Focus on
United Nations Day and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Human stories behind the SDGs told through Photography
UN Corners to empower Pakistani youth
Basic Facts About the UN launched in Urdu

REAL LIVES: STORIES THAT INSPIRE US
Opening school doors for refugee girls in Punjab.
Page 29

NEWS AND EVENTS
Celebrating World Food Day.
Page 37

ONE UNITED NATIONS
UNDP welcomes new Country Director for Pakistan.
Page 74

ON AIR
SDG 9 highlighted on PTV.
Page 95

MESSAGES FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL
International Day of Charity, 5 September.
Page 98

PHOTO ALBUM
Page 102
The United Nations Pakistan Newsletter is produced by the United Nations Communications Group

Editor in Chief: Vittorio Cammarota, Director, United Nations Information Centre

Sub Editor: Ashley Bedard

Producer (photography): Umair Khaliq

Producer (content): Ashley Bedard

Graphic Designer: Mirko Neri

FOCUS ON

1 | Achieving the SDGs in Pakistan: a holistic overview
1 | Supporting food and nutrition for all
1 | Achieving decent work for all
1 | Reducing inequalities for migrants
1 | Humanitarian coordination and advocacy focused on the most vulnerable
1 | Ending the AIDS epidemic by leaving no one behind
10 | Localizing the SDGs in Pakistan
10 | Quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all
11 | Ensuring every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled
12 | Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
13 | Including refugees in the sustainable development agenda
14 | Bringing the goals to life
15 | Ensuring all children reach their full potential
16 | Promoting industry, innovation and infrastructure
17 | Promoting peace, justice and the rule of law with strong institutions
18 | Improving infrastructure and agriculture
19 | Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls
20 | Zero hunger through food security and improved nutrition
21 | Improving health and quality of life through access to health services
22 | United Nations Day 24 October 2016
24 | Human stories behind the SDGs told through Photography
26 | UN Corners to empower Pakistani youth
27 | Basic Facts About the United Nations launched in Urdu
28 | The UN in Pakistan celebrates United Nations Day

REAL LIVES: STORIES THAT INSPIRE US

29 | Opening school doors for refugee girls in Punjab
30 | Venturing out to find new horizons
31 | Justice for the deceased
32 | Unity is strength
33 | Providing sanitation through latrine construction
34 | Brohi Mullah’s success story
35 | Clean water for all through collective action
36 | Productive social cohesion in Padhanan

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

37 | Celebrating World Food Day
38 | Rabi seed distribution drive launched

CULTURAL HERITAGE

39 | Faces of the Kalash: Promoting and cultural heritage
40 | Rabi seed distribution drive launched

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

41 | Warning before the flood

DRUGS AND CRIME

41 | First seizure by Karachi ACCU
42 | FIA gets e-Learning Centre!
43 | Precursors workshop for chemical and pharmaceutical industries

EDUCATION

44 | Fifth edition of Pakistan Education Atlas launched
45 | Global Education Monitoring Report 2016 calls for change

ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE CHANGE

46 | Pakistani youth for climate change: Gilgit Baltistan
47 | Collaborating to implement the New Urban Agenda

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

48 | Celebrating International Day of the Girl Child
49 | Pakistan’s docHERs wins Global Goals Award
50 | Urooj Ashraf at HeForShe Turns Two
51 | United States pledges to help prevent violence against women in Pakistan
52 | Enhancing women and girls’ safety and mobility in public spaces
53 | Tech-ing the path to women’s safety
54 | Punjab task force for women’s empowerment
55 | Developing a gender-transformative media environment
56 | Wheels of change in Punjab
57 | Women in Sindh put focus on food insecurity and ending child marriages

HEALTH

58 | Leaving no one behind for health
59 | Nutrition for children under two die
60 | UAE supports eradicating polio in Pakistan

HUMANITY

61 | Health diplomacy training
62 | SUN Secretariat in Sindh to combat malnutrition

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

63 | Positive change for children’s rights in Sindh

LABOUR

64 | Promoting decent work and international labour and environment standards

MIGRANTS

65 | Migrant Resource Centre inaugurated in Lahore

REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS

66 | Cash for returnees in South Waziristan Agency

WATER AND SANITATION

67 | Voices raised in Sindh for proper handwashing
68 | Handwashing can save children’s lives
69 | Building water and sanitation capacity in Sindh

YOUTH

70 | Changing hygiene behaviours by involving youth
71 | Social Good Summit 2016

ONE UNITED NATIONS

72 | UNDP welcomes new Country Director for Pakistan
73 | Achieving the Zero Hunger generation
74 | Fifty years of UNIDO’s progression in Pakistan
75 | “Good” urbanization: an investment and a way of life
76 | Photography for the goals
77 | The eradication of Polio: there will be no way back
78 | Taking Stock: disaster preparedness as we remember the devastation of the 2005 earthquake
79 | The United Nations in Pakistan lauds passage of bills on anti-honour killing and anti-rape
80 | Partnering with our donor countries to achieve the SDGs
81 | Interview with Ms. Margaret Adamson, High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan
82 | Interview with Mr. Perry J. Calderwood, High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan
83 | Interview with Mr. Tore Nedrebø, Ambassador of Norway to Pakistan
84 | Interview with Ms. Margaret Adamson, High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan
85 | Interview with Mr. Takashi Kurai, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan
86 | Interview with Mr. Ina Lepel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan
87 | Interview with Mr. David Hale, American Ambassador to Pakistan

GUEST IN TOWN

94 | FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva visits Pakistan and receives honorary degree

ON AIR

95 | SDG 9 highlighted on PTV
96 | Youth and climate change on the airways
97 | Perspectives on gender
98 | Localisation of the SDGs in Pakistan
99 | Promoting diet, physical activity and health
100 | Perspectives on United Nations Day
101 | Highlighting the rights of persons with disabilities

MESSAGES FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL

102 | International Day of Charity, 5 September
103 | International Literacy Day, 8 September
104 | United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, 12 September
105 | International Day of Democracy, 15 September
106 | International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September
107 | International Day of Peace, 21 September
108 | International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September
109 | World Tourism Day, 27 September
110 | World Maritime Day, 29 September
111 | International Day of Older Persons, 1 October
112 | International Day of Non-Violence, 2 October
113 | World Habitat Day, 3 October
114 | World Mental Health Day, 10 October
115 | International Day of the Girl Child, 11 October
116 | International Day for Disaster Reduction, 13 October
117 | International Day of Rural Women, 15 October
118 | World Food Day, 16 October
119 | International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October
120 | World Cities Day, 31 October

PHOTO ALBUM

121 | Photo album

INDEX
Dear readers,

The fifth edition the United Nations Pakistan Magazine for 2016 focuses on United Nations Day, celebrated each October 24, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the universal, integrated and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development one year ago, along with the 17 SDGs and their 169 associated targets. This UN Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the work we’ve done so far to promote the SDGs in Pakistan and to look ahead at the work yet to be done to achieve them by 2030.

