

Focus on Transforming slums into thriving communities.

Addressing the challenge of under-resourced urban settlements – A top priority.

Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Guiding urban development in Pakistan.

Everyone's dream is to live in cities without slums – Achieving sustainable urbanization.



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United Nations P a k i s t a n



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Dear readers,
The first issue of United Nations Pakistan of 2016 focuses on the theme of slums in urban development, a complex issue addressed by the UN System with UN-Habitat in the lead. We have collected stories of slum residents narrating their plight, their resilience, and their daily struggle. We also share the views of the Pakistani Government and provide an overview in the regional context.

Women's empowerment is, as always, a top priority: in this issue, we report on women gaining access to land, riding motorcycles in Lahore, generating income. We would like to congratulate Ms. Fiza Farhan on being appointed member of the first ever High-Level Panel of the UN Secretary-General on Women's Economic Empowerment and Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy for her remarkable efforts with advocating for legislation against honour killings. These are remarkable gains for women across Pakistan and for achieving SDG 5 on gender equality.

We celebrated World Radio Day with several radio programs and events throughout the country, including a seminar for 120 trainees from the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation Academy.

As follow-up to COP 21, the UN System in Pakistan keeps addressing climate change in the country: from effective waste management in the country to the promotion of clean technologies through entrepreneurship.

When it comes to improving labour conditions, we report on raising awareness of the Sindh Industrial Relations Act, on facilitating the Pakistan Buyers Forum to improve labour conditions in textile sector and on supporting a helpline to prevent exploitation of migrant workers.

I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the UN Communications Group and the UN Country Team who make this magazine possible thanks to their collaboration and support.

Vittorio Cammarota,
Director, United Nations
Information Centre

Transforming slums into thriving communities

When I first arrived in Pakistan in 1990 the population was 120 million people, with 33 million people living in urban areas. When I returned 5 months ago, it was estimated there were 75 million more Pakistani citizens, and the population in urban areas had more than doubled, reaching 80 million people. The bulk of this urban area growth came from the increase in the number of people living in slums.

The conditions of the tens of millions living in these precarious settlements represent a current and future risk for Pakistan. Presently, the paucity of public services means that people do not have access to education or health services, both basic human rights and necessities for development. The situation is too often worsened by lack of security due to increased levels of crime, and many times accompanied by armed violence. These conditions are a hazard to people's current well-being and a severe threat to personal and family development.

The situation also represents a risk for the future, as youths constitute a high proportion of those living in slums. If the current condition does not improve they will not be able to achieve decent employment and healthy, fulfilled lives. In fact living in such communities may hamper rather than help to improve people's well-being.



Nevertheless, with the right policies and programmes implemented in the right ways, these slums could be transformed into thriving communities that could provide opportunities for development which would otherwise be difficult in rural areas. The experience from the Orangi Pilot Programme in Karachi 25 years ago is a successful example of what can be achieved when people are given the space to organise themselves to improve conditions in their slum communities, and when the Government provides a conducive environment for this.

This issue of the UN Pakistan newsletter displays some examples of how slums can be transformed to foster human development. UN-Habitat is the UN agency specialised in issues

of urban development and can play a crucial role for this to succeed. Improving conditions in slums is a broad developmental challenge which requires the assorted strengths of the UN Pakistan team, combined with the efforts of Pakistani at the national, provincial, local, and community level in order to transform slums into sustainable urban communities.

Mr. Neil Buhne,
Resident Coordinator UN Pakistan



Addressing the challenge of under resourced urban settlements – A top priority

Pakistan is facing a rapid increase in urbanisation caused by population growth, urban migration, and refugee influx. This has resulted in the creation and expansion of under-resourced urban settlements, causing unprecedented levels of economic, spatial, social, and infrastructural challenges, and climate change impacts. Unplanned urbanisation contributes to further deterioration of the quality of life of not just the urban poor, but also of the broader population living in urban cities; therefore it requires the attention and support of all sectors.

The Ministry of Climate Change, which also holds the urban mandate, is taking the lead role on behalf of the Government of Pakistan in addressing the impact of climate change on human settlements, including in the challenge of achieving sustainable growth for a better future. For this purpose, the Ministry of Climate Change and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Pakistan have been working together closely to address both sustainable urbanisation and climate change initiatives, particularly in policy formulation and implementation of climate change vulnerability, adaptation assessments, and urban-related initiatives that contributed to the MDGs.

We are now looking forward to build on the great work achieved by implementing the SDGs in Pakistan, particularly Goals 11 and 13. Together,



we hope to make cities and human settlements in Pakistan inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Mr. Zahid Hamid
Federal Minister, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan

Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable



Rapid urbanisation has created increasing demand for housing and serviced land. By 2030, about 40 per cent of the world's population will need proper housing and access to basic infrastructure and services such as water and sanitation systems. Asia has the largest share of the world's slum population and is home to more than half of the world's total slum population. Slums, or informal settlements, represent a major challenge to development, and the growth of informal settlements creates great pressure on urban basic services, health, and education systems. Slums also contribute to environmental issues as many are located either in canal and

river banks or in urban wetlands. Slum conditions are defined by the UN as lacking at least one of the basic conditions of decent housing: adequate sanitation, improved water supply, durable housing, or adequate living space. Although the proportion of urban dwellers living in slums appears to be falling, the absolute number is rising rapidly. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, focuses on supporting countries in addressing these issues by introducing innovative approaches and models, and working towards achieving Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals which entails "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, re-

silient, and sustainable". It needs to be recognised that adequate shelter and unplanned urbanisation are global issues which should be addressed collectively. Hence, throughout the world, UN-Habitat works in close collaboration with the Federal, Provincial, and Local government bodies and in partnership with other development partners. UN-Habitat commits to support countries on meeting Goal 11 and supporting people all around the world to gain adequate shelter and facilities to improve their life. UN-Habitat is the focal point for all urbanisation and human settlement matters within the UN system, and its vision of "sustainable urbanisation" encompasses all areas of human settlements, from megacities to secondary towns and villages.

UN-Habitat has been supporting many urban communities who are compelled to live with poor living conditions to overcome their difficulties and gain dignity and happiness. A bettered urban life can be achieved by unlocking potential through establishing partnerships with a wider spectrum of stakeholders including government and communities through sharing knowledge, introduction of new technologies and methodologies, and capacity building.

Mr. Yoshinobu Fukasawa,
Director, UN-Habitat Regional Office
for Asia and the Pacific



Guiding urban development in Pakistan



The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the focal agency for all urbanisation and human settlement matters within the UN system. In Pakistan, UN-Habitat works closely with the Government, particularly with national, provincial and local institutions, and with the humanitarian and development partners.

Urbanisation is a defining characteristic of the 21st century. The prevalence and growth of slums, or informal settlements, in urban and peri-urban areas has been identified as one of the key factors undermining sustainable urban growth. In all cities and towns in the provinces of Pakistan, informal settlements (“katchi abadis”) have developed

through squatting or the informal subdivision of state or private land without adequate planning or investment in infrastructure.

By 2030, Pakistan’s population is expected to reach 260 million, half of which will be living in urban areas. Looking ahead, the SDGs and Habitat III Conference in 2016 could set the pace for Pakistan to focus on SDG 11 - making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Pakistan’s “Vision 2025” recognises the importance of adopting strategies that ensure that the benefits of growth are evenly distributed.

UN-Habitat Pakistan has conducted “slum studies” in an attempt at providing a snapshot of people’s daily lives in the slums of Pakistan. These studies provide an analytical base to better formulate and improve urban planning programmes. We cannot design a sustainable development plan without sustainable urbanisation. Creating urban places without adequate urban infrastructure is a recipe to foster the growth of slum cities.

To improve the lives of the people of Pakistan, UN-Habitat has carefully tapped opportunities in harnessing the economic and social potential of Pakistan’s cities for growth and development, and in promoting socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities through its various development programmes and ini-

atives. It advocates for incremental upgrading of informal settlements or slums, along with pro-poor policy and strategic investment and planning, as a cost-effective approach for increasing access to affordable housing and serviced urban land, but is also critical for limiting urban sprawl and guiding urban development.

In cities of all sizes, efficiency in land management, securing property rights, creating access to employment, transport, basic services, affordable and sustainable housing, adopting formal housing policies with structured mortgage systems, and having strong urban policy and planning will help in making a difference to the everyday lives of the slum dwellers and the urban poor.

Ms. Bella Evidente,
Country Programme Manager,
UN-Habitat Pakistan

Everyone's Dream is to live in Cities without Slums – Achieving Sustainable Urbanization



The world is facing rapid urbanisation, and keeping sustainability in focus is an overwhelming challenge. It is estimated that by 2030 about 3 billion people (or about 40 percent of the world's population) will be in severe need of proper housing and access to basic infrastructure and services. However, failure in urban planning and meeting demand for homes have led to a huge housing

backlog, consequentially leading to the development of slums, or informal settlements, in a variety of contexts.

Almost 1 billion people from the urban population worldwide are living in slums, the majority in developing countries where inadequate governance systems, institutional irregularities, lack of capacity, and poor information are further aggravating

the ensuing spread of these informal settlements. The lives of individuals dwelling in slums is characterised by inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding, and insecure residential status. For several years Pakistan is facing the challenge of rapid expansion of slums in urban settlements, merging into the neighbouring cities



without proper planning and overburdening the cities' existing services and environment.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. It is the focal point for all urbanisation and human settlement-related matters within the UN system. With regards to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN-Habitat's main focus is on Goal 11 to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable", which is cross-cutting with other goals. For this purpose, UN-Habitat has been conducting studies in various slums, understanding the dynamics of life in slums, examining the demographics, socio-economic conditions, livelihoods or employment, poverty, basic infrastructure and capacities, health, education, the law and order situation, and the cross-cutting area of gender.

Slums in Pakistan are unquestionably challenged by decrepit and

infirm housing structures, poor ventilation, faulty alignment of streets, inadequate lighting, dearth of safe drinking water, water ponding during rains, absence of properly designed sanitation facilities, and non-availability of rudimentary physical and social services. Generally unhygienic living conditions, unplanned growth, and accelerating transmission of various air and water borne diseases are a common phenomenon. Moreover, extremely poor educational and health facilities hardly fulfill the demands of the residing communities.

The presence of slums has a strong impact on the demographics, urban fabric, job opportunities, socio-economic conditions, and quality of life of an average individual living in the surroundings of slums in Pakistan. The success of any slum development and rehabilitation scheme should not just focus on provision of shelters, but also take into consideration livelihood opportunities and affordable social infrastructure and mobility options. Slum upgrading has the potential to reduce social inequalities and improve urban

safety. Slums have the capacity to be transformed into vibrant neighbourhoods which can be fully integrated into the urban fabric and management systems.

The search for solutions should be undertaken by participatory housing design, with specific focus on the dwelling needs and aspirations of the urban poor and vulnerable groups, including women-headed households. Housing is an opportune and strategic setting with which to achieve the mutually beneficial goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as the goal of sustainable urban development in general. The planning of residential areas, slum upgrading and urban renewal will help reduce the carbon footprint of cities and the greenhouse gases emitted by the national building sector. The way in which Pakistan's cities and towns develop will play an important role in the achievement of the goals laid out in the Government's "Vision 2025".

A city within a city



“I came to the city in search of a job, to support my family, to educate my children, to give them a safe and a bright future. I came to the city of Islamabad in search of happiness, but I do not think I will ever find it,” says Aslam, who resides in a slum located in the midst of Islamabad, while commenting on his decision to move. The aura of developed cities has forever attracted people, making them emigrate from distant areas in the hopes of making a new life there. Little do they know that thousands others are also moving from villages and small towns to the city at the same time, also wanting to fulfil their big city dreams. Often extreme poverty and lack of infrastructure and affordable housing lead many people into living in run-down areas of the city, in informal settlements called slums.

Life in slums is not just unpleasant, it shatters the dreams of its dwellers, instilling in them hopelessness, and reducing them to a life of social exclusion. Wedged between the two most populated sectors, F-6 and F-7, are the slums of Islamabad (ICT). Known to be populated almost 30 years ago, these slums have become a remarkable city within a city, a sight of despair within the developed metropolis. Popularly known as the Christian Colony, these slums are home to a great number of people. Shabby and dilapidated houses, congested streets, overflowing drains, and a generally unhygienic environment all round mar the life of the residents of the Colony, but despite knowing that their health is at risk, there is little they can do about it.

Finding a way inside these slums is a challenging task and it is rare to find someone who will give you a guided tour. Outsiders are considered aliens here, and, in order to not stand out they are asked to follow strict rules including a portrait photography ban and behavioural guidelines, especially in front of the local teenagers. Tariq Bhatti, a young resident of House 5 in the Christian Colony explained the social exclusion phenomenon while giving the UN-Habitat and Urban Unit team a tour of the area: “My friends, you will see plenty of foul smelling places and people staring at you, I recommend you do not make any weird faces and do not pretend you are from another planet: we all are humans and this is our reality. You are lucky you do not have to get used to this smell.” These are just two testimonies from a multitude of other slum-dwellers living in these slums and many others across Pakistan. These people need our help to get out of this life of anonymity, despair, and bleakness.

Life in contrasts



Slums in Islamabad are extremely congested and there is rarely any breathing space between the decrepit houses, some of them even on the verge of collapse. The roofs are made of raw materials such as mud and branches and the walls are cracked to the core, rendering them highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The water system is appalling, with drains which have never been cleaned, resulting in water-borne diseases among the children. Unwanted water is impossible to keep out, especially during the monsoon season, so the houses get flooded frequently, further deteriorating the

already weakened foundations. Life in these slums can be extremely gloomy and low-spirited as there is no apparent hope for an improvement in living conditions in the near future. Khalid, a middle-aged man who has lived in a shabby little room in a slum in Islamabad with his four children for the past ten years is unhappy with his life and the hopelessness it brings. Working as a caretaker at a local public school, Khalid's income is not sufficient to buy adequate food for his children, let alone to pay for other necessities like clean drinking water, a better house, or an education

for his kids. Khalid's house is one of the dingy structures in the slums, and when the UN-Habitat and Urban Unit team asked him why he lives in a room with a bed built outside a running drain, he became teary-eyed and said, "where else can I go? I came from Nazimabad, Karachi in search for a better job and this was the cheapest room I could find. I pay a mere 3000 Rupees for this room and even then, I have barely any money left to feed my children. I have accepted this life, and when my eldest son says he wishes he was a pilot, I



responsibility of the humanitarian sector or the Government, but also of the general public to treat slum dwellers decently and not marginalise them.

tell him not to dream big. I do not want him to break down when his dreams shatter, it is better if he accepts reality from the beginning. People like us are meant to be at the bottom of the human race, we have no right to dream big.” While Khalid represents those in the slum population in Islamabad who have lost hope, Parveen Bibi represents those who remain optimistic even in face of poverty and run-down living conditions. She is hopeful that the situation will improve as time goes by. Parveen is not ashamed about the way she lives, she wants outsiders to visit the colony and experience life in slums first-hand as it is an experience in itself. She claims that despite all the problems and perceptions about slums, life there is enjoyable. In fact, happi-

ness was witnessed on the faces of her two sons who were playing Carom as their pet dog watched closely. “I teach my children to be happy despite the circumstances. We should be grateful that we are better off than many people. There are people who live in worse conditions than we do. All the people in our colony have jobs, they are not paid much but at least they are employed, and we are not short of luxuries. Almost 90% of the population here has television sets, we have electricity, gas connections, and fridges. What more can you ask for?” she stated. In a place where countless stories of misery and hopelessness can be seen, Parveen and her children are the embers of hope amidst the gloomy Islamabad slums. It not just the

Habits of people with a clean home



“You just need to pick a starting point and tackle one area at a time. When it is done, move to the next, this way you can keep the entire home clean. You just need to find a schedule that works for you, and then stick to it.”

Pathani, Channa Muhalla,
Jacobabad.

