countries to demonstrate significant progress in implementing the Kigali Amendment at the Climate Summit I am convening in September 2019”.



International Day of Peace

21 September 2018

This year we mark International Day of Peace as we prepare to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This foundational document is a reminder that peace takes root when people are free from hunger, poverty and oppression and can thrive and prosper.

With the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as our guide, we must ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I encourage you to speak up. For gender equality. For inclusive socie-

ties. For climate action.

Do your part at school, at work, at home. Every step counts.

Let us act together to promote and defend human rights for all, in the name of lasting peace for all.

World Tourism Day: “Tourism and the digital transformation”

27 September 2018

“Tourism needs innovation in technology to realize its potential contributions. Its benefits need to flow to host communities. Governments can help to connect startups with investors to facilitate innovation, entrepreneurship, employment and a truly inclusive tourism sector.

Digital technologies have brought positive momentum to societies and econ-

omies around the world. They have connected us on a global level, helped to empower the most vulnerable and become our crucial allies for sustainable development. On World Tourism Day, I call on governments to support digital technologies that can transform the way we travel, reduce the ecological burden of tourism and bring the benefits of tourism to all.”

World Post Day

9 October 2018

“Resilient postal systems offer support during natural disasters, financial services to hundreds of millions of people; and essential information in times of crises.”

World Mental Health Day

10 October 2018

“...Healthy societies require greater integration of mental health into broader health and social care systems, under the umbrella of universal health coverage. The United Nations is committed to creating a world where by 2030 everyone, everywhere has someone to turn to in support of their mental health, in a world free of stigma and discrimination...”

World Cities Day

10 October 2018

“...This year’s World Cities Day focuses on resilience and sustainability. Every week, 1.4 million people move to cities. Such rapid urbanization can strain local capacities, contributing to increased risk from natural and human

International Day of Non-Violence

2 October 2018

“On the International Day of Non-Violence, we recognize the enduring vision and wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi, whose birthday we also celebrate today. As Gandhi once said, “non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind.” The Charter of the United Nations echoes that spirit, with its call in Chapter VI for the use, “first of all”, of negotiation, mediation, arbi-

tration, judicial settlement and other peaceful ways to address threats to peace. Gandhi proved that non-violence can change history. Let us be inspired by his courage and conviction as we continue our work to advance peace, sustainable development and human rights for all of the peoples of the world.”

International Day of the Girl Child

11 October 2018

“...We need to equip girls with transferable and lifelong skills such as critical thinking, creativity and digital awareness. Having role models will also be critical, especially in the sciences and other fields where the presence of women is sparse. To help empower young people, I recently launched Youth2030, a strategy that aims to work with them, understand their needs and help put their ideas into action. On this International Day of the Girl, let us recommit to supporting every girl to develop her skills, enter the workforce on equal terms and reach her full potential. “

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October 2018

“...We must listen to the millions of people experiencing poverty and destitution across the globe, tackle the power structures that prevent their inclusion in society and address the indignities they face. We must build a fair globalization that creates opportunities for all and ensure that rapid technological development boosts our poverty eradication efforts. On this International Day for the Eradication of Poverty let us commit to uphold the core pledge of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.”

made disasters. But hazards do not need to become disasters. The answer is to build resilience -- to storms, floods, earthquakes, fires, pandemics and economic crises.

On World Cities Day, let us be inspired

by these examples. Let us work together to build sustainable and resilient cities that provide safety and opportunities for all.”

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

2 November 2018

“...When journalists are targeted, societies as a whole pay a price. I call on Governments and the international community to protect journalists and create the conditions they need to do their work.

On this day, I pay tribute to journalists

who do their jobs every day despite intimidation and threats. Their work – and that of their fallen colleagues -- reminds us that truth never dies. Neither must our commitment to the fundamental right to freedom of expression. ...”

Tsunami Awareness Day

5 November 2018

“...Over the past two decades, tsunamis have accounted for almost 10 per cent of economic losses from disasters, setting back development gains, especially in countries that border the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

World Tsunami Awareness Day is an opportunity to emphasize again the

importance of disaster prevention and preparedness, including early warning, public education, science to better understand and predict tsunamis, and development that takes account of risk in seismic zones and exposed coastal areas. “

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

3 December 2018

“More than 1 billion people in the world live with some form of disability. In many societies, persons with disabilities often end up disconnected, living in isolation and facing discrimination.

In its pledge to leave no one behind, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a commitment to reducing inequality and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, including people with disabilities. That means implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities, in all contexts and in all countries. It also means integrating the voices and concerns of people with disabilities into national agendas and policies.

Today, the United Nations is issuing the UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018 – realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities.”

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

29 November 2018

“.....I urge Israel, Palestine and all others with influence to restore the promise and viability of the two-state solution premised on two states living side by side in peace, harmony and within secure and recognised borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights of the Palestinian people and to building a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis alike.”

International Volunteer Day

5 December 2018

“There are approximately 1 billion volunteers across the globe, who dedicate their time, skills and passion to make the world a better place. They are often the first to act in moments of crisis. They create social bonds and give a voice to marginalized and vulnerable groups. And as the theme of this year’s observance highlights, they help build resilient communities, equipping people against natural disasters, political instability, economic shocks and other pressures.”

International Anti-Corruption Day

9 December 2018

“The United Nations Convention against Corruption is among our primary tools for advancing the fight. Sustainable Development Goal 16 and its targets also offer a template for action. Through the Convention’s peer review mechanism, we can work together to build a foundation of trust and accountability. We can educate and empower citizens, promote transparency and strengthen international cooperation to recover stolen assets.”

International Universal Health Coverage Day

12 December 2018

“Today, the world marks the first International Universal Health Coverage Day. Good health is a fundamental human right and crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Quality physical and mental health services should be accessible to

International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime

9 December 2018

“ I call on all states to translate the Genocide Convention’s words into action to prevent massive human suffering and advance accountability. At a time of rising anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim bigotry and other forms of

hatred, racism and xenophobia, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the equality and dignity of all.”

International Migrants Day

18 December 2018

“....This month, the world took a landmark step forward with the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Backed with overwhelming support by the membership of the United Nations, the Compact will help us to address the real challenges of migration while reaping its many benefits.....”

everyone, everywhere. Tragically, that is not the case for half of the world’s population. Each year, 100 million people are driven into poverty because care costs far more than they can afford.....”

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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 Program 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 program 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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