In this edition we present messages from each agency of the UN in Pakistan about the work they are doing to help achieve the SDGs in the country. We also begin a series of interviews with our donor countries to the UN in Pakistan that show how our partnerships are supporting the goals and helping improve the lives of Pakistan’s people. As well, we share a number of articles by UN leaders that demonstrate how we are supporting Pakistan and promoting the SDGs as One United Nations.

We celebrated UN Day by bringing more United Nations information and resources to the Pakistani people by releasing the “United Nations Basic Facts” in Urdu and launching UN Corner bookshelves, and by showing the human stories behind the SDGs through photography. Through efforts like these, we continue to bring the goals to life to inspire the people of Pakistan and the world to strive for a better future.

We also commemorated a number of other important UN observances in the past two months, including the International Day of the Girl Child, World Food Day, World Cities Day, World Habitat Day, and Global Handwashing Day. This edition includes stories about our activities to promote these days and our efforts to promote and achieve the SDGs behind them. And, we continue to share the inspiring real life stories behind the SDGs that show positive changes in people’s lives.

Thank you to the members of the UN Communications Group and the UN Country Team for continuing to help make this magazine possible. I would also like to especially thank the donor countries who contributed to this edition for their collaboration and for their partnerships that will help us achieve the SDGs in Pakistan.

Vittorio Cammarota
Director, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
Achieving the SDGs in Pakistan: a holistic overview

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the center of the United Nations agenda for the next 15 years because they offer the world a fresh impetus for change. Because Pakistan was among the first countries to embrace them, they can be a guide for positive change over the coming fifteen years. If these goals are achieved, Pakistan will be by 2030 a country where no men and women and children are left behind, where they will have lifted out of poverty and deprivation, with rights upheld and living in a place where development is sustainable and the environment is protected. As we enter into the last year of the One UN Programme II 2013-2017, it is important to look at both our achievements and where we have fallen short. Our collective programme supports all our partners in both humanitarian and development actions, and links those too to give people opportunities and make them more resilient. Our programme fosters social justice, strengthens national capacity and addresses inequities in Pakistan and builds on the basic principles the UN is based on, with respect to human rights, peace and security and development. The UN Pakistan team work as “One” to harmonize its programming and the processes and procedures underlying its operations. Despite this, the UN’s work was not able to support Pakistan to meet more than one of the Millennium Development Goals. Our future work must ensure that the same does not happen for the SDGs.

For the SDGs to be met in Pakistan, the UN is working in close collaboration with the government to integrate the SDGs into national and provincial plans, and to ensure that the global goals are localized to fit the Pakistani context. The SDG framework proposes universal indicators which need to be translated into a complementary set of national level indicators for implementation at the grassroots level, whilst also acting as a catalyst for change, and helping Pakistan to achieve the global targets. But individual goals are hard to meet on their own, if other goals are not met. A holistic effort is needed for the SDGs to help Pakistan towards its Vision for 2025. Quality partnerships are at the heart of working together and producing synergies: partnerships with the government, with the civil society, the private sector, the international community, and the agencies that are part of the One UN Programme. Harnessing the power of “delivering as one”, the UN will support Pakistan through sharing of technical expertise and our ability to adapt lessons from the successes of other countries facing similar situations. To foster Human Development, it is necessary to expand partnerships whilst also mobilizing and leveraging the resources and expertise of the private sector and civil society. The SDGs represent an enormous opportunity for Pakistan and its people, and the UN in Pakistan is fully committed to translate this opportunity into a new reality for Pakistan’s people.

Mr. Neil Buhne
UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator
Humanity is facing its most serious challenges ever with the global population moving towards eight billion in the next decade and dependence on fossil fuels changing our very climate and negatively impacting global food production.

The extensive poverty and inequity that exists around the world sparked a call for global action at the turn of the millennia in the form of the Millennium Development Goals. However, we came up short after the 15-year implementation period. Now a much greater effort in participatory planning for the next 15 years has resulted in the globally-accepted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are now helping to articulate the roadmap forward for development across all key sectors.

For FAO, our mandate is to support food and nutrition security for all. Through consultations in all provinces and regions of Pakistan, a total of seven interconnected goals have been identified for FAO to support along with an additional four cross-cutting goals under the agriculture and natural resource management sectors. The goals within which we will work directly are: SDG 1: No poverty, SDG 2: Zero hunger, SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production, SDG 13: Climate action, SDG 14: Life below water, and SDG 15: Life on land. The cross-cutting issues highlighted are under: SDG 5: Gender equality, SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals.

We are now facilitating workshops in all the provinces and regions to help local government define development targets, indicators, and their specific roadmaps on the way forward for the next 15 years. Through inter-sectoral communication and collaboration, local government can achieve the SDGs.

Mr. Patrick T. Evans
Representative in Pakistan
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) works with the federal and provincial governments, and representatives of both workers and employers, to achieve decent work for all in Pakistan. Focusing on gender equality, decent work, economic growth and industry, rights and sustainable development, we all strive together for a prosperous, more equal and a peaceful Pakistan.

Ms. Ingrid Christensen
Country Director
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Reducing inequalities for migrants

IOM helps ensure the orderly, humane, and dignified management of migration, thereby reducing inequality (SDG 10) between migrants and non-migrants through its ongoing resettlement operations and support to both assisted voluntary returnees and victims of trafficking. We have assisted over 80,000 individuals in Pakistan since 2000. Furthermore, IOM leads evidence-based research and study on migration-related topics in Pakistan, placing migrants at the center of our analysis with the hope to inform policy making that reduces inequality.

As Pakistan continues to work on achieving the goals set in the 2030 Agenda, IOM is ready to assist in the humanitarian arena by building the resilience of communities forced to migrate in connection to the adverse effects of natural disasters. Addressing SDG 11: Climate action, IOM Pakistan has implemented over $240 million USD worth of humanitarian programming with more than six million families assisted since 2005 in response to multiple natural disasters and ongoing complex crises. IOM continues to assist in resilience-building efforts as lead of the Natural Disasters Consortium that integrates multi-sector technical expertise between IOM, UNICEF, FAO, ACTED and HANDS to build national preparedness and recovery capacities. Through its extensive stabilization programmes in FATA, IOM Pakistan contributes to SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities. Ongoing programming has also contributed to SDGs 3 and 4 as the Community Stabilization programme has sponsored health campaigns and rehabilitated over 32 health facilities, as well as rehabilitating or retrofitting 157 schools and nine colleges with necessary items including furniture, books and teacher training. The Migration Health Department at IOM supports access to quality health services for migrants by providing health and travel health assessment services to migrants and refugees moving to the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Over 558,000 individuals have benefitted from the migration health programme that contributes to SDG 3: Good health and well-being.

Mr. Davide Terzi
Representative and Chief of Mission
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
In line with its mandated role in humanitarian coordination and advocacy, OCHA has worked closely with humanitarian and development partners and the Government of Pakistan in inter-agency and intergovernmental fora and processes to advocate and develop improved ways for joint action to better manage the risks of humanitarian crises and protect development gains. OCHA emphasizes a focus on the most vulnerable, in particular displaced persons, refugees and those affected by natural disasters. Innovative and integrated policy is instrumental in addressing these challenges and ensuring transformative impacts in the lives of the most vulnerable and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Humanitarian strategic plans in protracted crises define clear, collectively-agreed-to outcomes that aim to meet and reduce humanitarian needs over time, which is essential to avoid development setbacks and leverage opportunities for a more resilient future. The Operational Coordination Meeting (OCM) was established as a systematic structural platform to coordinate the humanitarian-development work in FATA. The group includes Clusters, UN Agencies, and Government line departments to ensure the inclusiveness of the most marginalized groups in long-term development plans.