“Discipline is the key to keep your home clean and hygienic. Many people come to my home every day, so I have to make sure my home is clean all the time,” this is the motto that motivates Pathani to upkeep her home without excessive hard work. Despite living in Channa Muhalla, in Union Council 6 of Jacobabad, Pathani ensures that her home is never dirty and that guests always feel comfortable and welcomed. When Pathani’s house was visited by the UN-Habitat staff, it was observed that not only her sitting area was clean, but that she maintained hygienic standards in the kitchen and latrines too. It is in her nature, as she cannot bear living in a messy and dirty home. As a

consequence of these good habits, her family is healthy and medicinal expenditures are low. Her children never miss a day of school and are awarded recognition stars by their teachers for their impeccable attendance record.

Pathani is proud of her household and loves receiving praise from her community. According to her, “you just need to pick a starting point and tackle one area at a time. When it is done, move to the next, this way you can keep the entire home clean. You just need to find a schedule that works for you, and then stick to it.” The UN-Habitat Urban WASH team identified Pathani’s best practices and involved her in a community awareness campaign.

Now, Pathani not only keeps her own household spotless but also transmits her best practices to other community members, in the hope that her behaviour will impress and influence them, making Channa Muhalla a model city in Sindh, Pakistan.

Changing lives through better behaviors and practices



“My life has completely changed... I urge everyone to follow health and hygiene standards if they want a life that is not just good for them and their family, but for the community at large.”

Rubina, Darkhan Muhalla,
Jacobabad

Rubina, mother of a two-year old boy who regularly falls ill, was unaware that her own unhygienic practices were causing her son so much distress. Living in a small house in Darkhan Muhalla, Jacobabad, Rubina is a poor woman who has to spend a substantial amount of her household's income on her son's health expenses. Upon visiting her home, UN-Habitat's Urban WASH team observed that her household improperly disposed of solid waste, had a grimy kitchen with utensils laid out on the dirty floor, and an overflowing drain in an unclean latrine. Rubina was oblivious to the need of maintaining personal health and hygiene standards, and in addition resorted to drinking contaminated water due to lack of

access to safe drinking water. These were the main reasons why her son continuously suffered from diarrhea and was susceptible to dangerous water-borne diseases.

The UN-Habitat Urban WASH team sensitised her about health and hygiene standards and taught her to wash her hands properly with soap at critical times such as before cooking or consuming food or after using the latrine, boil water to make it safe to drink, clean pots with washing detergents, and maintain personal cleanliness. She was extremely happy to receive these informative messages and promised to implement them all during her daily routine.

No roof above our heads



“It is very difficult to live in this house and the weather is too hot, we are hardly managing it but do not have any other option”.

Lakhmeer, age 35, ADC Colony UC-8, Jacobabad

During a household survey in ADC colony UC-8 of district Jacobabad, the UN-Habitat team met a troubled family and requested the house owner show the latrines, in an attempt to help them adopt proper sanitation. It was discovered that the house had a traditional open drain latrine with improper drainage.

The house belonged to Lakhmeer, who lives with his two brothers, his widowed sister and her three kids in a damaged house with no roof, and only a tent above their heads. Safe drinking water is a luxury Lakhmeer cannot afford at the moment due to high health expenses and cigarette consumption. He is stuck in a vicious cycle where

he cannot spend on safe drinking water, further increasing health issues and expenses.

Lakhmeer was in dire need of guidance when the Social Mobilisation Team reached out to him and taught him and his family easy and effective ways to clean water without spending huge amounts of money.

They were instructed on how to maintain basic hygiene, proper usage of the latrine, and hand washing.

He was also told to quit smoking which was not just draining his health but also his wealth.

Today, even though proper sanitation facilities and access to safe drinking water remain a dream,

Lakhmeer's family is better off due to intervention and sensitisation by the UN-Habitat Social Mobilisation Team.

Story of a Labor Lady



We belong to a very poor family, my two children are under treatment. If we cannot even afford their health expenses, then how can we afford to purchase water?"

Rani Khatoon, age 45, Lashari
Muhalla, Jacobabad

Rani Khatoon, 45, lives in Mohalla Garhi Sabayo, UC-02, Lashari Mohalla, Jacobabad, with a blind son and a daughter suffering from malaria. Rani Khatoon and her husband are desperately trying to make ends meet by working as labourers in a brick kiln owned by Rani's brother. Mostly paid in kind of food, Rani cannot afford safe drinking water and yet has to spend 40 Rupees from the nominal income she receives to purchase two jerry cans of water daily.

When the UN-Habitat team interviewed her, Rani stated "we belong to a very poor family; my two children are under treat-

ment. If we cannot even afford their health expenses, then how can we afford to purchase water? I have to pay 20 rupees for one jerry can and we need two jerry cans a day. The donkey cart man has not come until now, so I will have to go to my neighbour's house to bring some water for cooking purposes." Constantly threatened by water-borne diseases Rani burst into tears when she was asked to comment on her condition. Such dismal stories can be found in every other home of Jacobabad.

The UN-Habitat Urban WASH team taught Rani and her husband that they do not have to give up on sanitation and drink

contaminated water just because they do not have access to the facilities. They were sensitised about how to maintain hygiene with whatever little resources they had and were taught methods to clean the accessible water for regular usage in their household such as washing dishes, bathing, cleaning etc. Today, Rani's daughter's health has improved and she is thankful to the UN-Habitat Urban WASH team for the timely intervention and improvement in their lives.

Safe drinking – A basic need

Shaheen spends the first two hours of her day collecting water, and yet this is still insufficient for rudimentary uses such as washing clothes and house cleaning. Water remains a scarce necessity for the residents of Muhalla Police Head Quarter, Jacobabad. Despite this dearth, Shaheen bathes her children daily to protect them from diseases resulting from lack of proper sanitation. This still doesn't prevent them from falling ill. When asked to comment on her practices, Shaheed explained "I spend the first two hours of my day collecting water. It is hardly ever sufficient, but I cannot compromise on my children's health, so I make them bathe daily."

She told the UN-Habitat Social Mobilisation Team that she wanted to improve the hygiene conditions of her household but did not know how to. She was subsequently taught efficient ways of utilising water, keeping her house sanitary, and methods to clean water and make it safe for drinking. Shaheen's house is now a good example for the entire Muhalla. It is neat, clean, and hygienic. In addition, her children do not fall ill and now go to school regularly, they get praised for their improved attendance record and clean appearance. She and her children have the admiration of community members and relatives who have started following their footsteps, making the entire

Muhalla Police Head Quarter more clean and hygienic.

"I spend the first two hours of my day collecting water. It is hardly ever sufficient, but I cannot compromise on my children's health, so I make them bathe daily."

Shaheen, Muhalla Police Head
Quarter, Jacobabad

Women farmers access land for the first time in Pakistan



Durdana is a young widow from Pakistan's Dadu District in Sindh Province. She is one of the 1,214 landless women farmers and sharecroppers who have received land tenancy rights for the first time in their life.

Commenting on her improved status, Durdana shares that farming means her whole life to her. "I do not know anything else but working in the fields. Who could think a poor female widow like me would ever be given land! For the first time in my life I can say something is mine. This land, as far as the eye can see, is mine - this paper says so. This is my land and I am its queen" she says beamingly.

UN Women Pakistan, in collaboration with local partners Baanhn Beli and Gorakh Foundation in Mirpur Khas and Dadu Districts respectively,

is working with 1,214 vulnerable rural women farmers such as Durdana with the aim of acquiring land tenancy rights from their feudal and tribal landholders. These landless women farmers were trained and mentored to prepare tenancy agreements and landholding maps with their male landlords. In the process, they have been provided with a viable livelihood option that could take them out of poverty and empower them.

Women's access to land rights is a critical asset for Durdana and other rural women who share her situation. Before becoming tenants and without the security this brings, they were unable to make long-term plans and invest in farming, protect themselves from the impacts of natural disasters, or even enhance their standards of

living. In many cases these women were coerced to leave their lands when the crop cycle was at the final harvesting stage, resulting in heavy economic losses and psychological trauma for them and their families. In the absence of formal written agreements they were unable to protect their rights to reap the full benefits of their crop. The Province of Sindh has the highest rate of landlessness in Pakistan. Whilst the Sindh Tenancy Amendment Act 2013 protects tenants and peasant farmers, its weak implementation makes women farmers at risk of insecure verbal tenancy arrangements. Through these tenancy agreements, feudal and tribal male landlords lease their terrains to women farmers for an agreed period of time, giving them access to the land, a place to live, and the possibility of operating the farms according to their plans, while receiving a portion of profit from the crops grown. This initiative titled "Livelihood restoration, protection and sustainable empowerment of vulnerable peasant communities in Sindh province", implemented by UN Women, FAO, and ILO under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security, is expected to contribute greatly to rural transformation and women's empowerment, and can be replicated across Pakistan with the guidance and support of partners, landlords, and local governments.

WoW! Women on Wheels reclaim the roads for gender equality



To spot women on motorbikes is a rare occurrence in Pakistan, where men traditionally dominate the roads. This changed on January 10, when more than 80 young women gathered for a historical female motorbike rally on Kashmir Road in Lahore.

What started off as an initiative by the Special Monitoring Unit for Law and Order (SMU) by the Chief Minister's office in Punjab, turned into 'WoW- Women on Wheels', a motorbike training program run by the Lahore Traffic Police, aimed at increasing women's mobility, and combatting street harassment and other forms of violence in public spaces for women and girls. The initiative is supported by the Women Development

Department of the Punjab Province and UN Women Pakistan.

"No city in the world can claim to be smart and sustainable if half of its population is not safe and lives in fear of violence. We are pleased to see that the City of Lahore clearly recognises this reality and we look forward to continuing our strong collaboration with our provincial and municipal partners in Punjab to intensify efforts in meeting the new globally agreed gender equality goals (SDG5)" said UN Women Country Representative Mr. Jamshed M. Kazi.

"We want to claim our right to ride motorbikes just like the men" said Ms. Rubina Atta, 23, a Masters degree student in special education at the Punjab Uni-

versity. "I want to be able to go to university by motorbike as it will save me a lot of time, and give me full independence". Having attended training three times a week for the past month with a few friends, she now feels confident enough to face the traffic on her own. "My husband is slightly nervous as he is worried about me getting injured, but he fully supports me and is proud of my participation here today".

"I am also a woman on wheels, and I also had to re-claim my right to public space" said UN Women National Ambassador Ms. Muniba Mazari after sharing the story of how she ended up in a wheelchair due to a car accident. Mazari encouraged participants to be

strong and become an inspiration to all girls and women in Pakistan.

Danish Chargée d’Affaires Ms. Helle Nielsen, American Consul General in Lahore Mr. Zachary Harkenrider, Provincial Minister for Population Welfare Ms. Zakia Shahnawaz, and Member of the National Assembly Ms. Maiza Hameed also gave their remarks and praised the women for their courage.

Before hitting the road for the rally, participants attended a seminar at Alhamra Hall where they received certificates for having completed the training under the guidance of the Lahore Traffic Police. Mr. Salman Sufi, Senior Member of the SMU Law and Order, spoke words of encouragement while the Capital City Police officer Captain Muhammad Ameen Wains promised women that the Lahore Traffic Police will work to help and assist them if they face any problem of harassment or un-safety. Captain Wains also announced that a mobile phone application will be launched soon, allowing women in distress to get help from the nearest police warden.

Sadaf Imran, 28, a mother of four was encouraged by her husband Imran Amjum to join the WoW initiative. “My husband works in the Rescue 1122 service here in Lahore so his working hours are sometimes unpredictable. It makes our lives much easier when I can drop off and pick up our children from school by motorbike”. Mr. Imran nodded his head and recalled: “recently my wife even saved my father’s life when he faced an emergency situation while I was at work. She put him on the back of the motorbike, strapped his hands around her waist and drove him to the hospital just in time. I was so grateful and proud of her!” The couple brought their two-year old son, Hassan,

to the WoW event so he could join the rally on his mother’s motorbike. “I am a tailor by profession, and now that I have received proper training, I will start delivering the clothes by motorbike to customers around Lahore. I want to be a role model for other women, and that is why I have put this eagle pin on my sweater today which says ‘Pioneer’. I am serious about this”.

Austrian Ambassador Dr. Brigitta Blaha, and Ms. Asma Jahangir, eminent lawyer and founding member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, both joined the rally riding at the back of the women’s motorbikes. Ms. Juvena Huang, a motorbike enthusiast from Singapore who is currently travelling the world solo on her Vespa scooter also participated in the WoW rally. She has been on the road for the past 8 months and has travelled through Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, India, and coincidentally happened to be in Pakistan at the time of the rally, on her way towards Europe. She was invited by UN Women to join the event and found it very inspiring. “During the two months I travelled around Pakistan I have only met one Pakistani girl on a motorbike, so this is great!” she said with a big smile.

Dr. Saima Chaudry, a 34-year old Doctor, joined the rally and brought her mother with her. “My mother is the strongest supporter for me to become a motorbike rider. She thinks that all women should learn how to ride a motorbike, and has promised me that she will support me financially to buy a scooter”. Her father and brothers are sceptical and think that motorbikes are for men, but she decided to learn how to drive safely and with confidence. “I was tired of wasting time at bus stops so I have started driving to my clinic on



a motorbike. It will take some time, but my brothers will get used to it eventually”. Having made many new friends during the training, Saima now plans to form a riding group with other women in order to encourage each other to stay strong and tackle the male-dominated traffic scene of Lahore. “We want to inspire other women when they see us drive, and we aim for a WoW effect!” she concluded enthusiastically.

Before the rally, the Minister for Women Development Hameeda Waheeduddin announced that the government will distribute 1000 scooters to working women and students at a 50 percent subsidised rate under the WoW project during the upcoming International Women’s Day.

The WoW initiative is expected to be replicated in other cities across Punjab and gradually to the rest of Pakistan.

Women learn to preserve foods as a means to end hunger



Almost five years ago and nearly every year since, the Districts of Dadu and Mirpur Khas in Sindh Province have been affected with devastating floods caused by heavy rains, exposing local communities and villages to hunger, destruction, and displacement. In cases of shortfall of rain, these people once more experience hunger and displacement. “Due to the heavy floods we were never able to harvest much and we were always left hungry and without food. The flood water level would not go down and aid would take forever to come to us. An urgent necessity

for our community during these times was shelter, a place to live, and food for times in need,” shared Champa, 38, a peasant woman from Mirpur Khas.

Providing Champa, her family and community with an opportunity to become food secure during natural calamities in the future, UN Women in collaboration with the Strengthening Participatory Organisation, a local partner, provided hands-on training on new methods and techniques in food and farming preservation.

Women, girls, men, and boys were provided with locally grown and available

vegetables (such as lady fingers, green beans, peas, mushrooms, cluster beans, bitter gourd, and apple gourds), pulses and spices, and knives, cutters, water, chemicals, and crockery. They were taught the process of cutting, boiling, chemical mixing and drying in a manner that their produces could be stored and used for up to five years. They were also taught how to package and store their dried vegetables, pulses, and spices.

Through this initiative, over 970 local farmers of which 807 are women from 40 local villages have benefitted from adopting alternative food preservation methods.

Commenting on the training she received, Champa said, “the training has been very beneficial for us and our community. We have learned a new way of food preservation and storage. We are applying the skills learned and have food available for a rainy day. When we have more than enough food stored we sell it in our village shop to earn some extra money to buy seeds.” This initiative of UN Women, FAO and ILO under the UN Trust Fund for Human Security titled, “Livelihood restoration, protection and sustainable empowerment of vulnerable peasant communities in Sindh province”, will have a significant impact on food security and benefit the villages during times of natural disasters and weather challenges.

Women Produce Pickles and Juices for Income Generation



From mixed vegetable and mango pickles to fruit jams and seasonal juices, packaged in little plastic jars, rural women from Sindh Province, Pakistan, are entering local business to generate income.

UN Women Pakistan in collaboration with a local partner- the Strengthening Participatory Organisation- trained local women who are mostly engaged in subsistence farming and other small scale activities to become entrepreneurs.

With their limited knowledge and tra-

ditional methods of food preservation, the women were introduced to modern techniques for producing edible products that can be preserved such as mixed vegetables and mango pickles, apple jam, and mango juices. In the process, they have been provided with tools and products such as vegetables and fruit, gloves, aprons, knives, water, chemicals, containers, and bottles. The women have also developed skills in packaging, storing and marketing.

The women were experts in preparing

pickle the traditional way; the training taught them new methods and techniques that they are now incorporating. They are able to produce a variety of vegetable pickles, jams and juices, and preserve a good quantity of them, which they can then sell to earn extra money for their families and children's education.

Speaking of her experience, Nusrat bibi from Dadu District recounts, "when we went to the local market to sell our home-made pickle and juices for the first time, we were amazed

because the money we received in return was unexpected. It was then that we realised we can do something by ourselves and generate income.”
“The women have shown great enthusiasm during the sessions. They have learned how to manufacture

Human Security. Testimonial - Delli Kolhi’s “Special” Pickle
Delli Kolhi, 34, is a peasant woman from Mirpur Khas District. She lives with her husband, two daughters and three sons in a joint family system. Like other village women, she wakes

sought after - whatever went to the market was sold and this meant a lot to me. By learning a new modern technique in pickle-making, my pickles can be preserved for longer. When Kanjee sells my pickles, the money he receives gives us confidence that we



a variety of pickles and juices using seasonal home grown crops, and locally purchasable produces. They are now able to apply their skills and feel secure in terms of availability of food in every season,” shared Mr. Faiz Muhammad Baloch, a trainer from Sindh’s Horticulture Department.
This initiative titled, “Livelihood restoration, protection and sustainable empowerment of vulnerable peasant communities in Sindh province”, is implemented by UN Women, FAO, and ILO under the UN Trust Fund for

up in the early morning and heads off to the local fields to help her husband Kanjee, as cultivation is their main source of living. Delli’s community faces ups and down in crop production, weather pattern changes and water availability for crops, but Delli remains optimistic.
Delli recounts “Natural disasters and displacement over the years have affected my household income. The changing market demands meant I couldn’t sell my home-made pickles and juices anymore. My pickles were

can manage multiple tasks such as agriculture field work, taking care of the livestock, looking after the house and running our own little business. This is so inspiring and we believe that in the future we can expand our pickle production and sales. I also give credit to my mother-in-law who takes a lot of interest and helps me to attract buyers of my special pickles.”

Recovering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition - “Shahnaz”



Shahnaz’s father Ashraf Ali is a manual labourer in a nearby market of village Ramak, Mohallah Bala, Khankhyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and earns around PKR 250-350 (USD 2-3) per day. She is the youngest child of the family and has 4 elder sisters and 2 brothers (seven children in the household). According to her mother Nawab Bibi, Shahnaz was deprived of exclusive breastfeeding and colostrum (mother’s first milk) due to traditional taboos and practices, advocating for honey, green tea and other local drinks as “Ghutti” (first feed after birth). The complementary feeding history of Shahnaz was not satisfactory and reflected a lack of diversity. Shahnaz’s mother Nawab Bibi was also illiterate and lacked knowledge on food diversity, density and frequency of complementary feeding approach during the first two years of life. Shahnaz was mostly fed with staple foods consumed by her family. In addition, according to Nawab Bibi, the time between her last two pregnancies was only one and a half years.

Shahnaz was referred from the village of Ramak, by the outreach workers of FPHC (NGO partner of WFP) and registered in the nutrition site of a Basic Health Unit (BHU) located in Meeran Union Council (UC) on 7 October 2015. She was also instantly examined by an on-duty

government doctor to determine whether she suffered from any underlying diseases, and appetite test results proved that her appetite was intact. After MUAC confirmation and registration, the child was regularly followed-up by community outreach workers every two-weeks and provided with locally produced WFP Ready-to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF), sachets of Acha Mum (100 grams each) for daily consumption. During follow-up sessions, outreach workers also provided counselling support to her mother on breastfeeding and complementary feeding, health and hygiene, proper use of WFP provided RUSF and local sources of nutritious foods. Shahnaz responded well to the treatment to improvements started being observed in her weight as well as her MUAC. After the total duration of her stay in the programme (75 days), she graduated as a “cured” child. Shahnaz was regularly followed-up by the FPHC Nutrition assistants and community outreach workers on a biweekly basis. During each visit, outreach workers counselled the child’s mother on essential nutrition and health messages related to infant health such as breastfeeding and complementary feeding, health and hygiene, proper use of WFP specialized nutritious foods (Acha Mum) and locally available

sources of nutritious food. Probable factors contributing to Shahnaz’s malnutrition included poor economic conditions leading to household food insecurity and lack of complementary food diversity and frequency. The family is dependent on staple foods such as wheat flour and pulses or vegetables. The only source of family income is daily wage labor. Other factors may include multiple pregnancies and lack of prenatal care and postnatal care (distance from the closest health facility is three kilometers), Lack of awareness on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices and hygiene and probable incomplete vaccination profile and history of frequent episodes of chest infection and diarrhea since birth (no EPI card). To ensure care compliance, the child’s mother was provided counselling support both at admission stage and during follow-up visits regarding breastfeeding, complementary feeding, proper use of ready to use supplementary food (Acha Mum), importance of hand washing before feeding the children and after using the toilet. Shahnaz’s mother Nawab Bibi was happy with the improvement of her daughter’s health and thanked all the people and organizations, particularly WFP and FPHC, who were involved in provision of nutrition ser-

vices. She also assured the teams that she will work as community volunteer to spread what she had learned to other mothers and community members. “Through this programme, I learned how to manage my child’s nutrition and health-care within our economic limits and make proper use of nutritious foods provided by WFP combined with other local sources of foods. I will continue sharing what I have learned with my relatives and neighbors and strongly encourage them to refer to the nutrition services and health information provided by outreach workers.” said Nawab Bibi.



FATA Farmers Grow Crops on Their Land Again



Some 32,000 families who had recently returned to their homes in Khyber, Kurram and South Waziristan Agencies of FATA have planted wheat, vegetables, and fodder on their land last autumn, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). The effort was sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Families are already harvesting vegetables for cooking and fodder for their livestock, and are looking forward to the wheat harvest in May. FAO specialists estimate that due to the quality of the seed provided, wheat yields should reach 800kg-

1,000kg per acre of land – some 25% higher than the usual yields in the area. “This will ensure that the returnee families in most need in FATA have food and income, as well as feed for their animals,” says FAO Country Representative in Pakistan, Patrick T. Evans. This assistance seeks to support the return of the population which has been displaced from their homes during the recent instability, military operations, and natural disasters across FATA. Since March 2015, the Government of Pakistan has been working with various stakeholders to facilitate the return of these families to their homes. This effort requires extensive support from the Government and the donor com-

munity to ensure that the returning families have sufficient means to revive agricultural activities on their land, feed themselves and their livestock, and earn income.

FAO efforts currently focus on the most vulnerable households in Khyber, Kurram, South agencies of FATA; in the coming months, activities will also expand to North Waziristan agency as well. Work is being conducted in partnership with the FATA Secretariat. USAID and JICA have provided US\$8.3 million and US\$5 million respectively for this project. In the coming months, approximately 80,000 households (some 600,000 women, men, and children) in FATA will receive support under this project. Assistance includes distribution of quality seed for the Rabi and Kharif seasons, rehabilitation of water courses and fruit orchards, establishment of fruit nurseries, land reclamation, animal vaccination, and supplemental feeding for animals. Thousands of farmers, line department staff and agricultural service providers will receive agricultural training. Vast majority of the FATA residents rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. In cooperation with USAID and JICA, we are helping temporarily displaced persons to start farming on their lands again,” says Evans.

FAO, NDMA and Related Institutions Finalize the Institutional Assessment on How Disaster Risk Management is integrated in the Agriculture Sector



The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), together with representatives from the national, provincial, and regional level Disaster Management Authorities, other relevant institutions, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) finalised the Institutional Assessment on the integration of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) into the Agriculture Sector of Pakistan. A workshop conducted on 22nd January 2016 at the FAO office served as the final discussion to finalize the findings and recommendations of the assessment, and obtain the endorsement of all key stakeholders.

Each year, Pakistan is struck by a multitude of natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, droughts, landslides or avalanches, amongst others.

Agriculture is one of the sectors most affected by these phenomena. With a 21 percent share of the national GDP and a 45 percent share of Pakistan's total workforce, it is crucial that the sector is able to prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters. This assessment is a key tool to further develop the capacity of the agriculture sector institutions to mainstream disaster risk management, with a special focus on disaster risk reduction, in their planning and action. The study has been carried out together with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in order to identify the areas and measures which need to be strengthened. Comprehensive interviews with all key stakeholders, including vulnerable communities, provincial, regional, and

district level disaster management authorities, CSOs, and all government departments responsible for the agriculture sector were carried out. It also identified the strengths and weaknesses, as well as needs of disaster risk management systems of all relevant institutions. The process was validated through a series of workshops with key stakeholders across the country.

The study will open new avenues to address the gaps and integrate DRR in the agriculture sector. The assessment will be published by FAO and, in collaboration with NDMA, will be distributed to all the stakeholders. The NDMA will work with them to pursue the implementation of the recommendations of the study.



Workshop: Radio Saves Lives



UN Information Centre (UNIC) together with UNESCO Islamabad and the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) commemorated World Radio Day 2016 under the sub theme, “Radio Saves Lives”, in Islamabad. More than 130 reporters and producers from the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, radio experts, and representatives from the United Nations System in Pakistan highlighted the work of the UN system, as well as the importance of the radio in times of emergencies and disaster situations.

The Director of the UN Information Centre, Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, in his opening remarks gave a snapshot of the

work of the UN System in Pakistan, followed by interactive panel discussions by representatives of other UN agencies working in different thematic areas. He applauded the role of Radio Pakistan as a viable means of communication as it extends to almost 90 % of the country’s population. He also extended his gratitude to Radio Pakistan for the dissemination of key messages and production of live programmes about the work of the United Nations in the Country.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan highlighted that UNESCO is striving to highlight the impact of the Radio in times of emergency and dis-

aster, especially in 2016. She said that the radio could be used to engage local communities and local authorities through various radio programmes such as Peace Debate, Radio Peace Reporting, Radio Dramas to promote peace and social cohesion at grass root level. Speaking as panelists on the role of the radio and best practices in times of emergency and disaster situations, Saad Hafeez and Shahzad Asad from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM); Amjad Qammar, Media Expert, Aitebar Programme; Asif Khan, Country Representative Pakistan at DW Akademie, and Riaz Khan from UNESCO Islamabad deliberated on the issues and shared experiences on humanitarian and disaster reporting, programming, production, ethics, and dissemination of information while covering disaster and humanitarian stories. They encouraged the radio producers and trainees to adopt professional reporting approaches, standards, and ethics while covering stories related to the affected communities in any disaster.

Radio Talk Show: FM 100 Islamabad

UNESCO Islamabad, in partnership with FM 100 Islamabad organised a radio talk show to mark World Radio Day 2016. The radio talk show was facilitated through the special messages of Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan, and Mr. Guy Berger, Director, Freedom of Expression and

Media Development, UNESCO Paris. UNESCO also coordinated and facilitated participation of representatives and radio experts from different UN agencies and organisations. Those present were Ms. Dunya Aslam Khan, Public Information Officer, UNHCR Pakistan, Mr. Aktar Uddin, UNV Programme Officer – Paki-

stan at UN Volunteers, Amjad Qammar, Media Expert, Aitebar Programme, and Riaz Khan, Programme Officer, Communication and Information at UNESCO Islamabad.

Seminar: Commemoration of World Radio Day 2016 at Lahore Press Club



The Media Foundation in collaboration with Lahore Press Club and with the support from UNESCO Islamabad, organised a World Radio Day Seminar at the Lahore Press Club. The event was attended by senior and mid-level public private broadcast journalists, representatives of the Lahore Press Club, academia, and officials of the Director General Services Academy – Rescue 1122 Lahore. The speakers highlighted the historical background and development of the radio as a means of information. The discussions encompassed the importance of the radio in times of disaster and emergency situations and shared personal experiences in situations where the dissemination

of information through the radio managed to save lives and led people to adopt precautionary measures. They shared that simple technology and cost effectiveness of establishing radio broadcasting are added advantages to its widespread reach, which cannot be matched with any other communications means. Speakers stressed on the need to acknowledge the importance of the radio and the efforts of professionals who work with this type of media to facilitate the power that can be exercised in the distribution of information in times of emergency and disasters. Those who addressed the seminar included, Khawar Naeem Hashmi, Program Manager Radio Pa-

kistan Lahore; Sohail Basra, Senior Broadcast Journalist; Tarvir Shahzad, Senior Broadcaster and Head of Mass Communication Department at Baha-uddin Zikria University Lahore Campus; Imtiaz-ul-Huq, Special Representative of DG Emergency Services Academy Rescue 1122 Lahore and Jam Sajjad, Shahbaz Mian and Shadab Riaz, officer bearers of Lahore Press Club. They commended the role of The Media Foundation and UNESCO for organising the seminar on this important topic. At the concluding of seminar, a cake cutting ceremony was held, especially designed for World Radio Day 2016.



UNESCO Islamabad join hands with Radio Tribal News Network for broadcasting special report on World Radio Day 2016

Tribal News Network (TNN), a news agency serving radio audiences in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas aired a special report in its news programme on World Radio Day 2016. The radio report was aired from ten TNN partner radio stations including Global FM, D.I.Khan; Lak-

ki FM 88, Lakki Marwat; FM Tehzeeb, Peshawar/Khyber Agency; FM Shamal, Bajaur Agency; FM Dilber, Charsadda; FM Dilber, Swabi; FM Voice of Time, Hasan Abadal; FM Chiltan, Quetta; FM Tuheed, Kunar- Afghanistan and FM Speen Ghar, Jalalabad – Afghanistan. The radio report was complemented

with a special message from Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan on the occasion of World Radio Day 2016.

UNESCO and UNWOMEN in collaboration with Radio Pakistan Quetta organized radio talk show to mark the World Radio Day 2016



The radio talk show was participated to by Mr. Zahid Saleem, Director General, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), Balochistan, along with representatives of the University of Balochistan, Radio Pakistan,

UN Women and Civil Society Organisations. The participants discussed the importance of the radio and highlighted the most vulnerable groups in time of disaster and emergency situations. They stated that women, children, and people

requiring special assistance suffer the most in emergency situations due to lack of communication. DG PDMA suggested that the radio is the most effective means of communicating during disasters as it is easily available and affordable by all segments of society. The participants also realised that radio programmes in local languages are effective, keeping in view the targeted region. They applauded UNESCO's role and support in organising the radio talk show.



Provincial Consultation on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG- 4), Karachi



As part of the national consultation on sustainable development goals (SDG-4) UNESCO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Provincial Education Sindh jointly organised the first provincial consultation in Karachi on 22-23 February, 2016.

The consultative workshop aimed at understanding and improving the knowledge of the education sector stakeholders in order to review the education sector plan and policies across the province, ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030, in light of SDG-4's goals and targets.

More than 80 participants including officials of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFE&PT), Provincial Educational

Ministry of Sindh, civil society organisations, academia, media, United Nations agencies and donor community attended the workshop.

SDG -4 calls for a clear commitment to quality, inclusiveness, and lifelong learning for the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It demands that all children in Pakistan have access to quality and equitable education which is a challenge that cannot wait, as education must be seen as a basic human right.

Mr. Nisar Khuro, Senior Minister for Education and Literacy, Government of Sindh in his key-note speech appreciated the efforts taken at the international level to develop SDG-4 and considered all SDGs equally important for the development of Pakistan. He assured

government commitment to achieve all targets of SDG-4 and considered Sindh Education Sector Plan as the milestone to achieve the SDG-4 in the province of Sindh. In his concluding remarks Mr. Baligh Ur- Rehman, Minister of States, Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training said that the provision of free compulsory education to all children aged 5-16 is the responsibility of the government, however due to limited resources, the achievement of all goals is challenging. He mentioned that the current government is committed to achieve the SDG-4 goals and has already developed an SDG committee within the federal ministry consisting of members from each province and area.