An initiative of the UN Secretary-General, and managed by OCHA, the World Humanitarian Summit set an agenda for change to make humanitarian action fit for current and future challenges—including through closer collaboration with development and peace actors in pursuit of the SDGs—and to better prepare for and respond to crises and become more resilient to shocks. OCHA’s support to the Pakistan delegation and close collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and UN Agencies will ensure a cohesive national framework of disaster risk reduction (DRR) support and preparedness.

OCHA has prepared the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) based on a shared understanding of crisis risks and humanitarian needs. Risks associated with climate change are addressed through the Humanitarian Country Team’s (HCT’s) Emergency Response Preparedness Plan. OCHA is also drafting an HCT briefing paper on the Climate Change and El Nino impact on Pakistan.

**Ms. Heli Uusikyla**  
Country Head  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Ending the AIDS epidemic by leaving no one behind

UNAIDS in Pakistan firmly acknowledges the need to root the HIV response in Agenda 2030, recognizing interdependence between HIV and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from ending poverty (SDG 1), ensuring health lives (SDG 3), achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5), promoting inclusive societies (SDG 16) and strengthening partnerships (SDG 17) so to leave no one behind.

Powerful lessons can be learned from the AIDS response, which has been one of the biggest social movements in global history. It has led the way in challenging inequality, promoting and protecting human rights, restoring dignity, demanding social justice and leaving no one behind through empowerment of key fragile communities. The heightened vulnerability of women and girls as well as key populations to HIV (such as people who inject drugs and their spouses, female sex workers (FSW) and their clients, and transgender people) is intricately linked to the poverty and socio-economic inequalities they experience.

Ending the AIDS epidemic will depend on a social justice agenda that demands equity in education, employment, and access to resilient health, and a life free from violence, stigma and discrimination. An enabling social environment is key to scaling up HIV testing, prevention and treatment in Pakistan. The response to HIV spans many of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and is included under Sustainable Development Goal 3, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

UNAIDS looks forward to working closely with all partners across the SDGs to ensure a healthier, more equitable future which leaves no one behind. The targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals provide us with a road map to solve some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

Dr. Mamadou L. Sakho
Country Director for Pakistan and Afghanistan
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Localizing the SDGs in Pakistan

On this UN Day, I want to pay tribute to all UN staff working with their signature commitment to making Pakistan and the world a better place by 2030 by achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We appreciate our staff’s hard work and dedication to these important issues.

UNDP Pakistan is working with the Government of Pakistan to localize the SDGs in Pakistan. The SDGs have been incorporated into the national action plan and involve local government and other stakeholders to achieve sustainable development at the local and national level. We strongly believe that policy dialogue and planning are important components of informed decision making, and we are helping to develop tools like the multidimensional poverty index (MPI) to address key development challenges.

UNDP Pakistan’s development portfolio also concentrates on supporting transparent and credible elections and Parliamentary reforms, skills training and infrastructure projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and economically empowering youth in Karachi. We are also working with the Government of Pakistan to accelerate adaptation to climate change and reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.

UNDP Pakistan is committed to continuing these works and achieving sustainable development by providing full support in the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Mr. Ignacio Artaza
Country Director
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious, aspirational and universal agenda to eliminate poverty through sustainable development by 2030. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on “inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all” is one of the most important goals. Without significant progress on goal 4, achievement on other goals is likely to be held back.

The roadmap to achieve the ten targets comprising the education goal focuses on quality of learning and inclusive classrooms that promote equity, gender equality and respect for diversity. It requires all provincial and federal governments and partners to turn their commitments into actions, and we stand ready to support.

It appeals to our collective responsibility to ensure that education caters to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized children and youth, especially
Ensuring every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled

refugees, internally displaced children, stateless children and those whose right to education has been compromised by conflict and insecurity.

In Pakistan, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and sister UN agencies and partners, has conducted national and provincial consultations in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan and Quetta to raise awareness on SDG 4 and propose ways of integrating it into existing education sector plans and beyond.

UNESCO’s work aims at promoting gender equality, a culture of peace and environmental and cultural sustainability through innovative programs to address challenges related to climate change, sustainable development and disaster preparedness, as well as freedom of expression and access to information.

Our joint efforts with other UN agencies are contributing to “building peace in the minds of people.”

Ms. Vibeke Jensen
Representative to Pakistan
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

On this occasion when we commemorate UN Day, I want to commend the Government of Pakistan for joining the international community in a landmark event to approve the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Summit in New York last year. UNFPA is committed to support efforts aimed at translating this historic blueprint into actions that will improve the lives of men, women and the young people of Pakistan.

While Pakistan made some progress under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the country still faces a number of critical development challenges which are mostly related to a persistently high growth of the population. Evidence across the world informs us that family planning can reverse these trends by saving the lives of mothers and children, increasing economic productivity, reducing poverty and contributing to gender equality and women’s empowerment. The high-level Population Summit held last year highlighted some of these inter-linkages between population dynamics and development. As the lead UN Agency on population dynamics and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights, we reaffirm our commitment to work closely with sister UN Agencies, development partners and other stakeholders to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled. Our humanitarian work is also guided by these principles to ensure that women and young people have access to SRH information and services when they need them the most.

I thank the UNFPA team for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people and women of Pakistan, often under challenging circumstances.

Dr. Hassan Mohtashami
Representative to Pakistan
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

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

I am proud to work in Pakistan as Head of UN-Habitat and sincerely appreciate the warm reception accorded by the Government of Pakistan and its people. Looking back, I am happy to see millions of Pakistani people whose lives have been saved during catastrophes and complex emergencies and elevated from deplorable conditions, who are finally enjoying sustainable human settlements, and the institutional strengthening of Government counterparts due to the operational and technical support of UN-Habitat Pakistan’s team and in working closely with the UN System in Pakistan under the Delivering as One principle. My team and I have tapped opportunities in harnessing the economic and social potentials of Pakistan’s cities for growth and development and in promoting socially and environmentally-sustainable towns and cities. We have carried out projects on Urban Legislation, Land and Governance, City Planning and Design, Urban Basic Services, Housing and Slum Upgrading, Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation, Information Management (MIS/GIS) and Humanitarian support through integrated Shelter, WASH and Community Infrastructure.

By 2030, Pakistan’s population is expected to reach 260 million and half of the population will live in urban areas. The prosperity of our growth will be intimately related to the quality of our urbanization and planning of cities. The historical transition from the primary sector towards more productive sectors of the economy is intimately linked to urbanization. Implementing the New Urban Agenda is the best investment for our quality of life. Looking forward, 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.

With continued support from the Government of Pakistan and its people, along with UN-Habitat’s excellent partners in humanitarian and development work, I am confident that we could do more and much better.