Technical workshop held at Karachi and Makli on Glazed Tile Conservation for culture and archeology department's technical staff



UNESCO is supporting the conservation of glazed tiles at Karachi and Makli. In this regard, a two day technical workshop was organised under UNESCO's Community Involvement and Sustainable Development project at the Makli World Heritage Site. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the technical capacity of relevant staff from the department of culture Sindh, Directorate of culture Balochistan, Federal Directorate of Archaeology & Museum and Directorate of Archaeology Punjab. Ms. Elena Agnini, Ceramics expert, Dr. Michael Jansen, and Ms. Yasmeen Lari, Executive Director Heritage Foundation also attended the workshop as source persons. The technical workshop began with opening remarks by Mr. Qasim Ali Qasim, Director General of Archaeology and welcomed by Ms. Vibeke Jensen, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan.

Junhi Han, Programme Specialist, World Heritage Centre gave an over-

view of the project and apprised the participants with the background, objectives, and activities of the interventions. The technical workshop was facilitated by Dr. Jansen through presentation on the needs for guidelines for tile conservation, followed by a presentation on the experiences and best practices from different countries delivered by Mrs. Alena Agnini, Ceramic and Tile Expert. A detailed presentation on the baseline survey was carried out in Makli, Hala, and Hyderabad regarding the past and present tile work and existing practices.

An on-site training visit to Makli World Heritage Site was organised for the participants and experts, and they were showed the existing kiln for tile baking and briefed on the various sections and their use. Ms. Elena Agnini examined the Kiln in detail and a technical discussion was held with heritage foundation team Yasmeen Lari to seek the possibility for improving the design

of the kiln and required quality of glazed tile. Later, the team visited three tombs to examine the conservation work and issues of settling of tombs on the ridge side with support from US and Germany Embassies at Jam Nizam-ud-Din tomb, Sultan Ibrahim tomb and Jan Baba Tomb.

At the concluding session, the participants saw the display of glazed tiles made by the local artisans identified under the UNESCO project at Makli. Experts held discussions with artisans through interpreters regarding the material, design and technique of the tiles. The artisans promised they will work with UNESCO's tile experts to produce the glazed tiles using ancient techniques during the planned 3-month on-site workshop.



DG PDMA KPK inaugurated the Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Capacity Building Workshop in Peshawar



The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in close collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (APDC) and Community Resilience Initiative (CRI), held a two-day long workshop for capacity building and support to the Government at the National and Provincial level under the “Supporting Government in developing more synergised, cohesive, and inclusive disaster risk management policies” Project. Mr. Amer Afaq, Director General for PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, attended as Chief Guest and inaugurated this capacity building workshop which focused on Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment in two districts: Chitral and D.I. Khan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Experts from the government, academia,

and the humanitarian sector attended the event and discussed the challenges pertaining to improved DRM policies, various assessment tools including remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and their use and importance in disaster management. In addition they participated in group discussions and activities leading to valuable suggestions to improve DRM policies. Ms. Sumera Izhar and Mr. Asad ur Rehman of UN-Habitat, Dr. Shafique, Dr. Amir Khan, Mr. Asif Khan, Dr. Anwar Saeed Khan, and Mr. Naveed of CRI imparted valuable information regarding the project’s process, results, and findings and gave suggestions to scale-up the benefits at the National and Provincial level. Notables from other districts and communities from divisional headquarters (Abbottabad, Swat, Mardan, Kohat, and Bannu) did not only actively participate in

the discussions but also provided valuable contributions and suggestions from their experience.

The Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessments were carried out in Chitral and D.I. Khan with the involvement of the government, and academic and science-based institutions. Local or community engagement and participation during project implementation was a significant component, allowing the grassroots expertise to be consulted to the maximum extent possible. Dissemination of information and transfer of knowledge to relevant National, Provincial, and District officials was undertaken along with defining roles and responsibilities to facilitate effective coordination among all stakeholders in increasing resilience in these districts and successfully managing repeated disasters.



Forensic Document Examination workshop at Bacha Khan International Airport



With the aim of empowering Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency's immigration officials and the frontline staff of airlines operating at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar, within the framework of UNODC COPAK's ongoing activities under its sub-program on human trafficking, a two-day hands-on training workshop was delivered on 15-16 February 2016 at the airport. The workshop's objective was to raise the level of awareness related to the increased use of fraudulent documents, amongst law enforcement officials and airline staff.

Bacha Khan International is the fourth busiest airport in the country; but this was the first training held on security document examination in the last ten years.

The participants came from various organisations such as FIA, PIA, Emirates, Shaheen Air, Air Blue, Qatar Airways, Saudi Arabian Airlines,

Dnata, and RAS, and found this opportunity beneficial for learning and sharing their knowledge with each other, to enable better understanding of the subject, and to facilitate alignment for further cooperation.

The training was intended to enhance the practical knowledge and skill-sets of immigration officers, in order for them to actively detect forged and fraudulently obtained documents. In addition discerning printing techniques in an attempt to overcome the growing challenges and complexities around migrant smuggling were fostered, as migrants from KPK try to reach Oman, the UAE, and other GCC or Middle Eastern countries. The senior management of FIA and GMs from the airlines involved visited the venue, and were grateful to UNODC for providing this valuable training.

Police and Civil Society Have Vital Role in Curbing HTMS: Federal Investigation Agency



The Federal Investigation Agency and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Pakistan organised two sessions at the Hotel Hospitality Inn Lahore, for police officers and civil society representatives respectively. The sessions aimed to sensitise both groups on the adverse impacts of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as on the need for their prevention and eradication.

This gathering followed-up on a related event organised on 25 November 2015 in the capital, for the Islamabad/Rawalpindi region. As per their roles, the FIA controls crimes concerning external human trafficking, and the Police interdict offences related to internal human trafficking. Their collaborative actions can be beneficial towards curbing

the issue as a whole.

The event was chaired by Dr. Usman Anwer, Director FIA Punjab Zone, who highlighted the importance of the police's role in both prevention and control of human trafficking, since taking internal human traffickers into custody and cases under the Pakistan Penal Code is their responsibility.

In addition, several sessions were conducted by Mr. Sajid Akram (Deputy Director FIA), Ms. Shahida Gillani (Programme Officer UNODC), Maj Amir Malik (Senior Research Officer UNODC), Mr. Arsalan Malik (Assistant Director General Immigration, Punjab Zone FIA), and others; sharing statistics and details of interventions carried out to control human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The events were attended by a large number of police officials from the Lahore region, civil society representatives, opinion makers, journalists, NGOs, and representatives from the judiciary. Certain areas were identified in various spheres related to HTMS, and a better understanding of issues was thus achieved with an agreement to act together against the scourge and negative effects of HTMS. The sessions were concluded optimistically, and the efforts of UNODC and FIA were appreciated by all participants who resolved to further strengthen collaboration between UNODC, FIA, and other stakeholders in achieving these objectives.



Findings from Pakistan's first Integrated Resource Recovery Center in Islamabad shared by UN-Habitat, UN-ESCAP, and Partners



The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change disseminated the lessons learnt from Pakistan's first Integrated Resource Recovery Center (IRRC) through a dissemination workshop at the national level.

The IRRC is a pilot project of UN-ESCAP and UN-Habitat enabling the city to turn waste into resources through composting, recycling, and bio-digestion, while at the same time creating employment opportunities. The IRRC receives 3 tonnes of municipal solid

waste per day from surrounding local communities and nearby vegetable markets, and produces compost and biogas. A pilot project will test the feasibility of this model in Pakistan and its potential for replication in other sectors in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. In the medium term, the replication of this model to other cities of Pakistan is envisaged.

Representatives from the MOCC, the Economic Affairs Division Government of Pakistan, the Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms, JKCHS, AHKMT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNDP, Arid Agriculture University, WSSP, NSUSC, Municipal Corporation Muzaffarabad, ADC Muzaffarabad, WASA Hyder-

abad, Gujranwala WMC, Rawalpindi WMC, HANDS, IUCN, and the Local body elected representatives attended the workshop, along with other notables from the private housing societies, development sector, and academia.

Improving waste management is an urgent priority in a fast-growing, middle-income country such as Pakistan. UN-ESCAP has been promoting the IRRC model across the Asia-Pacific and it has proven an effective and affordable solution, especially in secondary cities and small towns. The pilot in sector G-15 in Islamabad depicts that such solutions have a great potential in Pakistan as well. The pilot project showcases the collaborative efforts of the Government, UN-ESCAP and UN-Habitat, communities, civil society, and academia. It has not only improved facilities for the collection, recycling, treatment, and disposal of solid waste, but has significantly contributed to the cost-effective, sustainable, and climate-friendly management of solid waste while highlighting the potential of turning waste into resources.

UNIDO GCIP-Pakistan Media Event - “Celebrating Success of Global and National Winners” was held in Islamabad at ICCI



An event titled “Celebrating Success” was organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) at the Chamber House in Islamabad on 11 February 2016 to celebrate the remarkable success of the ‘Global Cleantech Innovation Programme for SMEs and Startups’ (GCIP), a competition and accelerator programme promoting innovations in the area of clean technologies. The event aimed at raising awareness on the need for clean technology innovations and to connect winners with venture capitalists from Pakistan by showcasing their technologies through the media. The ceremony was attended by more than 80 high-ranking officials and dignitaries, cleantech winners and alumni, partners and stakeholders, UN

agencies, international donor agencies, representatives from government institutions and industries, along with a large number of media companies.

In 2015, while completing its second cycle, GCIP-Pakistan has supported fifty-five SMEs and startups in Pakistan through a programme involving extensive mentoring, training, access to investors, and showcasing opportunities. ICCI distributed certificates among the winners, runner ups, and the Most Promising Woman-Lead Team. The programme culminated with five winners being awarded US\$ 15,000 to US\$ 20,000, and given the opportunity to participate in the Cleantech Open Global Forum held in Silicon Valley, USA. The visit would give the participants ex-

posure and would enable them to mobilise capital from international investors and venture capital firms. One of the national runner-up teams, TAWANAI which developed an agricultural dry bio-waste gasifier was additionally recognised as the best 2015 GCIP Runner-up in the Waste-to-Energy category at the global level.

GCIP for SMEs and startups, simultaneously implemented in Armenia, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey and South Africa, aims to enhance emerging clean technology startups and strengthen policy frameworks for innovation. The programme takes a competition and accelerator approach to select the best cleantech entrepreneurs and support them to develop their innovative technologies into fully fledged market-ready products. The programme is unique in terms of the development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem for fostering innovations in clean technologies and its impact on overall economy of the country. It helps create new industries that bring about new jobs and prosperity, while simultaneously preserving the environment. The project mobilised the highest number of applicants as compared to other countries, with the significant participation of women and youth.





UN Women promotes Women's Empowerment through Food Tech



UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, organised a skills development workshop on 'Women and Food Tech Sharing Economy: Employability and Empowerment' to enable women to focus on self-efficiency and resourcefulness through innovation. The training took place at the Hospitality Inn from 25- 29 January and was widely attended.

Participants included social entrepreneurs, international and local NGOs, homebased workers (including marginalised and transgender individuals), technology institutes, IT students, food bloggers, and

representatives from UN agencies in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi.

Mr. Vimlendu Jha and Mr. Pratik Kumar, two social entrepreneurs from India, were invited to facilitate the workshop. Training sessions were based on the successful pioneering social venture in India "Million Kitchen", a mobile-based home-made food ordering platform that enables home-cooked meals to be delivered at one's doorstep. The aim of UN Women's initiative is to introduce and replicate this innovative approach for home-based women workers in Pakistan, enabling them to access new markets and generate income through ICT, and further create employability, enterprise development, and women's economic empowerment.

UN Women brought together a diverse array of stakeholders who discussed, experimented, and tested their prototypes throughout the workshop. Participants received trainings on administration, budgeting and ICT, all leading up to a practicum on Thursday 28 January, where home-based women workers successfully sold their home-cooked food online. At the closing session all participants shared their positive experiences. Closing remarks were given by the chief guest Ms. Amna Imam, Secretary

for Women and Development Department (WDD), Government of Punjab. She applauded the women for taking the opportunity to learn about economic empowerment and encouraged the participants to use these skills for income generation.

Ms. Fauzia Viqar, Chair of the Provincial Commission on the Status of Women, Government of Punjab, welcomed the initiative and urged the participants to continue the project.

UN Women was able to conduct this event successfully with the support of the Danish Embassy in Pakistan, the Pakistan Innovation Foundation, WeCreate, the Lahore College for Women University, the School of Leadership in Karachi, Million Kitchen, and all the implementing partners who participated in the workshop.

Pakistan's Fiza Farhan appointed Member of the UN's first-ever High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment



Ms. Fiza Farhan from Pakistan has been appointed Member of the first ever High-Level Panel of the UN Secretary-General on Women's Economic Empowerment. The establishment of this distinguished panel was announced in January at the World Economic Forum in Davos with UN Women - the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women - serving as its secretariat.

The Panel will provide recommendations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to improve economic outcomes for women and promote wom-

en's leadership in driving sustainable and inclusive, environmentally sensitive economic growth. It will provide recommendations for key actions that can be taken by governments, the private sector, the UN system and other stakeholders, as well as policy directives needed to achieve the new targets and indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals which call for the economic empowerment of women, and benefits all. The panel is backed by the United Kingdom, the World Bank Group and UN Women. As a Member of the first-ever High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, Fiza will join leaders of

the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group, UN Women and a diverse range of eminent gender and equality actors, economics experts, academics, trade union leaders, and business and government representatives from across the world

Fiza is the Chief Executive Officer of the Buksh Foundation and Director of the Buksh Energy Pvt Ltd. She holds honoree titles of Co-Chairperson, Italian Development Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan, Future Energy Leader at the World Energy Council and has received multiple honours over the years including the 2016 Influential Leader Award by AACSB (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and the 2016 Women Entrepreneurs Achievement Award amongst others. Fiza was also part of the "30under30" list compiled by Forbes magazine for Social Entrepreneurs in 2015.

Speaking of her appointment Fiza said: "it is indeed an honour for me to represent Pakistan and the women of Pakistan on this prestigious High-Level Panel. Gender equality, economic justice and the socio-economic empowerment of women are critical for us to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is time that we engage global leadership and galvanise political will to scale actions with measurable impact towards women's economic empowerment."



Pakistan's Muniba Mazari Calls for Support to Sustainable Development Goal 5



With an appeal that transcends different generations, Muniba Mazari, Pakistan's National Ambassador for UN Women calls for public support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on Goal 5 to "Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls."

Speaking at the UN Women Pakistan Country Office in Islamabad today of her support for Goal 5,

Muniba states: "so far, it has been nine years for me on a wheelchair due to a car accident. I have experienced a lot of pain, but pain can be a beautiful thing - it connects you with people who have also felt it, whether it is physically or mentally inflicted. Women shouldn't have to fight pain, discrimination and violence at home, in the workplace or in public spaces. Women have supported themselves alone

for far too long, and perceptions of gender equality are changing. More men need to come out and support women. My brother is a real-life example of a male assisting his sister. Together we need to step up efforts and make Goal 5 - Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment - work for everyone".

Women become testifier, jury and judge in a virtual courtroom on natural disasters

Gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights and permeates every society, class, race, geographical area, and age group. Discrimination and violence not only have negative consequences for those who suffer it, but also affect families, the community, and countries at large.

Pakistan's Province of Balochistan has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions with earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones, and landslides being recurrent phenomena. With limited research and solid evidence on the impact of natural disasters, and complex emergencies on the lives of women and girls in the region, a virtual courtroom-like community hearing was held, highlighting issues related to gender, discrimination, poverty, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. These community hearings offered a rich and first-hand perspective of how women and girls are affected by, and are able to respond to, natural disasters and emergencies.

The activity was conducted by the Gender and Child Cell of Balochistan's Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) with the support of UN Women Pakistan and the Government of Denmark under their Women's Leadership in Social Reconstruction Programme, to better understand and address the impact of natural disasters and emergencies on women and girls as well as

to improve the response to the needs of women and children during emergencies. Ten women and girls from five districts of Balochistan presented their testimonials from the times when earthquakes, floods and drought hit their communities in front of an expert 'judge-panel' made of members of academia, government officials, and the UN. The testimonials highlighted that natural disasters and complex emergencies do more harm to women, children and vulnerable populations, and relief efforts usually fail to address gender-based vulnerabilities. The community hearing concluded that there is lack of awareness, information and capacity to respond to disasters, while women and other vulnerable communities find it difficult to deal with the differential impact of natural disasters. Key verdicts/recommendations reached included:

1. Various planning levels should consider and address the different impacts of gender-based discrimination during disasters
2. Special attention and strategic planning is required foremost to ensure the safety, protection, and participation of women and girls in the disaster response
3. Presence of social security or protection systems must be in place to safeguard families and vulnerable persons from falling below the poverty line
4. Livelihood rehabilitation initiatives should be introduced post-disas-

ter to strengthen recovery, including resources and funds for village reconstruction, local employment options, new skills development, and farming support

5. Access of all to education, health services, and shelter should be facilitated
6. Ziarat's Juniper Forest should be declared a national Heritage and special measures taken to protect it from deforestation (for fuel) and contribution to climate change
7. Small scale check dams and delay action dams should be promoted with rehabilitation of indigenous irrigation systems (karez) to retain underground water levels, and subsidies on ground water mining should be discouraged to promote optimal water use

The recommendations ('calls to action') were acknowledged by the Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, who committed to advocate with the Provincial Government for better planning and responses to the needs of women and children in emergencies.

The event, held on 23 November 2015 in Quetta, Balochistan was closely coordinated by UN Women with the PDMA, Women's Development Department, Leadership for Environment & Development (LEAD) Balochistan, the Gender Task Force, Environment Protection Agency, and local community-based and non-governmental organizations.



Interview with H.E. Dr. Meher Taj Roghani, Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Assembly, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan



The Honorable Dr. Meher Taj Roghani has been elected as the first female Deputy Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly on 22 December 2015, a milestone in the Province's electoral history. In her address, H.E. Dr. Meher Taj Roghani pledged to ensure equality and empowerment for all women and girls saying: "this country owes debt to girls and women for their resilience."

With your new appointment, as a female role model for democracy, could you tell us something about your childhood? –

I was born in a village in Mardan District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. We are five brothers and one sister, me being the eldest and only sister. I lived in a very small village, but luckily we had a primary school. When my male cousins, at least one year older than me were admitted to school, I also wanted to

go to school. The moment I saw them with school bags I would start crying and this would go on for hours. I was the first girl ever to be granted admission at my local school, and also the first student accepted under the age of five. After my secondary education I wished to stay at home but it was my father who persuaded me to pursue my medical career. After completing my 'house job' I moved to London with my husband

(who, along with my father continued to be my biggest supporters) and specialised in pediatrics.

What has been your motivation to enter politics?

On returning to Pakistan, I secured jobs at the Lady Reading Teaching Hospital, the Khyber Medical College and the Khyber Teaching Hospital where I established the first pediatrics preventive ward. While working as a Professor at the Khyber Medical College I was appointed Minister for Health, but I still had no intention of joining mainstream politics.

Looking back I guess my motivation must have been my ancestral association with politics as well as my own interaction with politicians. From a very early age I saw my elders do things for others; this played a pivotal role for me and instilled a passion to work for the positivity of others.

I took the decision to enter politics after my retirement. I joined the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (commonly known as PTI) as a Provincial Convener back in 2011. I was not allowed to take part in any inter-party elections yet I was nominated as a Member of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Following this, I was appointed Special Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Social Welfare and Women's Empowerment.

What would you say is key to improve women representation in decision-making and public participation?

For me women's representation in any area can only be improved

through education and skills-development coupled with opportunities made available for their participation and leadership. To me education plus skill and opportunity are like two scissor blades - with any of the blades missing we cannot achieve the desired results. We can also say that provision of opportunities is directly proportional to the political will by all parties.

Is it difficult working in a male-dominated field/region? What are the obstacles and challenges, if any? How did you overcome these?

There are many difficulties - ironically we have 'retarded'. In the 1970's when I was studying I used to travel alone between Peshawar and Lahore, and whilst working I used to drive alone after my late-night rounds.

As the first qualified pediatrician of my province with full support from my family, I suffered from mistrust by most of my male colleagues. Over the years the situation instead of improving has deteriorated, which to my belief is due to the wrong interpretation of cultural values and religion. It can only be overcome through advocacy by people who are well versed in culture and religion, which will convince the masses that equality is the basis of Islam and Pukhtoonwali (the Pukhtoon Code of Conduct).

We also need to bring forward positive role models, and provide them with an opportunity to interact with the younger generation. The traditional mechanisms for interaction between the sexes and across the different age groups have van-

ished; we need to find an alternative for it.

What are you looking forward to in 2016 and beyond?

Despite the fact that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is undergoing a complex emergency, I remain positive.

The government's aim is to prioritize education for all. I look forward to witnessing a bigger increase in local women's leadership and their participation and empowerment in all fields of life. We have already seen increased participation of the women parliamentarians in parliamentary affairs, which is a very positive sign.

What do you see as the biggest challenges ahead to make 'Planet 50-50 a reality by 2030'?

The biggest challenge is political commitment from across all the parties to provide and ensure the required recognition, skills and opportunities are provided to our women, one half of the 50 per cent. What one message would you give to women and girls who want to accomplish something?

My one message is for women and girls to go out and acquire education and skills with dedication and persistency.



Q&A with Ms. Fiza Farhan

Following the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's announcement on 21 January 2016 at the first-ever High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, the UN announces Ms. Fiza Farhan from Pakistan as a Member of this High-Level Panel.

As a Panelist, Ms. Fiza Farhan, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Buksh Foundation will provide recommendations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to improve economic outcomes for women and promote women's leadership in driving economic growth.



As a Member of the first-ever High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, what would you say is the relationship between gender equality and economic growth?

To me gender equality and economic growth co-exist in a way that without one, the other will never be achieved,

at least not in a sustainable future. With women representing half of the world's population, their participation in the formal labour force remains significantly lower than men. Usually it is women who bear the brunt of the informal economy, with minimum or no wages in comparison to their male counterparts. My personal belief lies

with the assurance that increased women participation in the labour force as well as occupying management positions, leads to enhanced productivity, creativity, and profitability in the private sector.



What are we missing if we do not fully tap women as “economic contributors” in society?

Simply, we are missing half of the potential that this world is blessed with! With another perspective, without un-tapping the immense potential that resides within the women around us, we are depriving ourselves from half of the talent, skill set, potential, and creativity that the universe has bestowed in humankind. Better economic opportunities for women not only benefit the women themselves, but they create added value for their families, communities, companies and entire national economies.

What do you think are the main economic gender gaps that persist for the women of Pakistan?

As per the Global Gender Gap Report issued by the World Economic Forum, Pakistan ranks 141 in terms of economic participation and opportunity for women, 132 in terms of education attainment, 119 for health and survival, and 85 for political empowerment. Such a sad state of affairs speaks for itself for the women of Pakistan and the various economic gender gaps that persist in the country. Active participation of women in the formal labour space, enrollment of women in senior level executive positions, involvement of women in decision making roles and in key leadership positions in male dominated sectors are some of the core economic gender gaps that I believe need immediate attention. However, economic gender gaps are not just a challenge for Pakistan, but a global reality suffered by women across the globe in the developed and under-developed world alike.

How can Pakistan as a nation benefit from getting girls into school and women into jobs?

Pakistan's educational system unfortunately experiences various challenges of discrimination; from the quality of education varying in public and private sector institutions, to regional disparity in quality of schools depending on the province, to the worst gender discrimination with a 10:4 ratio of boys versus girls that are enrolled in primary schooling. With limited financial resources and budgets allocated to the education sector, it must be a priority to provide an equal opportunity to the youth of Pakistan to get quality education, irrespective of their gender, geographic location, or societal status.

In addition to education being a basic human right, I personally believe that there is an immense positive correlation between girls' enrolment rate in schools and social outcomes such as reduction in fertility rate and the growing global population, increase in per capita income and the formal deployment of the individual skill set and talent to a professional job or business that will eventually contribute positively to the national economy.

Women's economic empowerment has a multiplier effect that can boost whole societies and economies - how?

I am a strong believer and advocate of the “multiplier effect” of women. Economic empowerment that encompasses not just the women (which are half of the world's population) but trickle down to her household, her children, her community,

her neighbourhood, and eventually the entire country as the cumulative impact adds up. Not only, the impact of empowering women economically, socially and politically brings benefits for the entire generations to come. There are multiple reasons and factual studies to support this statement; for example, investments in gender equality have the highest reaping rate of returns that any other investment in the development sectors because women become the catalyst of change when empowered, and further the cause formally and informally through their entire network of interactions.

In recent times, the corporate communities have also realised that increasing gender equality has resulted in increased creativity, customer retention, client relationships, community recognition, advanced innovations and profitability for their businesses. Furthermore, an educated woman will always prioritize the education of her children and of those she can influence, hence the future generations are taken care of when we invest in the life of a single woman.

It is said that women are the “invisible” workers, how does this invisibility constrain women's rights and hinder their economic productivity?

There has always been an invisibility, vulnerability, social exclusion and gender disparity for home-based women workers, continuously embedding them in a viscous circle of economic injustice and poverty. There are lots of studies that indicate that home



based women workers or housewives (homemakers in my definition) are the most unrecognizable and invisible labour force which in fact is the backbone that brings stability in the lives of all the remaining individuals in the household. It becomes worse when these invisible, home-bound workers are stuck by socio-cultural barriers and lack of awareness and access to social protection facilities. I strongly believe the State needs to intervene to bring justice to this large segment of "invisible" women workers, providing them with the comfort of socio-economic rights, proper skill trainings, and access to loans and credits for their financial security.

What has been your motivation to link gender and energy?

Initially the plan was to focus on "access to energy for all", which we decided to do through a network of social energy entrepreneurs. Creating sustainable solutions for energy was the primary objective of the project "Lighting a Million Lives", and that was only possible if we engaged the communities in a self-sustaining entrepreneurial model of renewable energy. When we deeply observed the socio-economic status of the women in these villages, we decided to embed another critical impact within our project and select and train only female entrepreneurs from the communities to monitor and manage the social enterprise of solar lanterns. This strategic decision not only resulted in immense women empowerment on the ground level, but also created a sense of economic justice and freedom of our women energy entrepreneurs, also known as "Roshnah

Bibi's". Today 165 Roshnah Bibi's around Pakistan are responsible for the provision of clean energy to their entire communities, while generating a sustainable income for themselves and serving as the "agent of change".

What obstacles and challenges did you face if any? How did you overcome these?

There are always obstacles and challenges when you work with real people in real communities. One of the key challenges we faced was in empowering and training the women of the community alone, which posed a certain cultural threat to the men of the households. We had to then strategically imbed a strong supportive role of the male members of the community within the project framework.

What one message would you give to women and girls to address structural barriers that limit their economic activity, empowerment and growth?

My one message is for women and girls to "Believe in yourselves! Being a woman is more of a strength than a weakness, only if you believe in it and understand how to use it. There is no force greater than a woman determined to rise!"

Training workshop on treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)



The World Health Organisation's (WHO) Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) in collaboration with the Nutrition program of the Federal Health Ministry conducted a training workshop on treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) for countries with emergencies from 21-25th February, 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The training workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Baseer Achakzai, Director/National Program Manager, Nutrition. The training included participants from 9 regional countries. Participants from all provinces and areas of Pakistan joined in the workshop.

The training workshop focused on building capacity of the regional core team in nutrition to spearhead further training in Severe Acute Malnutrition management across the

region and scaling up in high burden countries. A regional roadmap for expanding SAM management Project in the region was discussed and recommendations were made on the concluding day of the training workshop.

The workshop aimed at building Capacities of the core teams for national SAM management built in all 9 target countries, and at Developing Regional and National Action Plans for the treatment of Malnutrition.

While addressing the gathering, Dr. Baseer Achakzai, Director/NPM Nutrition said, 'Pakistan is a major contributor to the high rates of malnutrition in the region, due to multiple natural disasters over the last years. This workshop will definitely provide us with an opportunity to learn from the experiences of countries facing similar emergency situations. Pa-

kistan is currently dealing with the issue with high interest and commitment, and an investment plan now exists in all provinces, but still needs more integrated , multisectoral approaches to tackle the high rates of malnutrition, including management of SAM."

Dr. Ayoub Aljawaldehy, Regional Advisor on Nutrition from WHO EMRO, oriented participants on WHO efforts towards improvement of management of severe acute malnutrition in countries with emergencies, whereby he introduced the new WHO updates that are regularly being generated. Facilitators discussed the new guidelines in a more in- depth manner during the five days of the training.



UNAIDS Pakistan calls for national action to tackle HIV as human rights based issue



During every staff meeting, the same questions are raised: “Are we doing enough to reach each and every HIV positive person in this country? Are we able to prevent new infections among women, girls, men, boys, transgender individuals, intravenous drug users, sex workers, prisoners, and particularly those living in poverty?” While jotting down this article, the UNAIDS Country Office recalls a time, fifteen year back, when they met an HIV positive woman in a remote area of Punjab. Her husband had died being HIV positive himself, and left her and a 17 year old son behind. The

woman was a hernia patient and at the same time had hepatitis C, and HIV. Her son was working as a mechanic in one of the car workshops. When asked whether any social protection mechanism exists that can help her access health care services and provide her son with an education, her eyes looked back with uncertainty and pain.

HIV and human rights are intertwined and inextricable. This nexus is apparent in the disproportionate incidence and spread of the disease among certain groups. Protected by the WHO Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, inter-

national laws, and treaties and conventions, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right, which includes access to affordable, timely, and quality health care services. Pakistan’s constitution articulates equality and non-discrimination as fundamental rights. Articles 3 and 25 obligate the State to eliminate all kinds of exploitation, and to guarantee that all citizens of the country shall be equal before law and entitled to equal protection by the law. The provision of timely and quality health care services is thus not simply a matter of responding to needs, but a matter of human rights. Although there are HIV-related services available for people, why are people not comfortable getting themselves tested for HIV, and why is testing rate is so low? Unpacking this question lets us realise that despite the fact that significant resources are being put in place to provide universal health coverage to all segments of the population, the vulnerable and marginalised face various forms of discrimination in relation to social aspects and health care. Reasons can vary from fear of society, fear of being boycotted, or fear of discrimination due to race, socio economic status, age, gender because they are spouses of HIV positive people, transgender individuals, they are

the most at risk population, they live with HIV and/or other disabilities, or because they live in prisons or are deportees.

Unfortunately, Pakistan is among four countries in the Asia Pacific where the estimated numbers of new HIV infections have been increasing every year since 1990. As per the Country Estimates of 2015, currently there are 94,000 People Living with HIV (PLHIV). Of these, 72 percent are male (68,000) and 28 percent female (26,000); 2.5 percent children <14 years (1.3 percent male children and 1.2 percent female children – of the total number); and 1770 women in need of Prevention of Mother/Parent to Child Transmission services.

The Stigma Index assessment was carried out in 2009-2010 by the Association of People Living with HIV and AIDS (APLHIV) in collaboration with UNAIDS and the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), where 833 people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) were interviewed. The major challenges faced by most PLHIV were poverty and lack of employment opportunities due to discrimination against their HIV status. In 2013, a regional study undertaken by the APLHIV looking at Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) access, initiation and adherence, found that 49.2 percent of the total respondents reported being denied medical services due to their HIV status; another 40 percent experienced some type of housing instability (were forced to change place of residence or were unable to rent accommodation because of their HIV status) and 25 percent reported that their chil-

dren were prevented, dismissed, or suspended from attending school. Although the HIV response in Pakistan advocates against stigma and discrimination of PLHIV at multiple levels, there is a need to ensure PLHIV's rights are protected in order for them to live lives with dignity and respect.

The goals of universal health coverage and the end of HIV and AIDS by 2030 as a public health threat cannot be achieved, despite enormous global mobilisation and investment, unless stigma and discrimination in social and health care settings are effectively addressed. Innovative ideas such as "Community based HIV testing" need to be rolled out widely in order to increase testing rate for timely diagnosis and putting people on treatment in order to bridge gap between registered and estimated number of patients, so that 'no one is left behind'.