Ms. Bella Evidente
Country Programme Manager
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN–Habitat)
Including refugees in the sustainable development agenda

UNHCR and partners are working closely with the Government of Pakistan to support its generous policy of enabling access to education, including Pakistani public schools, for all children, irrespective of their nationality. This was recently emphasized at the US President’s Leaders’ Summit for Refugees and the UN General Assembly High-Level Plenary on Refugees and Migrants. The explicit inclusion of refugees into the sustainable development agenda signals a growing recognition of the link between development and displacement challenges, as was most recently reiterated in the New York Declaration adopted by UN Member States in September 2016. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) underscore the importance of development investments in preventing and resolving displacement and identifying comprehensive solutions with a view to strengthening resilience and minimizing dependency.

Close cooperation, complementarity and synergies between humanitarian and development actors are critical, particularly in the context of protracted refugee situations when refugees reside in exile for prolonged periods of time, often in limbo and with no solutions in sight. Joint investments of humanitarian and development actors in enhanced access to and quality of national public service delivery systems and local capacities yield immense benefits for both refugees and their host communities.

Within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), UNHCR in Pakistan prioritizes efforts to build resilience, empowerment and potential for solutions through SDG 3 and SDG 4, with emphasis on children and youth who constitute nearly 70 per cent of the Afghan refugee population in the country. To this end, UNHCR and partners utilize the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) initiative as a vehicle for youth empowerment through a nexus of inter-linked interventions in education, skills training and livelihoods, and as a platform to move away from prolonged dependence on humanitarian aid towards self-reliance, social cohesion among communities and stability in Pakistan and beyond.

Mr. Indrika Ratwatte
Country Representative
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Bringing the goals to life

The United Nations in Pakistan, along with the Government of Pakistan and our partners, is working hard to achieve the targets set out by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve the lives of the country’s people. For us to succeed, all stakeholders need to be fully aware of what the SDGs are and how they can contribute to achieving them. The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) plays an important role by communicating the SDGs and the work that needs to be done to achieve them, both within Pakistan and with the world. The UNIC is the main source of up-to-date information about the UN system, and easy access to information is one of our priorities. We provide regular updates about UN activities and their connection to the SDGs in many ways, including through the media, our digital channels and the bi-monthly United Nations Pakistan magazine. We continuously look for new and creative ways to bring the goals to life, including the recent photo exhibition “Pakistan: Sustaining Development” that showed the human stories behind the SDGs through powerful photography.

Pakistani youth have a huge role to play in their country’s development, and many of our activities centre on engaging youth and empowering them to raise their voices. For example, the UN Wall campaign gives youth an opportunity to showcase a positive image of their country by writing messages that promote the SDGs. A recent workshop with students from Gilgit-Baltistan engaged youth from an area highly affected by climate change and allowed them to voice their ideas for climate action. And now, our UN Corner bookshelves are appearing in universities across Pakistan to make UN information fully accessible to students and further empower them to help make a difference.

The UNIC collaborates with all of the UN agencies, funds and programmes operating in the country through the UN Communications Group. Together, we work as One UN to promote the SDGs and inspire people to envision the country Pakistan could be in 2030 if the goals are achieved.

Mr. Vittorio Cammarota
Director
United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
Ensuring all children reach their full potential

UNICEF works to ensure that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favouritism. Though almost all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets touch on the lives of children and young people in some form, goals such as SDG 1: No poverty, SDG 2: Zero hunger, SDG 3: Good health and well-being, SDG 4: Quality education, SDG 5: Gender equality and SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation have a direct impact on the upbringing of a child.

The SDGs provide the best opportunity to achieve real results and progress for children, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalized, addressing key drivers of child well-being. They also help analyse the progress against a given timeline and make governments and us as their development partners accountable for it.

In Pakistan, which ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1948 soon after its inception, UNICEF has endeavoured to translate commitment to child rights into action. Guided earlier by the Millennium Development Goals and now by the SDGs, we focus on increasing access to services and opportunities by women and girls in all facets of life, and we promote gender-sensitive action as a core priority. We help raise awareness on pre and antenatal care to decrease child deaths and counter malnutrition and stunting, for example through breastfeeding. We immunize children to protect them against communicable diseases including polio, register them within their first six months to give them an identity, promote use of clean drinking water and improved sanitation, enrol them into school and try to create an enabling environment wherein they could grow to their full potential.

As part of Pakistan’s One UN programme and Delivering as One, we join our UN peers in helping Pakistan meet its pressing challenges. Through well-established partnerships at all levels, from the federal government to communities where our work has the most tangible impact, UNICEF is helping Pakistan achieve the SDGs.

Ms. Angela Kearney
Representative to Pakistan
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
Promoting industry, innovation and infrastructure

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is actively engaged in promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) around the world, facilitating the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure. This includes building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

UNIDO Pakistan has made recognizable efforts to help create a modern business environment for private-sector development. We have done this at the level of public-private policy dialogue and through strengthening organizations such as the Competition Commission of Pakistan and the Intellectual Property Organization, which now meet international requirements. Through UNIDO’s efforts, today Pakistan has a national quality policy, an accreditation body, and more than 40 product-testing and metrology laboratories that can globally testify to the standards compliance of national products. Moreover, by increasing compliance and competitiveness, Pakistan has gained access to lucrative export markets such as Europe in various sectors. This will further economic growth and improve employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth.

UNIDO Pakistan is actively providing technical support for innovation in clean technologies under the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Cleantech program. We are also helping to address the country’s serious energy crisis, prompting renewables through fostering market-based adoption of biomass gasification technologies, solar as well as hydel for the use of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

UNIDO remains committed to sustainable industrial development to help eradicate poverty from Pakistan and improve the lives of Pakistan’s people.

Mr. Esam Alqararah
Representative to Pakistan
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
UNODC’s mandate underscores universal aspiration that calls for the rule of law as a foundation to build just, inclusive, and fair societies, which is well embedded in the guiding principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The vision of creating “A safer community, free from the threats posed by illicit narcotics trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime” through our Country Programme (2016-2019) is closely aligned with the SDGs as well as the Vision 2025 of the Government of Pakistan. In our endeavor to end the vicious cycle of transnational organized crimes such as illicit drugs and human trafficking, the weak criminal justice system the criminals feed on, and the detrimental health impact from drugs abuse on general population, the three Sub-Programmes of the UNODC in Pakistan address illicit trafficking and border management, criminal justice and legal reforms, and drug demand reduction, prevention and treatment, contributing to SDGs 3, 8, 10 and 16.

In particular, the mission of UNODC contributes to meeting all targets under SDG 16—Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels—through its assistance to law enforcement agencies, including police, prosecutors, judges and prison staff, in strengthening the normative framework and their capacity while promoting a gender-sensitive approach and the respect and observance of human rights in line with established UN principles. Being the guardian and advocate for a number of UN conventions against narcotics, transnational organized crimes, and corruption, UNODC will endeavour to bring together its efforts both within and outside the United Nations system towards the full realization of the SDGs.