The UNAIDS Strategy 2016-2021 has a clear target on eliminating HIV-related discrimination with a particular focus on social and health care, aligning this with Sustainable Development Goals. It requires government to take action to eliminate discriminatory laws, policies and other barriers. There is a need for HIV focused legislations in the country at federal and provincial levels to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights of HIV positive people. In order to reach three 90s goal of UNAIDS, (90 percent testing, 90 percent treatment, and 90 percent viral suppression), we must stop looking at HIV from a health perspective and rather tackle this issue from a human rights

perspective, otherwise, no matter the quality of country plans available if the country's population is not healthy it will be a long way before achieving socio-economic and political goals and targets set at national and international levels. No doubt political leadership has translated commitments into action, and action to results, but there is a need to ensure sustainable long term interventions and allocation of more domestic resources to ensure that PLHIV and their children are getting quality education, health services, care, and support. It now has to be understood that HIV is a threat to overall development.



There is No honor in honor killing: the Prime Minister of Pakistan

Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif has re-affirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to end discrimination and violence against women and girls, and more so end the menace of honor killings which are prevalent in Pakistan.

Addressing Pakistan's first screening of Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy's second Oscar nomination, "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness", the Prime Minister of Pakistan in a personal and bold initiative to further strengthen and enhance legislation to work for women said: "There is no honor in honor killing - in fact there can be nothing more brutal than engaging in killing and calling it honor."

In tackling difficult and challenging themes, Sharmeen's second Oscar nomination has captured the personal attention of the Prime Minister of Pakistan with a pledge to build on the momentum from her documentary to take all appropriate steps to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women, and bring perpetrators to justice.

Speaking at the screening, Sharmeen said "the message of this film is strong, and democratically elected representatives are listening and acting on it - This is the biggest win for me."

UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka praised the film and the swift political response. "I couldn't agree more with



the Prime Minister that there is no honor in honor killings," she said. "UN Women welcomes the Prime Minister's leadership and stands ready to support him and the government to end the practice of killing women in the name of honor."

The country Representative of UN Women in Pakistan, Jamshed Kazi, lauded the social themes of Sharmeen's inspirational documentaries, saying: "in using film-making as a tool to tackle the long struggle for the rights of women in Pakistan, Sharmeen has contributed to rapidly accelerating the pace of change in society - commitment by the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan over the last few days, and today, to end 'honor' killings is a testament to the Government's resolve to strengthen gender justice."

The screening, held on Monday 22 February 2016 at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad, was attended by government officials, development partners including the UN and civil society representatives. The Prime Minister of Pakistan's commitment to end gender-based discrimination and violence follows the adoption, including by other world leaders, in September 2015 of a new development framework with a stand-alone sustainable development goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as gender sensitive targets within the other goals.



Enhancing knowledge base to support the uptake of biomass energy technologies in Pakistan



UNIDO in collaboration with the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) organised a training workshop on biomass gasification technologies at NUST. The activity was conducted under the UNIDO-GEF “Promoting Sustainable Energy Production and Use from Biomass in Pakistan” project as part of a series of training and awareness raising workshops aimed at enhancing the knowledge base of biomass gasification in Pakistan. This particular training workshop was designed as a one-day training initiative for non-engineering professionals from small and medium sized industrial facilities, public sector organisations and members of academic institutions. This workshop aimed at Capacity building and strengthening support of the rural SMEs in Pakistan through the

use of biomass. The workshop was conducted by two bioenergy experts working in CAS-EN NUST and the guest trainer, who traveled from the Kind Abdul Aziz University, Saudi Arabia. The workshop comprised of presentations, practical demonstrations of biomass gasification and interactive question-and-answer sessions with the audience. The attendees included representatives from SMEs, private entrepreneurs, researchers, and members of academia, and hosted an encouraging number of female participants as well. After the successful workshop at NUST, a similar workshop was organised by the UNIDO in collaboration with NUST at UET Peshawar. The purpose of this training was to highlight the importance of biomass as an un-tapped energy resource for Pakistan, particularly for

SME industries. Participants of this training learned how technologies such as biomass gasification have excellent potential for a variety of applications in Industry, rural electrification and entrepreneurship development. The training was conducted by local and international experts, designed for non-engineering professionals from small and medium sized industrial facilities (SMEs), public sector organisations and professionals from academic institutions. The training component included a practical demonstration of biomass gasification (rated at 10 KW) for efficient conversion of biomass into heat and electricity. The workshops emphasised capacity building for SMEs in terms of biomass feedstock, finance, and technology to adopt biomass gasification as an alternate source of energy in Pakistan. Introducing Biomass Gasification in Pakistan is a step toward efficient and environment friendly utilisation of biomass/crop residue, an indigenous energy source, to alleviate the energy shortfall faced by the industrial sector. Keeping in view the advanced nature and beneficial aspects of biomass gasification, capacity building is a key element to spread awareness and establish optimised and skilled technical services to promote training centers and research institutions, and promotion and maintenance of installation of biomass gasifiers.



Certified Trainings of Consultants and Responsible Personnel of Enterprises of Selected Sectors

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under the framework of the European Union funded Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II), has organised the “Certified Trainings of Consultants and Responsible Personnel of Enterprises of Selected Sectors” in collaboration with the Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) and Bureau Veritas Certifications. The intervention is designed to improve the export performance of selected sectors and their integration into global trade and the economy. A series of training courses on market driven certifications has been launched and in this regard the training course on “Awareness and Internal Auditing BRC” is being held from 25 to 27 February in Lahore.

Mr. Esam Alqararah, UNIDO Representative Pakistan, delivered the opening remarks where he highlighted that in the wake of the GSP plus status given to Pakistan by the EU, the compliance issues have been a major barrier curtailing Pakistan’s export-oriented sectors in exploiting the full potential of this scheme. The certification courses offered by the UNIDO-led TRTA-II programme should abridge the existing gap of demand and supply of services to enterprises of the selected sectors in enhancing their compliance portfolio. Mr. Alqararah urged the participants to acquire knowledge with the aim of implementing it at their respective organizations. Dr. Sakhawat Ali (DG – PCSIR), Dr. Irfan Ahmad Rabbani (Director P&D PCSIR) and Mr. Badar ul

Islam (Officer Incharge TRTA II) were also present in the opening session.

The participants had been selected after a screening process from industry, exporters, Government regulatory authorities, and academia. The successful participants will receive internationally recognised certifications from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and will play a vital role in overcoming the barrier to compliance by enterprises. Other courses in this series are FSSC 22000 LA, Traceability, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), British Retail Consortium (BRC) LA, Global G.A.P., ISO 13485 (QMS medical devices), SA 8000 Awareness and Lead Auditing, and SEDEX.

UNIDO initiative of relocation of tanneries in Sialkot EDF approves to support tanning leather sector of Pakistan paving way for sustainable livelihoods

The administrators of the Export Development Fund (EDF) approved a project for the establishment of a Tannery Zone at Sialkot for Climate Change Adaptation, through relocation of tanneries in the leather industrial zone. The project is being implemented under the supervision of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab with the technical and financial assistance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Esam Alqararah the Country Representative of UNIDO to Pakistan disclosed that the Project will provide a range of technical cooperation services to assist Pakistan in adding value to the output of the leather sector. During the implementation of the project the new initiative will be facilitating the town of Sialkot’s tan-

nery relocation, around 230 tanneries are currently located in 10 different clusters, scattered all around Sialkot and suburbs. These scattered tanneries are unable to meet the international standards which are becoming more and more stringent as time goes by. Meeting international standards needs proper infrastructure which is not feasible for each tannery in scattered locations all around the city. The foremost and critical requirement for international trade and exporting leather goods is environmental and social compliance. The project is being executed in Public Private Partnership. For representation of the private sector, a non-profit company by the name of Sialkot Tannery Association (Guarantee) Limited was incorporated. The STAGL was established under companies’ act

1984 on 24/06/2004.

The project would help in shifting tanneries located in and around the city to a centralised location, in order to provide various facilities like a Common Effluent Treatment Plant, a Solid Waste Disposal Site, and a Common Effluent Collection System. Part of the project will also be the preparation of plans, recommendations for the green belt around the new tannery zone, transport system for workers, housing etc. This would help in effective control of environmental hazards caused by the tanning industry in the region. It is an immensely important project for the leather industry and would be instrumental in the growth of this sector and promotion of leather products exports.



Sindh Industrial Relations legislation

After the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the Government of Sindh has enacted Sindh Industrial Relations Act-2013 (SIRA-2013), which, for the first time, has recognised the Agriculture and Fishery workers as industrial workers. The agriculture and fishery workers have thus earned the freedom and right to associate, form trade unions, and collectively bargain with their employers who are the small, medium and big landlords within the Sindh province.

This was revealed during a seminar on "Sindh Industrial Relations Act 2013" organised by National Trade Union Federation, Sindh Department of Labour, International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and UN-Women in Dadu. The seminar unfolded the salient features of the SIRA in an easy language for the peasants and harris who had come to attend the seminar from the

various parts of Dadu district.

Representatives of the worker and employer federations welcomed the legislation and offered their support in creating further awareness about the enacted law and promoting unionization and association in the pursuit of social justice. Mr. Nasir Mansoor, Chairman of National Trade Union Federation stressed the need for creating congenial and bilaterally beneficial relations between the harris and the landlords for increasing productivity and thus the economic growth. Mr. Zaheer Arif, Project Officer of ILO expressed hope that SIRA awareness will be expanded by the Department of Labour in the other districts of Sindh so that the labour conditions could be positively impacted. He also requested the relevant institutions to enforce SIRA in its letter and spirit. The right to organise and form employers' and workers' organizations is the prerequisite

for sound collective bargaining and social dialogue. Article 17-A of the Constitution of Pakistan also extends this right to every citizen, but the social scenario is regrettably controvert, which need to be reverted in the interest of the labourers, in particular the agriculture labourers, of whom most are women. The SIRA awareness seminar was jointly arranged by the UN agencies in realization of the fact that despite the lapse of two years after enactment of SIRA, neither the government functionaries nor the harris and communities were aware of it. This intervention was part of the One-UN Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP), which is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security (UNTFHS) and is being implemented by ILO in close collaboration with FAO, UN-Women and the Sindh Government.

Pakistan Buyers Forum initiate plans to improve labour conditions in textile and garment supply chains



The fifth meeting of the Buyers Forum Pakistan, attended by 21 participants representing 15 International brands and sourcing companies, was convened by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Netherlands Embassy and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at Avari Hotel Lahore. The Buyers Forum agreed to collectively work towards improving working conditions in the factories that they work with and influence their supply chains through policy and advocacy and enterprise improvement programmes, to promote sector growth through better com-

pliance initiatives. Policy dialogue on better labour governance, compliance with national labour laws and international labour standards, advisory and training services to improve working conditions for workers in the Pakistani Textile Value Chain were prioritised by the forum as key activities to be implemented in future years. Key features of the event included a way forward for 2016 presented by the Buyers and a detailed discussion on the three working groups constituted to support policy advocacy and outreach, enterprise improvement and communications. The Communications group also shared progress made in giving shape to the forum's website, developed in collaboration with the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). The website is planned to be made operational by end of March. The success of the project relies on the social dialogue approach through which the employees and employers jointly work towards issues of workplace compliance, which has

ultimately reduced industrial conflicts and increased overall efficiency and productivity. The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and Ministries of Textiles and Commerce signaled their continued commitment to make the textile sector in Pakistan sustainable.

Mr Fasih Ahmed, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce highlighted that despite the financial crisis the textile sector recorded increased exports to the EU market in the 2015 fiscal year with total earnings increased by 21%, from US\$ 6.21 billion during 2013 to US\$ 7.54 billion in 2014.

The forum exhibited a deep convergence of interests from the international development partners, industry, buyers community, and the Government of Pakistan to work together in supporting the textile sector: least for supporting lives and livelihoods of the fifteen million people employed by the industry or, for all-encompassing those being adversely affected in the value chain.



Providing starting points for future entrepreneurs

The One-UN Livelihood Restoration Project (LRP), is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security (UNTFHS), and implemented by the ILO in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN-Women and the Government of Sindh. Under this project, fifty unemployed men and women from Dadu district were provided starter toolkits in various trades including tailoring and embroidery, hospitality, mobile repairing, beauty and personal care, and vehicle repair, at a local ceremony. About 40 percent of the 50 beneficiaries who received the toolkits were women. By providing these toolkits, the targeted beneficiaries will be

able to perform in markets by utilising their vocational skills. The ceremony took place on 3 February 2016 at the Institute of Rural Management, field office Dadu. The notable officials present on the occasion included Mr. Israr Hussain , Regional Head Institute of Rural Management, Qazi Wajid ,Executive Director Foundation for Urban and Rural Development, and Mr. Shakeel Shah Hussaini , Head of CSR Mehar Gas Field O.M.V. The purpose of distributing these toolkits to project beneficiaries is to assist them in generating self-employment opportunities leading to creation of viable micro enterprises in their areas, and subsequently to the diversification and rise of

their household incomes. Preceding the toolkits distribution, all the beneficiaries were provided training on 'Know About Business (KAB)' - a branded training product of ILO. The training enabled individuals to become aware of the self-employment career option, develop business ideas, take and manage risks, learn the process and take initiative in developing and owning a business. These trainings build resilience through livelihood diversification, whereby the on-farm earning of a family is supplemented by the off-farm earning. As a result, the human security situation in the project areas is improving.

“Address challenges and seize opportunities of the new world of work”, UNDP urges



The 2015 Human Development Report (HDR) was released on 25 January 2016 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lahore. The report, titled 'Work for Human Development', calls for equitable and decent work for all and encourages governments to consider various types of work including unpaid care, voluntary, or creative work, that are all important for human development. The findings of the upcoming Pakistan's national report were presented by its lead author, Dr Adil Najam, Dean, Frederick S. Pardee

School of Global Studies, Boston University. Other speakers included Dr. Faisal Bari, Associate Professor of Economics, LUMS, Jehanzeb Khan, Chairman of the Planning and Development department, Government of Punjab, Roshaneh Zafar, Managing Director of Kashf Foundation and Dr. Umar Saif, Vice Chancellor of the Information Technology University.

With a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.538, Pakistan ranks 147th out of 188 countries and territories. Pakistan ranks 121st out of 155 countries in terms of its Gender Inequality Index: only 19.3 percent of women reach secondary education compared to 46.1 percent of men, while female participation in the labour market is 24.6 percent compared to 82.9 percent for men.

The 2015 HDR report urges countries and societies to promote decent work opportunities and sustainability by im-

proving education and social protection, particularly for vulnerable groups, and by engaging in collective action and protective legislation to eradicate exploitative or demeaning work.

While policy responses to the new world of work will differ across countries, the 2015 HDR report argues that three main clusters of policies are critical for governments and societies adapting to the new world of work. It proposes a three-pronged action agenda: A new social contract ensuring that all members of society, especially those outside the formal sector, have their needs taken into account in policy formulation, a global deal among governments to guarantee workers' rights and benefits, and a decent work agenda which promotes freedom of association, equity, security, and human dignity in work..

Studying examples of good labour migration governance: a Pakistani government delegation visits Sri Lanka

Three government officials from the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, and the Punjab Department of Labour and Human Resource visited Sri Lanka on 21-23 December 2015 to study their labour migration management system. The Pakistani delegation was hosted by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), the regulatory authority of foreign employment, falling under the Ministry of Foreign Employment. The Pakistani delegation was particularly interested in the Sri Lankan experiences from management information systems; pre-departure training, ethical recruitment, and return and reintegration systems. The visit was supported by the ILO South Asia Labour Migration Governance Project, funded by the European Union and conducted in partnership with the ILO Country Office for Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The Pakistani delegation visited a government-managed Migrant Resource Centre located in Tangalle. This centre is considered a state of the arts facility that provides different kinds of training for low skilled and domestic workers. This visit served as a learning experience as two migrant resource centres have just been established in Lahore and Islamabad.