Mr. Cesar Guedes
Country Representative
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Improving infrastructure and agriculture

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is the operational arm of the UN. Our mission is to serve people in need by expanding the ability of the UN, governments and other partners to manage projects, infrastructure and procurement in a sustainable and efficient manner.

UNOPS began operations in Pakistan in 1999 and significantly scaled up activities after 2005 to support populations affected by and vulnerable to earthquakes. In 2010, UNOPS opened a permanent office in Islamabad to support the Government of Pakistan and other partners with humanitarian and reconstruction services following the most devastating flooding in the nation’s history.

In the Kalam area of district Swat in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK) province, floods damaged infrastructure, inhibiting people from accessing even basic necessities of life. Children were unable to reach their schools, patients were unable to reach medical facilities, and much more. With financial support from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UNOPS initiated the Reconstruction of Bridges and Irrigation Canals in Kalam (RBIC) project to deliver assistance to local communities through reconstruction and rehabilitation of pedestrian bridges and irrigation canals.

Under the project, eight pedestrian bridges have been completed and two irrigation canals that service 25,000 acres of land are being rehabilitated, allowing farmers to diversify their crops. We anticipate the RBIC project will continue to contribute to recovery and protection from future effects of flooding, facilitating increased economical productivity and improved human safety.

The RBIC project supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and SDG 11: Sustainable, cities and communities. Through this project, UNOPS had been bringing about productive results for local residents and government through improved infrastructure and agriculture that will boost the region’s economy and deliver to people a prosperous living.

Dr. Mohammad Haider Reza
Director and Representative to Pakistan and Afghanistan
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls

UN Women firmly believes that without progress for women there can be no real progress on local and global commitments to justice and prosperity. With its vision of leaving no one behind, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development has gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at its heart.

Women and girls make up half of Pakistan’s population and they are on the frontlines, often more deeply impacted than men and boys by poverty, discrimination, violence, climate change, food insecurity, lack of healthcare and economic crises. Women’s empowerment is a pre-condition in addressing the impact of these challenges.

Women and girls are change-makers of the present and future; we need to know about them and hear their voices. Without gender equality and a full role for women in society, in the economy and in governance, we will not be able to achieve a Pakistan we hope for.

When women are in decision-making positions, more inclusive and impactful decisions are adopted, different voices are heard and different solutions are created. Their participation in decision-making is necessary to understanding and negotiating the pathways to achieving sustainable development, human rights and peace and security.

Changes are coming about with better recognition of women as a force in themselves, whose productivity and economic potential should be fostered with improved livelihoods to bring benefits all round. Investing in women and girls is the right thing to do, not only because it is fair but because this is the right time.

On behalf of UN Women, I would like to re-iterate our commitment to spur concrete actions and position gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment at the center of the 2030 Agenda and Pakistan’s development vision, because gender equality is everyone’s business.

Mr. Jamshed M. Kazi
Country Representative
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
Zero hunger through food security and improved nutrition

The World Food Programme (WFP) is primarily focused on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger through food security and improved nutrition. To help us achieve SDG 2, we fully embrace SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals, as partnerships with governments, other UN agencies and humanitarian actors is the key to success! WFP’s primary focus on ending hunger also contributes directly and indirectly to the outcomes of other SDGs such as SDG 4 (Quality education) through our School Meals programmes, SDG 5 (Gender equality) through mainstreaming of gender targeting and needs in all our programmes, SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) through our Food Assistance for Assets programmes and SDG 13 (Climate action) though our disaster risk reduction/management initiatives, to name a few.

WFP’s activities reflect the context and needs in the country and we will continue to work in close collaboration with the Government of Pakistan to prioritize and implement programmes that strengthen the capacities of people, communities and the Government to manage underlying risks, save lives and livelihoods and ultimately end hunger. As co-leads of the Strategic Priority Areas (SPA) 3 (disaster risk reduction/management) and SPA 6 (food security & nutrition), WFP is committed to work towards a food secure Pakistan through the strong leadership of the Government.

With skills and expertise gained from delivering food assistance in challenging contexts, WFP believes in the imperative for partnerships, seeking to align and integrate our food assistance capacities and programmes with the interventions and investments of governments, other United Nations agencies and actors from the private sector and civil society, which can, together, generate the systemic changes required for sustainable development.

WFP is honoured to work with the Government of Pakistan in the areas of food security and nutrition, livelihoods, education, disaster risk reduction/management and capacity development and augmentation as it works to make its Vision 2025 a reality and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Mr. Stephen Gluning
Acting Country Representative
World Food Programme (WFP)
Pakistan adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in February 2016 through a parliamentary resolution that was passed unanimously. Health has a central place in SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, underpinned by 13 targets that cover a wide spectrum of WHO’s work.

Almost all of the SDG goals are directly related to health or will contribute to health indirectly. Hence, WHO has been keen to spearhead the work on SDG 3, materializing a national declaration that pledges that government and partners will “work together to Achieve SDG 3 and the broader SDG Agenda in line with the National Health Vision 2016-25, National Vision 2025 and global commitments within the framework of post 18th Amendment Constitutional roles and responsibilities.” This commitment has been made, and this UN Day presents yet another opportunity to renew the promises.

WHO’s collaborative efforts are characterized with a strong continued focus on polio eradication. We grant due consideration to emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation in addition to supporting implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR). Leadership and partnership is assured in all national dialogues for instituting health reform agendas through appropriate policies, strategies and programmatic interventions, while technical support and capacity building of all stakeholders are the core elements of organization’s programs.

Through its support to programs targeting communicable and non-communicable diseases, promoting health through the life course and implementation of Health System strengthening interventions towards achieving universal health coverage, WHO aims to improve the health and quality of life of all Pakistanis, particularly women and children, through access to quality essential health services, ensuring that Universal Health Coverage is a reality for all the citizens.

Dr. Michel Thieren
Representative to Pakistan
World Health Organization (WHO)
UNITED NATIONS DAY
AND
THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS
United Nations Day
24 October 2016

This year’s observance of United Nations Day occurs at a time of transition for the world and for the United Nations.

Humanity has entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, the Organization’s 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet.

The world is also moving at long last beyond the mindset which viewed the burning of fossil fuels as the path to prosperity. At a time of record heat, Member States have embraced the Paris Agreement on climate change in record time. This landmark measure will enter into force on 4 November. Across that historic threshold lies our best chance for greener, cleaner, low-carbon growth.

The United Nations is also in transition, from its eighth Secretary-General to the ninth. I have been honoured to serve “we the peoples” for the past ten years. Together, we have put in place some solid foundations for shared progress – which we must build on by working even harder to empower women, engage youth and uphold human rights for all. But we have also suffered enormous heartbreak -- including unresolved conflicts causing immense suffering throughout the troubled Middle East, South Sudan, the Sahel and beyond. On these and other frontlines of violence and disaster, courageous UN staff continue to rise to the occasion and respond to the plight of the vulnerable.

I thank people across the world for their support -- and urge all to give their full backing to Secretary-General-designate Antonio Guterres in continuing our global mission of peace, sustainable development and human rights.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Human stories behind the SDGs told through Photography

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are central to our work at the United Nations as we work to make this world a better place. There are numerous inspiring stories to be told, but sometimes words are not enough. Photography can bring these stories to life instantly before our eyes.