The delegates also had the opportunity to study the Sri Lankan experiences of investigating and settling complaints and grievances from migrant workers. In addition to complaints from migrant workers, the system also allows individual recruitment agencies to register complaints against other agencies that are deemed to be con-



ducting unscrupulous activities. The Sri Lanka model was concluded more effective, efficient and transparent, and participants brought back lots of ideas for how to improve the current system in Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation was inspired by the comprehensive Sri Lankan return and reintegration sub-policy supplemented by a time-bound implementation plan which clearly defines the role and responsibilities of all concerned stakeholders as well as the support system the government has set-up in key destination countries through com-

prehensive training of its labour division officials, by establishing safe rooms for women, and clear procedures for how foreign missions should handle grievances abroad. With the technical support of ILO, the Government of Pakistan and the Provincial Government of Punjab are committed to implement some of the good practices learnt from the study visit for Pakistani workers aspiring to work abroad.



A better way for Pakistani migrant workers to combat exploitation



Although a significant share of migrant workers are victims of abuse, exploitation and unfair treatment from employers, recruiting agencies, and other intermediaries, many are discouraged from filing complaints against their employers or are left with unresolved cases even in the situations where cases are pursued. One common reason is that the complaints mechanism is either lacking, or very complicated to access.

Recognising this, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MoOPHRD), has launched an online complaint system on 10 February 2016 during a ceremony held at the Pak Secretariat in Islamabad. Representatives of various government ministries, departments, UN agencies, INGOs, and media were present at the launch.

The system allows migrant workers and overseas Pakistanis to submit legal complaints in cases where they face injustice during recruitment or employment, accompanied by a tracking system that will enable the complainant to track the status of their complaint. The system is likely to increase the efficiency and transparency of the complaints modality offered by the Government of Pakistan, and will contribute to safeguard the interests of all migrant workers.

The prime focus of MoOPHRD is to promote the welfare and protection of migrant workers at all stages of the migration cycle. While the Ministry has had a complaints system for many years, it is recognised that this system – which was paper based and required the complainants to visit the complaints office in person – was not sufficiently re-

sponsive to the needs of migrant workers and overseas Pakistanis. The new web-based complaints system will make it easier for users to submit their complaints as it can be filed from anywhere in the world as long as internet access is available.

A comprehensive awareness raising campaign is needed in order to stimulate the use of the system among the intended beneficiaries' end users through various means of communication. There is a need to establish effective coordination mechanism among the ministries and departments dealing with overseas Pakistanis' grievances, to raise awareness among end users, and to make migrant workers aware of their rights, in order protect them from abuse and exploitation, and also to reduce the cost of migration.



UNHCR hands over completed RAHA projects to provincial authorities



The UN refugee agency has handed over three different projects, worth Rs.51 million in the areas of health, education, and water supply schemes to the provincial authorities of Balochistan, which were upgraded under the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) Initiative in Chaghi, Balochistan. The projects inaugurated and handed over included a newly constructed Emergency Centre building in Yak Mach by the Chaghi Development Organization, construction and rehabilitation of schools by the Azat Foundation, and installation and construction of water tanks and water pumps in six villages in district Chaghi by the Taraqee Foun-

ation. The UNHCR Representative in Pakistan Indrika Ratwatte inaugurated and handed over the improved facilities to the provincial authorities during his day-long visit to District Chaghi, which currently hosts 27,000 Afghan refugees. Mr. Ratwatte was accompanied by UNHCR Deputy Representative Johann Siffointe, Head of UNHCR Quetta, Dinesh Shrestha and Ghazanfar Ali Agha, Commissioner for Afghan Refugees in Balochistan and Sindh.

The Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative serves as an important vehicle for improving access to and quality services for both Afghan refugees and their

host communities. In 2015 alone, nearly 1 million people (23 percent of whom are Afghan refugees) benefitted from 62 RAHA humanitarian projects. The initiative is part of the 2012 regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), which is aimed at finding solutions for Afghan refugees in the region over several years, under the RAHA programme.

Pakistan has been home to millions of Afghans for the past three decades and, although more than 3.9 million have returned home, since 2002 around 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees still live in Pakistan. RAHA is a multi-year joint initiative launched in 2009 jointly by the Government of Pakistan, represented by the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Statistics, a consortium of UN agencies, and a number of Government organisations and nongovernmental organisations. Since its commencement in 2009, more than 10 million people including Afghan refugees and Pakistani citizens have benefitted from some of the 3,500 RAHA projects implemented across the country with an estimated cost of around USD175 million.



UNDP and the United Kingdom launch new support to FATA



The Government of Fata signed a new agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, at an event organised at the Governor's House, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. This new partnership aims to support the Government of FATA's reform in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and includes the launch of the Governor's Strategic Support Unit.

Since March 2015, more than 115,000 families (38 percent of those displaced) have returned to their homes in FATA, where they are faced with damaged infrastructure and minimal access to basic services. The United Kingdom has contributed over GBP 10.25 million

GBP 6.25 million through UNDP - to improve governance of the recovery process, provide direct support to returning families to rebuild basic services and livelihoods, and to plan for longer term reform.

An essential element of this support is the establishment of the Governor's Strategic Support Unit, which will provide additional capacity within the Government to help deliver some of the most important aspects of its reform agenda. This Unit will help the FATA Secretariat and other FATA departments deliver major reform in at least four key sectors of government, including education, health, economic development, and FATA reforms through additional problem solving and analytical capacity.

With support from the UK, UNDP will also provide technical assistance to the FATA Secretariat for developing concrete roadmaps for reform in the complex area of rule of law and justice, including specific reforms in local governance, law enforcement, municipal services, judicial services, and land settlements.

In addition, about 300 communities will be engaged in government-led rehabilitation efforts, with 25 community spaces rehabilitated for recreational and other productive activities with active participation by FATA's youth. Over 6,000 men and women will receive short and medium term employment opportunities.

Embassy of Japan, UN-Habitat, & MHI celebrated Completion Ceremony of their project “Temporary Dislocated People of North Waziristan Agency living among host communities in 3 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province”

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Muslim Hands International (MHI), in close collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) and funding from Government of Japan, jointly held the Project Completion Ceremony for the “Shelter and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) support for the Temporarily Dislocated People (TDPs) from North Waziristan Agency living among host communities in 3 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Col. Khuda Buksh, Director Response NDMA, followed by remarks from PDMA, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, UN-Habitat, MHI, and UNRC and HC. The event saw a huge participation from the Government, disaster management authorities, the humanitarian sector, media, and UN agencies. The ceremony was a platform to highlight accomplishments of the project, commend the work of all partners, distribute certificates of appreciation, and speeches from beneficiaries were highlights of the event wherein it was expressed how the project impacted their lives.

To contribute to the return and to



alleviate the displacement crisis, the Government of Japan generously donated \$US 1.75 million to UN-Habitat for provision of integrated Shelter and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) assistance to Temporarily Dislocated People (TDPs) from North Waziristan living among host communities of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in districts Bannu, Laki Marwat, and Dera Ismail Khan. UN Habitat engaged Muslim Hands International (MHI) as local implementing partner and Foundation Rural Development (FRD) as monitoring partner, and with the support extended by PDMA, NDMA, relevant local authorities, and Assistant and Deputy Commissioners of the area, the project was able to provide improved shelter conditions with

increased capacity to return for 1800 TDPs families, and access to safe water and improved sanitation and environmental hygiene conditions for 3846 TDPs families. The overall activities of the intervention have led to the establishment of a decent standard of living for people who are temporarily being hosted in the communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.



UNICEF launches U-Report: PakAvaz in Pakistan



The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) launched its flagship innovation programme U-Report: PakAvaz in Pakistan. The programme is an innovative mobile-based social monitoring tool designed for young people and communities to further strengthen the process of community development by acquiring direct feedback on social issues.

“UNICEF strongly believes that innovation is vital to ensure the well-being of the world’s children and adolescents,” said Cris Munduate, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Pakistan. “Nearly two million people globally have already joined hands to become agents of social change in their communities through the U-Report messaging system. U-Report: PakAvaz can become a very

strong platform for young people in Pakistan to express their opinion on social issues and bring about a positive change in improving the standards of service delivery to the communities.”

U-Report: PakAvaz is now live in Pakistan with over 6000 young people registered on the network. It works by allowing citizens to respond to polls asking for their opinion and feedback on a variety of social and governance issues through free text messages.

The growing ubiquity of mobile phones in the developing world is unlocking tremendous opportunities to amplify the voices of young people via information and communication technologies. UNICEF believes that mobile phones can empower

local communities to participate in policy-making, governance, and access to information on key social issues.

In Pakistan, UNICEF is working with its partners including the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Mobilink, Telenor, Ufone, Warid, Zong, and the School of Leadership which is implementing the programme at the field level to create a network of U-Reporters in Pakistan. The platform relies on volunteer community members, mostly young people - primarily between the ages of 10-29 years serving as U-Reporters. Members join the programme by sending a free SMS “join” to a short-code 8623 or U-Report twitter handle @ PakAvaz. Various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), youth-led networks, educational institutions, media and young people are also supporting the programme.

Weekly SMS messages and polls are sent out to the community of U-reporters, who respond to the polls and exchange views on a wide range of subjects. The data is mapped and analysed in real-time, to each district or union council and compiled on a national level, giving government and development partners an insight into the needs of their citizens. The results are then explored further with additional questions and responses continuing the dialogue.

Photo exhibition “Pakistani People and United Nations - Human stories through photography” opens at Frere Hall in Karachi



The photo exhibition, “Pakistani People and United Nations - Human stories through photography”, opened on 20 January 2016 at the Frere Hall in

Karachi. The exhibition, produced in collaboration with the Karachi Municipal Corporation, included two collections of professional photos.

“Pakistani People and United Nations” showcased 74 professional photographs documenting human stories in the main areas of the UN work in





Pakistan: education, employment, food security, health, gender equality and social justice, humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, rule of law, and governance.

In addition, the exhibition offered visitors the opportunity to see “We the peoples” a collection of historical photos portraying the work of the United Nations around the world for the past 70 years.

This exhibition provided an opportunity to learn about the support given to the people of Pakistan by agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations. A single photo can tell a thousand words without the need for translation. The images aided in fos-

tering dialogue, strengthening solidarity, and motivating young people to engage with the exciting and challenging world of international development.

A large number of people, including representatives from the media, government, civil society, the diplomatic community, and students attended the exhibition’s opening ceremony. The exhibition was up for display at Frere Hall for two weeks.



UNFPA Gets New Country Representative in Pakistan



PA appreciates the Government's commitment and support as Pakistan has made significant progress towards the development agenda, in particular ICPD in the preceding years", said Dr. Mohtashami.

Dr. Hassan Mohtashami presented his letter of credentials as the new UNFPA Country Representative in Pakistan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on 27 January 2016. Dr. Mohtashami arrived in Islamabad to take up his post earlier on 25 January 2016. His appointment in Pakistan has been the subject of an exchange of correspondence between the Government of Pakistan and UNFPA, says a press release issued by the UNFPA in Pakistan. Dr. Mohtashami has served in international development organisations and has made a long-standing contribution to the development sector. Prior to his appointment at UNFPA Pakistan,

his 24-year career in human and social development includes posts in Sudan, Uganda, Swaziland, Afghanistan, Laos, and his home country Iran. Dr. Mohtashami is a medical doctor specialised in psychiatry and post-graduate training in Population Leadership. Dr. Mohtashami has pledged UNFPA's vital support improving the quality of life of the people of Pakistan by extending full cooperation to the Government of Pakistan. "We will also continue to work in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and civil society that work towards improving the reproductive health and rights of under-served communities of Pakistan. UNF-



UN Special Advocate Queen Máxima urges Pakistan to bring the poorest and most marginalized people into the financial system



Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands arrived in Pakistan on a three-day visit in her role as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA). She visited Pakistan in support of the implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy. Pakistan launched this strategy in May 2015, in order to increase access to, and usage of financial services by all Pakistanis, including those who are traditionally marginalised in the formal financial system.

Pakistan faces significant challenges when it comes to financial inclusion. Despite a strong regulatory foundation, the percentage of Pakistanis with some kind of formal financial account remains very low, and financial access for women lags particularly. When people and organizations are excluded from the formal financial system, they risk having to rely on inadequate, risky or expensive means to manage their

money. They find it harder to manage risk and mitigate financial shocks such as medical emergencies or natural disaster. Outside the formal financial system, it is even harder for the poorest to finance and grow small enterprises. While schemes such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) have included innovative measures to bring the poorest women into the financial system such as life insurance products and digital banking for funding recipients, more needs to be done. Pakistan's newly launched Financial Inclusion Strategy seeks to bring Pakistanis into the formal financial system through a series of measures to increase access and develop the financial ecosystem, including the use of digital financial services to enable women and men, including those living in remote areas, to easily access and use financial services.

As the Special Advocate, HM Queen Máxima leads a global effort to advo-

cate for financial inclusion for the most marginalised. During her visit in Pakistan, the Special Advocate met President Mamnoon Hussain, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, and State Bank of Pakistan Governor Ashraf Mahmood Wathra to encourage them to take the necessary steps to implement the Financial Inclusion Strategy. She also met people who are benefiting from a range of financial inclusion programmes, as well as those from the organisation taking forward this work. Throughout her mission she encouraged the Government to develop a favourable environment for digital financial services and promote access to financing for micro, small and medium enterprises in both rural and urban areas. She also urged officials to close the gender gap in financial inclusion.

Inclusive Education Opportunities Changing Lives of Children from Fishermen Communities in Sindh



“Achieving the inclusiveness of education programmes by engaging children from different ethnicities as well as those with special needs and disabilities can pave the way for a peaceful world and sustainable development,” said Philippe Cori, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia. He was visiting various projects under the UNICEF Social Cohesion and Resilience (SCR) programme in Karachi, the provincial capital of Sindh province in Pakistan.

The SCR programme is engaging children, adolescents and communities for the promotion of social cohesion and resilience, in the urban slum areas of Karachi as well as Badin and Jacobabad – while advocating at the provincial level.

The SCR programme works to integrate peace-building and education through building institutional capacities, developing both community and individual capacities. It is increasing access

to conflict-sensitive education, and generating evidence and knowledge to formulate long term strategies to achieve concrete outcomes. Hundreds of students are studying at the ALP centres established under UNICEF’s SCR programme in neighbourhoods around the jetty.

UNICEF’s SCR programme is working to empower communities by building trust and lasting bonds between people from different ethnicities residing in the targeted districts. The programme has established 195 ALP centres and Community Schools for out-of-school and over-aged children to promote social cohesion and resilience among communities. Until now, more than 1,400 children have benefitted from the programme to enter mainstream education system.

UNICEF has also provided support to 140 Government Schools and teachers in Sindh for improved knowledge on SCR and Child Friendly Education. The

children and youth from diverse backgrounds regularly engage in sports, theatres, youth festivals, and thematic days which emphasize the values of social cohesion among community members.

“I am very impressed with the strong ownership of the fishermen community in leading the education of their children through formal and non-formal approaches,” said Mr. Cori, while addressing junior leaders and peace committee members who had gathered at the PFF office to welcome him. “The communities have placed children at the centre of their agenda. It is sufficient to meet the strong and joyful children here to understand that sustainable development will only come by investing in children and youth. The positive energy and confidence of these children shines through to demonstrate how this investment has paid off.”



Interview of Cesar Guedes, Country Representative UNODC for PTV World Diplomatic Enclave

18 February 2016 – UNODC Country Representative Mr. Cesar Guedes was interviewed for PTV World “Diplomatic Enclave” by Omar Khalid Butt.

Q: Mr. Guedes tell me about yourself its been almost three years that you have been in Pakistan. How have been these three are for you.

A: I arrived in July of 2013 so, I'll be completing my third year by then, it has been an excellent work and professional and personal experience for many fronts. I have settled and adapted very well to this beautiful country and city of Islamabad and very important as the head of UNODC, it is matter of great pride and success because we have accomplished number of our goals that we had in our Country Programme”. We are finalizing our country programme 2010 – 2016 this year and with the support of our donor community and the partnership we had with Pakistan, we have contributed to important changes in the quality of work that Pakistan institutions do to curb issues related to drug trafficking, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, issues on criminal justice, training to the police, prosecutors and also to address key issues of drugs on levels of consumption in the country. UNODC has produced a red book with the success stories of its work which he also discussed during his interview.

Q: This five years programme which has just ended, do you feel that it has



come up with the millennium development goals that were setup by the United Nations.

A: Yes we are connected to two of the Millennium Development Goals throughout our programme related to health and criminal justice. He notified that UNODC is embarked in the final approval of new country programme which will go from 2016 till 2019 – 20 which is pretty much embedded in sustainable development goals especially also in the areas of health and peace and security. Two of these are embedded in our work. We will continue to do professional interventions in the country and I think with great pride because we have a very strong platform to start the continuation of our work for next few years. We were

subject of an independent evaluation few months, he said that the unit referred in good terms of quality and partnership UNODC has developed in the country. The recognition provided by the donor community, civil society and national institutions was paramount. That gave UNODC a strong energy to embark into anew five year plan and that they are in the process of approving it.

Q: Tell us about the success stories booklet which you have printed and brought here?

A: Yes there are number of those e.g. UNODC had been able to secure quality training for around 20 law enforcement institutions for far and wide in Pakistan e.g. one good activity we have was to utilize the computer to



train around 35,000 law enforcement officials from 20 different law enforcement institutions, they have dedicated 210,000 hours of continuous training and the training which was imparted was embedded in 94 modules with different courses e.g border control in land, sea and airports.

Another is that, Pakistan being a transit country of drugs producing neighbour Afghanistan, which is a land locked country and Pakistan offers the ocean, seaport to this production to go to different parts of the world in a lesser percentage is Iran so the preferred route is Pakistan. Part of drugs that are trafficked through the country also formant and create a local market for drug consumption in Pakistan. UNODC have a good programme named Container Control Programme in which we profile containers randomly which leave Pakistan via sea ports of Karachi, initially Port Qasim and we have been able to identify number of concealment of drugs in cooperation with Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and Pakistan Customs and other institutions. Tons and Tons of drugs have been identified and confiscated but not only drug s but also illicit materials forge materials, cultural heritage properties and chemicals precursors. So, that has been a landmark and a pilot based in Pakistan and now we are expanding it to the airports and in our next country programme we will add as Air cargo programme.

Another success was that we set up with the help of UK and USA UNODC produced a first ever survey drug report on Pakistan about the levels of addiction in the country which is a big eye opener. The number was 6.7 million used drugs in 2013 out of those

400,000 have addiction already and from that around 1 million are heroin users. The drug of preference is Charas (Cannabis) but more and more people are moving into using heroin coming from neighbouring country Afghanistan and problem is that half of those who are injecting drugs in some part of the country are HIV positive. So that was a big alarm and we have given recommendation to take appropriate action.

I also like to commend ANF on their work, the levels of drug confiscation has grown exponentially from 80,000 tons in 2012 down to 240 tons of drugs and precursors in 2014 and to a rocket number of 300,000 tons of illicit drugs and chemical precursors in the last year, a big credit to ANF, their capacities and also our pride and joy to be part of for this news because we are part of it, we have somehow contributed to them with our trainings with our equipment with all the possibilities we have in this partnership to let them do this really stellar job which is very much highlighted worldwide. I also like to inform that UNODC is going together with ANF to Vienna to highlight the main accomplishments of Pakistan Government in drug interceptions because its not just about intercepting the drugs meaning of those drugs that are intercepted and destroyed really calls that those are not going to international market we are saving lives and families for them not to have access to that poison.

Last but not least also we have a very important work related to criminal justice, we have also trained judges and prosecutors in order to deal more effectively in cases to drug trafficking. This is of key importance for our work in the country because those are our

end users because it is not only law enforcement institutions but also the prosecuting system the judges because we need to let them know what are the main practices and what are the mandates of UN conventions in which international law is embedded. There are very positive things on this front.

Q: I do see Mr. Guedes a lot of positivity is going on, a lot of cooperation on the anti-narcotics force as you said and a lot of good success stories coming out of this five year plan that has just culminated now, but you were talking about this Commission on Narcotics Drugs which is being held in the March of this year in Vienna. Now how important is this for your organization and how important is this for the countries like Pakistan to curb the menace of narcotics?

A: Our head office is in Vienna, Austria every year in March all the institutions from member states, who deal with counter narcotics meet for a week in Vienna where we have UNODC HQs, to really deliberate on action plans and international; cooperation and best practices in order to curb the drug problem. But this year it is not just a regular meeting but it is in preparation to a Special Session of General Assembly on World Drug Problem. Last General Assembly addressing the world drug problem was held in 1998 for the last ten years we have been preparing and lobbying with member states to prepare for this very important venue. This is something Pakistan has a story to tell, based on what the work we have been doing we are preparing high level officials to have a very hefty presence of Pakistan in a clear voice. There are two main areas in the world that produce drugs,

one is South America with coca and cocaine and the other is west Central Asia with poppy and heroin and definitely Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran will play a key role with regard to use and abuse of heroin. The General Assembly will take place in 19-22 April in New York. It will be a very big and hefty thing and for that we are working preparing with Pakistani Government to present the results that I have shown you. It will also be an occasion where we will sign the new country programme at the general assembly for 5 years. So we are closing the year with good success stories and to initiate the new 5 years of intervention and off course we could expect less than that for a country like Pakistan that is really doing a very strong work in combatting drugs with clear results and not only that training officials from other countries and most recently the training center of ANF with the cooperation UNODC and other partners reached the standards of ISO 9001. So this is a big thing and off course creates more and more the space for Pakistan to join as a prime actor and a prime example in order to deal with world drug problem.

Q: So the world drug problem you feel through these success stories and through these programmes you implemented in the region, in South America have yield it results, have the results being what you expected, what you wanted or are they going below expectations?

A: Well it depends how we see it, yes, many consider that the world drug problem is getting worse and worse and I see that in many part of the world specially in Central America and some transit countries the world drug problem is creating havoc and

off course the alert is signaled here so the authorities have early warning to deal effectively with the problem before it becomes more dire and unmanageable like other latitudes. In general there is a discontent about the result globally about the world drug problem because of the levels of violence connected to drug trafficking, the levels of health problems, we need to see drug addiction not as a criminal act but as a health issue, drug addicts are sick people, they need treatment, they need assistance, they need counseling, they need an opportunity to cure themselves and rehabilitate themselves and return and devolve to society. That is in general the position; we have had success stories of UNODC working for example in South America, in Columbia, in Peru and Bolivia. The levels of coca cultivation have diminished. Fewer peasants are involved now in cultivation and more are engaged in alternative development cultivation like coffee, coco, vanilla, cut flowers you name it. These countries wisely in the last few years have signed international trade agreements with a number of big development markets Peru, Columbia have joined recently for trans-pacific partners. They have a one of the biggest markets in the world and because these countries are in the South and they are able to produce fruits and vegetables or other products for markets of the North when its winters. Peru and Columbia have signed agreements with EU, with China, with South Korea, with Singapore, Japan, United States, Canada, and that is the an engine which works the machinery in full force concentrating on licit matters – off course drug trafficking is still there and will always be

there probably as long as the market continues to exist for drugs, there will be the driving force to produce but countries and peasants and workers are trying to move away from illicit and go to the licit even if they win or earn less money, they regain their honour, their pride and they start with in the society.

Q: Mr. Guedes you pointed out variably r that there is demand that is why there is production and secondly when they do to other alternative professions they do earn less money. Isn't that or aren't they somehow tempted to go back to that production because there is a demand. How does your organization with the help of the government to curb this need to go back to the cultivation?

A: This is the key point dear Omer, this is where we start working, because we cannot trust or leave the alternative development practices when we think they are running successfully, when they run successfully we need to come with further levels of protection and nurturing those so that they don't go back. That is the big mistake we did as UNODC in past in 80s was that the successful cases of alternative development for us and the host government were so trust worthy that we thought that they are right on track so we should leave them alone, because once they are left alone without government protection without technical assistance, without international cooperation to accompany those for a longer period then they run the risk of going back because they can see that they are a bit alone and then they are taking a very wise decision, a very serious decision to go back to legality and we cannot just let them be on the front. Therefore I mentioned about the

countries which signed agreements with the power houses, it is a stronger message and those power houses also e.g. provide a special treatment to develop alternative development products e.g. European Union, if it comes to former coca cultivation area they have a special benefit to enter with less hurdles into the market.

Q: Mr. Guedes, I wanted to ask you about this very important meeting held in November last year in Karachi, could you please highlight some important aspects of that?

A: One of the important mandates that UNODC has is to assist member states to address the issues of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. We have seen during the second half of last year there have been masses and masses of mainly from Syria trying to enter Europe in different means esp by boats, by road so Europe has been confronted to this big wave of people trying to enter the Schengen area via Greece or Libya onward to Italy and more. So, it was more about Syria but more and more Omer at this check points European are starting to see faces of other nationalities mostly Syerians, Iraqis but as well persons from this part of the world, Afghans, that comes from Afghanistan or Afghans those who are settled here and go onwards, also Pakistanis from complicated areas of the country as well as Bangaldeshis and people from other origins. This big conference was named Pakistan as source, transit and destination for human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and we had around 12 presenters, lecturers, from 10 different countries and four continents. It was a key eye opener to understand dimension of the problem and how this is an expulsion zone in

which traffickers utilize and abuse the position of Pakistan in order to hub persons send then over through the Balkan route and Turkey towards Europe. It was an eye opener and the event was closed by the Governor of Sindh and largest international event in Karachi which was a success with more than 300 participants most were international and national and it was an opportunity to compare notes of ills of human trafficking. It was a very success full event and I must congratulate the Sindh Government, there was a closing ceremony where the international participants were able to see number of cultural manifestations of the province of Sindh and the Governor was very generous of showing us the Mohata palace, collection of heritage of Pakistan coupled with music and poetry.

I would also like to say that it is the first time EU is funding UNODC and is contributing to its criminal justice programme. Karachi conference was sponsored by Australian government. I like to thank the donors and like to highlight that UNODC have quite a number of important countries who have deposited their trust in our office in Pakistan namely Australia, Canada, The United States, Japan, United Kingdom, as well as Netherlands, Germany, Russia with technical assistance, Turkey also with technical assistance and also some Gulf countries where we have exchange of information, and Sweden and Norway play a key role.

Q: What are the salient feature of the 2016 – 2019 programme?

A: This new country programme, which is a continuation of the existing country programme, with stronger feature in the three specific columns,

the work we do on border management, anti-trafficking in persons, drugs and chemical precursors, Criminal Justice and we will work to increase the capacities of law enforcement institutions, the prosecutor system we have a component on anti-corruption, prison reforms to have the places to rehabilitate evolve inmates to society and last but not least drug demand reduction and HIV AIDS prevention and injecting drug use.

Q: You wanted to highlight anti-corruption?

A: Corruption, Its also a new landmark because Pakistan is a signatory of UN convention against corruption hosted an international delegation for two weeks assist the compliance of Pakistan as signatory of UN convention against corruption and UNODC is the custodian so its our responsibility to do the coordination and secure technical assistance for the country. Pakistan has not done it before so it was reviewed by two countries, by Norway and the Solomen Islands, both spent two weeks here with the people from my secretariat in Vienna and made together with the Pakistani government which included NAB and other institutions a list of successes and short comings and those short-comings needed to be addressed and we would be preparing a plan of action to assist Pakistan to combat corruption within the framework of United Nations Conventions. With that we will able to identify and secure funding for technical assistance for our new country programme.



International day of commemoration in memory of the victims of the holocaust, 27 January 2016

“The memory of the Holocaust is a powerful reminder of what can happen when we stop seeing our common humanity. On this day

of Holocaust remembrance, I urge everyone to denounce political and religious ideologies that set people against each other. Let us all speak

out against anti-Semitism and attacks against religious, ethnic or other.”

World Cancer Day, 4 February

Where a person lives should not determine whether or not they develop cancer or die from it. We must work together to eliminate cervical

cancer as a public health issue and to reduce the burden that millions face from all cancers. On World Cancer Day, let us resolve to end

the injustice of preventable suffering from this disease as part of the larger push to leave no one behind.

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, 6 February

“Never before has it been more urgent – or more possible – to end the practice of female genital mutilation, preventing immeasurable human suffering and boosting the power of women and girls to have

a positive impact on our world. Today I raise my voice and call on others to join me in empowering communities. We can end FGM within a generation, bringing us closer to a world where the human

rights of all every woman, child and adolescent are fully respected, their health is protected, and they can contribute more to our common future.”

International Day of Women and Girls in Science, 11 February

On this first International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the world needs science, and science needs women. Girls’ and women’s access to Science, Technology, En-

gineering and Mathematics (STEM) cannot be envisaged when this category remains the majority of out-of-school children, youth and illiterate adults. This gap throws a

shadow over entire societies, as no country can move forward with only half its creativity, energy, and dreams.

World Radio Day, 13 February

In times of crisis and emergency, the radio can serve as a lifeline. For people in shattered societies, caught in catastrophes, or desperately

seeking news, the radio can bring life-saving information. This year, as we set out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, let us resolve to use the

radio as a means for human progress. On this World Radio Day, let us strive to prove that the radio can save lives.

World Day of Social Justice, 20 February

With exclusion and inequality on the rise, we must step up efforts to ensure that all people, without discrimination, are able to access opportu-

nities enabling them to improve their lives and those of others. We must build inclusive societies, promote decent work, bolster social protec-

tion floors, and find ways of including marginalised people.

International Mother Language Day, 21 February

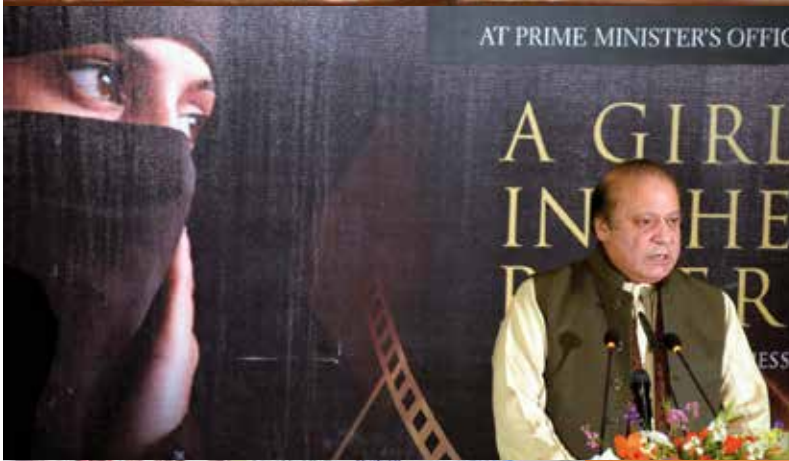
Mother languages in a multilingual approach are essential components of quality education, which is itself the

foundation for empowering women and men and their societies. We must recognise and nurture this power, in or-

der to leave no one behind, to craft a more just and sustainable future for all.







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The United Nations has a long-standing partnership with the people of Pakistan in support of national development goals. The United Nations has also been providing humanitarian assistance in case of natural disasters and crises. Led by the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations works in all eight administrative areas of Pakistan through 19 resident organizations. Straddling humanitarian assistance and sustainable development, the work of the United Nations in Pakistan includes key areas such as education, health, water & sanitation, nutrition, economic growth, employment and livelihoods, resilience against disaster, governance, gender equality and social justice.

The One UN Programme for Pakistan, United Nations focuses on accelerating progress towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals, reducing poverty, promoting opportunities for youth as well as advancing gender equality and human rights both at national and sub-national levels.

United Nations encourages economic growth in Pakistan through supporting policies and programmes that link small farmers to markets, improving working conditions for women and supporting home-based and domestic workers. It will also assist the Government in strengthening democratic processes and institutions at the federal, provincial and local levels. Tackling the effects of climate change and reducing Pakistan's vulnerabilities to natural disasters features especially prominently in the work of the United Nations in Pakistan.

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