On United Nations Day, we launched the photo exhibition “Pakistan: Sustaining Development — Human Stories through Photography” at Lok Virsa in Islamabad.

This collection of 102 outstanding photographs provided by Agence France-Presse (AFP) showcases human stories related to development in Pakistan. We hope these powerful photographs enhance awareness of Pakistan’s development priorities and inspire Pakistanis to take action themselves. They also remind ourselves of the work that needs to be done to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The exhibition was jointly developed by Agence France-Presse (AFP), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations, with support from the Embassy of France in Pakistan and UK Aid, and was inaugurated by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs. Organized in 17 collections, the exhibition connects photographs to the 17 SDGs and raises awareness about the goals and the United Nations’ efforts for development in Pakistan.
“This exhibition reflects beautifully the diversity of Pakistan, but it also visualizes the common humanity and spirit of all people here. The UN team in Pakistan hopes through its own diversity and through support to the sustainable development goals, to help all Pakistanis meet their own shared goals.”

Neil Buhne
United Nations Resident Coordinator

“Promoting and raising awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global blueprint of development for the next 15 years, is a top priority for UN system in Pakistan. This creative effort provided an important visual narration of the challenges and opportunities we face together as we strive to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan and in the world.”

Vittorio Cammarota
Director, UN Information Centre

“In Pakistan, the EU has been for many years working closely with the Government, the private sector and the civil society to tackle the challenges the country faces. We will continue this strong partnership, in cooperation with the United Nations, ensuring that our assistance contributes to Pakistan achieving the SDGs for the benefit of each citizen of this country.”

Jean-François Cautain
Ambassador of the EU to Pakistan

“What medium could be better than Photography to express ideas! The French Embassy in Pakistan is proud to support this initiative and will endeavour to promote it throughout the country with the support of its network of Alliances Françaises in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. I would like to congratulate those who have made this exhibition a success, in particular the AFP Bureau in Pakistan, the UN Information Centre as well as the Delegation of the European Union.”

Martine Dorance
Ambassador of France to Pakistan

“It is a great honor for AFP Pakistan to present, for the first time, our photos directly to the Pakistani public. We have deliberately chosen to focus on the human angle of the story, showing the reality of life as it is now for millions of Pakistanis, be they shopkeepers, teachers, farmers, children, or immigrants abroad. It also documents the extraordinary resilience of ordinary Pakistanis in the face of tragic events like floods.”

Amélie Herenstein
AFP Bureau Chief, Pakistan and Afghanistan
UN Corners to empower Pakistani youth

As part of the United Nations Day celebrations, a “United Nations Corner” was unveiled at the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) library at Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad. The UN Corner is a bookshelf that serves as a repository of newsletters, journals, reports, magazines and books published by the United Nations system, providing university students with full access to information on the UN’s priority areas of work.

“This UN Corner provides a treasure of knowledge to support students in their research work and to empower Pakistani youth for their future careers,” said Marc P. George, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan.

Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad, Director of SPIR, said, “The UN Corner will prove to be a knowledge hub about the world body for both our students and faculty.”

Earlier in October, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) announced financial assistance to establish UN Corners in all Government universities across Pakistan. The first UN Corner was unveiled at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) in Islamabad, where the innovative bookshelf was designed by students of the school’s Faculty of Architecture through a competitive process.

CIIT’s Rector Dr. Junaid Zaidi said, “We commend the work being done by the UN in Pakistan, especially for the Sustainable Development Goal on Education.”

The United Nations has long recognized the role of youth in uplifting social, economic and technological sectors and has taken various initiatives to increase youth access to the United Nations, promote stronger youth participation and increase international awareness and attention to youth issues.

The United Nations Corner will provide Pakistani youth with an opportunity to learn about the UN System and its contribution to the development of Pakistan and the world. It will also foster cooperation between Pakistani universities and the UN System. Our gratitude goes to the SDC for their trust in young Pakistani people and in the role of the United Nations.
Basic Facts About the United Nations launched in Urdu

Comprehensive information about the United Nations and its work is now available to Urdu readers in Pakistan. The Urdu translation of the “Basic Facts About the United Nations” was officially launched at the Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, on United Nations Day on October 24.

Published since 1947, “Basic Facts about the United Nations” serves as a trusted guide to the United Nations and its system of related agencies. The 2014 edition provides a concise overview of the organization’s work throughout the world—including current peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions—along with essential information on UN membership and structure.

United Nations Resident Coordinator Neil Buhne said, “With 60 per cent of the population below 30 years of age, Pakistan is playing a leading role in the UN in many ways. It can only continue to do so if more Pakistanis are aware of the UN and its mandate.”

“The UN has made enormous progress in international law, peace and development after the end of the Cold War,” said Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. “The Urdu translation of this handbook will increase awareness about the UN’s work.”

Vice Chancellor of the Quaid-e-Azam University, Dr. Javed Ashraf, said, “It’s a matter of great honour for us that Pakistan’s highest ranking university has been selected for the launch of this book.”

“It is extremely important for the UN to reach out to Urdu speakers in Pakistan,” said Vittorio Cammarota, Director of the UN Information Centre. “To meet the challenges of the globalized world today, it is essential that citizens all over the world are properly informed about the work of the United Nations so that they actively contribute to it.”

The Urdu translation of the “United Nations Basic Facts” will be available in university and public libraries across Pakistan and online.
The UN in Pakistan celebrates United Nations Day

The United Nations family in Pakistan is made up of 22 UN agencies, funds and programmes operating together to deliver development and humanitarian results. Each element of the “One UN Programme” in Pakistan promotes sustainable human development, social equity and rights for all.

On October 24, a United Nations Day Staff Celebration event was held to celebrate 71 years of promoting peace, prosperity and equality for all. In his welcome address, Mr. Neil Buhne, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations in Pakistan, said:

“As we celebrate 71 years of the UN, we should be proud of what the UN Pakistan team has contributed to in Pakistan, but it is also vital that we learn from what we were not able to do. As we look forward let us help Pakistanis realize the opportunities there are to transform their lives over the next 15 years. In doing this, it is right that the UN places a special focus on Pakistan’s youth. Quality education, good health, gainful employment and meaningful engagement are the key drivers which will empower the country’s young, rapidly urbanizing population as they enter the labour market and find their voices within their communities. Bringing to the fore the energy and creativity of 60 per cent of the population who are under the age of 30 is a unique opportunity to raise living standards nationwide, and to make Pakistan’s development equitable and sustainable.”

On this United Nations Day, the United Nations renewed its commitment to the people of Pakistan to work together in responding to crisis, support recovery from disasters and rebuild communities, and to champion equitable and inclusive development. A tribute was also presented to honour all staff members who had lost their lives in the line of duty.

“In Pakistan, our aim is to work with all partners to achieve inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development for all the citizens of this country, with principled efforts to reach the most vulnerable, both today and in the future,” said Mr. Buhne.
Opening school doors for refugee girls in Punjab

Born to a liberal family in Kabul, Aqeeqa Asifi was educated in Kandahar when education was available to all. Trained as a teacher, she was forced to leave Afghanistan in 1992 because of war. When she arrived at the Kot Chandana refugee camp in Punjab, Pakistan, she found there were no operational schools in the area, girls’ education was not encouraged, and female teachers were rare.

Ms. Asifi set up a school in a borrowed tent, and twenty families allowed their daughters to attend. She began by teaching non-controversial subjects such as personal hygiene, home management skills and religious education, and later introduced literacy, the Dari language, mathematics, geography and history. Her school has produced more than 1,000 graduates in 20 years, and some have become doctors, engineers, government officials and teachers in Afghanistan. In 2015, Ms. Asifi was awarded the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award, which is bestowed to a person or group for outstanding work on behalf of the forcibly displaced. The award included a prize of $100,000 United States Dollars (USD) donated by the governments of Norway and Switzerland to fund projects.

Ms. Asifi used the prize to expand her school to include grade 9 and 10 students. In September, the “Community Girls Model School No. 2”—the first girls’ high school in Kot Chandna—opened to eleven Afghan refugee girls between the ages of 14 and 16. With new classrooms and a new, fully-equipped science laboratory, Ms. Asifi’s school will now cater to a total of 162 girls.

Saliha, one of the students enrolled in grade 9, said, “I had to stay home after I completed studies in grade 8 because there were no higher secondary schools in the entire camp.” She said many girls like herself will now be able to follow their dreams of completing education and pursuing a career, and added, “I want to be a teacher and I know it is possible now.”

Ms. Asifi said, “I feel elated to see the dreams of my students fulfilled. Education is power and when you have educated mothers, you have educated future generations.”

Today, with the support of the Government of Pakistan, there are nine schools in the camp with many female teachers and more than 1,500 students, including 900 girls.
“Success is not the key to happiness; happiness is the key to success,” says Hadiya Khan, an 18-year-old woman in Musa Zai Sharif, a small village in Dera Ismail Khan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. “If you love what you do then you are definitely going to be successful!” Hadiya has had a taste of success, which was rare among young women in her village until recently. Until a year ago, she had never even stepped outside the home to visit friends. Deeply entrenched patriarchal norms regulated women’s mobility, and Hadiya came of age in this restrictive environment. She spent most of her time at home reading novels and magazine articles about personal grooming. Her father, a school teacher, allowed her to continue her education in the village high school but social mores prevented her from going further.

In 2015 things began to change. The Youth and Social Cohesion Project run by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan organized a cultural festival for the village women. Hadiya attended along with her mother and 20 other women who had rarely ventured out unescorted. It was the first time she had visited school friends who lived in the neighbourhood close by.

As UNDP’s project expanded, Hadiya became involved with a women’s youth group and registered for a beautician’s training course held in the village. Her years of reading paid off when she won a bridal makeup competition and gained both the qualifications and the investment needed to set out on her own.

Hadiya invested the prize money in makeup and opened a small parlour in her house. She began earning a daily income which was boosted tremendously during festivals like Eid. Lucrative bridal work began rolling in, and within the first few months she earned enough to invest in new makeup and upgrade her parlour.

Hadiya’s horizons have been expanding since that first crucial trip to the cultural festival. Now, after exposure trips to colleges arranged by UNDP, she is planning to enrol in an intermediate degree programme at a local college to learn the skills needed to run a successful business.

Hadiya feels her success has made a small but crucial change to social norms in her village. “I have come a long way from reading about self-grooming in magazines to becoming an actual beautician, thanks to UNDP. Now the same people who criticized me for taking part in the beautician’s course come to me for my services.”
One night in October, a police check post in the city of Ganjah, Punjab, reported they had found the body of a girl who apparently had been killed by gunshot. They were having trouble identifying the deceased and requested assistance from the Crime Scene Unit in Gujrat.

A mobile crime scene investigation unit, developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), responded to the call. The Gujrat crime scene team collected and preserved DNA samples which were sent to a laboratory for genetic testing, and they sent the victim’s fingerprints to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). The fingerprints matched an entry in the database and the girl was identified as a resident of another city. The murderer was also identified and arrested for further investigation and prosecution.

The UNODC in Pakistan has been providing specialized technical training to Investigation Officers and First Respondent Police Officers of the Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSU), in partnership with the Punjab Forensic Science Agency. Nazim Hussain, Assistant Sub Inspector of the Gujrat Crime Scene Unit, said, "This training has facilitated the securing of crime scenes, and enabled the unit to start functioning in a professional manner. Many thefts, robberies, and blind murders have been traced and the culprits tracked down with the assistance of these latest techniques and modern equipment provided by UNODC."

The equipment and training provided by UNODC is helping the CSU solve cases, and the results are bringing justice to victims and their families.
Unity is strength

Afzal is an energetic resident of the Muhalla Shahbaz Colony, Jacobabad City, who had always looked forward to the moment when fellow residents would realize they could improve their own conditions. Although he was aware of the problems, Afzal lacked the knowledge and vocabulary to convince people to help him improve the Colony’s environment.

An Urban WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) intervention took place in the Colony under a project by USAID, UNICEF, and UN-Habitat. Muhalla Wash Committee (MWC) meetings were arranged, and it was in these meetings that Afzal felt motivated to work to improve his community. Afzal urged other community members to take part in the meetings as well. Collectively, and with the support of the Urban WASH team, Afzal and a team began to sensitize the residents of Muhalla Shahbaz Colony regarding health and hygiene standards. They proposed that WASH messages should be disseminated to a wider audience, which led to an extensive door-to-door awareness campaign.

Afzal and his team then visited the Municipal Services Officer and urged him to maintain the cleanliness of their Muhalla and repair and maintain the roads. After observing the enthusiasm and integrity of the MWC and their commitment towards the cause, the Officer had the roads repaired and also cleaned. Afzal is proud of his achievement and said, “When all Muhalla WASH Committee members worked together, then we resolved all the issues of the Muhalla related to proper sanitation which I was unable to do alone.” Afzal is still working for his Muhalla, attends all MWC meetings and maintains communication with other MWC members for further follow up meetings.
Providing sanitation through latrine construction

Kausar Bibi walked slowly as she navigated the dirt path to point out the fields she uses for open defecation. Heavily pregnant, she was out of breath after just a few steps. “I have to walk a mile away from where I live every time I need to relieve myself,” said the 26-year old resident of Union Council Dosa, Jhang district.

Kausar, like the other women from her community, uses open fields for defecation in the absence of latrines and proper sanitation systems. Lack of water at the site prevents them from cleaning themselves adequately, resulting in many women contracting various allergies. “Every other month someone from the village has to go to the doctor for some skin allergy or infection. The doctor tells us they are caused due to unhygienic conditions,” Kausar said. She added that the community wants to use more hygienic methods, but everything was destroyed in the 2014 floods.

Lack of privacy is another issue with open defecation sites. “We have to ensure we are hidden by the crops and it is always uncomfortable knowing that we are in plain view,” Kausar explained. “It has been particularly hard for me since the sixth month of my pregnancy, as squatting on uneven fields while trying to ensure privacy is very difficult.”

The Natural Disasters Consortium led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is constructing latrines which will benefit 2,000 people in the area. WASH hygiene and awareness sessions have also been conducted where community members are trained how to make water safe for consumption and how to make daily activities more hygienic.

Kausar’s family received a cash grant for latrine construction and it was nearly complete. “I am looking forward to start using the latrine which will be right next to my home, offering me complete privacy and a hygienic environment.”
Unhygienic living conditions have always been a major issue in Jacobabad, affecting the lives and health of the city’s residents. Unmaintained sewage lines resulted in liquid and solid waste being dumped in the streets, and diseases such as malaria, typhoid, diarrhoea and skin ailments were increasing. Unfortunately, residents seemed unconcerned about the state of their community.

The Urban WASH team, under an initiative by UNICEF and UN-Habitat funded by USAID, undertook a cleanliness campaign in Jacobabad to make people aware of the consequences of an unhygienic environment. By mobilizing people around the city, the team educated residents about the seriousness of the issue and how it can only be solved through collective efforts. They conducted meetings with community residents, formed committees and conducted sessions with them, and organized training to raise awareness about the positive effects of improving hygiene in the city.

A survey conducted after the cleanliness campaign showed positive changes, especially in Jacobabad’s Brohi Muhallah. The people there had taken note of the Urban WASH team’s efforts and became actively involved in cleaning the streets. These residents also became conscious of personal hygiene, including washing hands with soap, cutting their nails, using latrines properly and bathing regularly. The health of Brohi Muhalla’s people improved and they thanked the Urban WASH team for their continuous support towards improving the lives of Jacobabad’s residents.
Community mobilization and local ownership are important to ensuring long-term sustainable development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implements inclusive and sustainable development initiatives in some of the most underdeveloped parts of Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) through its Youth and Social Cohesion Project (YSCP). Garha Mir Alam is a remote village of 450 households that faces numerous development challenges. To help residents respond to challenges collectively, UNDP helped them join a Local Support Organization (LSO). The LSO comprised selected members from the established Men’s Community Organization (MCO) and Women’s Community Organization (WCO) from neighbouring settlements, and serves as the main interface between government, civil society stakeholders and village residents. It also helps village-level community organizations successfully implement UNDP interventions.

LSO members tackled the village’s problems systematically by creating a community development plan to prioritize needs. They addressed the immediate concern of an acute shortage of clean drinking water by collaborating with UNDP to install a solar water pump. Because an influential village resident wanted the drinking water supply set up on his own land, this required extensive negotiations through traditional arbitration bodies (Jirgas). The LSO members present their case for a community-owned water supply system, and their collective action was rewarded when the Jirga ruled in favour of installing the pump on the village land identified by the LSO.

One LSO member said, “The formation of the LSO has allowed us to raise our voices for more equitable development in our village. The water pump is helping all residents to access clean drinking water. We no longer share our drinking water source with animals.” The solar water pump is being maintained through monthly donations by village residents, a process formalized by the LSO. As well, a pond was dug near the pump to accumulate excess water to use for village livestock.

Providing clean drinking water is one of the many development interventions that UNDP, its partners and the LSO is implementing in Garha Mir Alam.
For the first time in her 103 years, Muhammad Jaan feels productive. She is one of the oldest members of the Women’s Community Organization (WCO) in her small village of Padhanan in the Haripur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. For her, the village is her life.

“As long as I can remember this is where I have belonged. I was born here, I grew up here, and all my memories of everything I have loved or lost or endured or celebrated are with Padhana,” says Jaan.

Jaan formed the village’s WCO, called “Shama Tanzeem”, under the United Nations Development Programme’s Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) project. RAHA promotes regional stability and compensation for the social, economic and environmental consequences brought on Pakistani communities by the presence of more than three million Afghan refugees over the past 30 years, as well as peaceful co-existence.

The RAHA project raises awareness and trains community organization (CO) members to create unity and togetherness in their communities. CO members meet regularly to discuss and prioritize solutions to common problems and then propose projects to UNDP-RAHA staff for the community to implement itself, with technical support when needed.

Shama Tanzeem’s first project was to address the village’s dire need of a link road from the village to the main road. The previous road was destroyed first by the 2005 earthquake and then by the catastrophic floods in 2010-2011. This made it almost impossible for relief efforts to reach Padhanan. Thanks to Jaan’s spirit and leadership, the link road was successfully constructed last year, benefitting more than 5,800 and 6,200 people indirectly.

Jaan says, “RAHA is a breath of fresh air for the locals, especially women. Earlier we were only restricted to household chores and now I conduct a monthly meeting at my place with the help of the facilitators. We are more aware of our surroundings and I haven’t felt this productive in my entire life.”

This is one example of how interventions under RAHA are leading to stronger social mobility and co-existence among Pakistani communities and refugees.
Celebrating World Food Day

World Food Day is celebrated on October 21, and this year’s theme was “Climate is changing. Food and Agriculture must too.” The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), along with partners, marked the day with a ceremony at the National Agriculture Research Council (NARC) in Islamabad.

Chief Guest Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, said, “There is an immense pressure on natural resources and environment due to intensification of crop and livestock sectors in order to feed ever growing population in the country. As a result, we are experiencing rapid ground water depletion, watersheds degradation, desertification, deforestation and rangelands deterioration.” He also said the Ministry’s draft food security policy puts ample focus on crop diversification, climate change, natural disasters and the zero hunger programme.

Mr. Patrick T. Evans, FAO Representative in Pakistan, said, “We need to mitigate the damage we are doing to our climate. There is a need to adapt our food and agriculture system to new realities of climate change. There is a long road ahead but with collaboration we can make the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals a reality in Pakistan.” He also read a message from FAO’s Director-General Mr. José Graziano da Silva.

During the event, seven farmers (including four female farmers) were given cash awards of 50,000 Pakistani rupees each for adopting climate-smart agricultural practices. As well, an exhibition showcased the research that is being done in Pakistan’s agriculture sector and the global World Food Day video was screened for the audience.

This World Food Day event was held through collaboration with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Oxfam.
Rabi seed distribution drive launched

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched its largest Rabi seed distribution drive for this year in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Rabi crops are those sown in the winter and harvested in the spring. The seed distribution drive began in Bara, Khyber Agency, with 2,571 beneficiaries receiving seed packages on the first day of the drive. Of these, 1,924 beneficiary growers received 50 kilograms of wheat seed which can be sown on one acre of land. Another 647 beneficiaries who rely on livestock production for their livelihood were given a fodder package. Lentil seed, a cheap source of protein, is also being distributed along with oat seed. Intercropping lentils with oats will help provide nitrogen, an essential element for plant growth. FAO estimates it will be able to reach 18,452 needy people in Khyber Agency this winter season.

FAO’s operation is linked to ensuring food security for temporarily displaced persons (TDPs) who have recently returned to areas affected by conflict. In addition, TDPs have been helped with land reclamation, which makes formerly unusable land fit for cultivation again. FAO’s support also includes rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and capacity building through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Women Open Schools (WOS).

FAO seed distribution is supported by FATA’s Directorate of Agriculture and the Pakistan Army provides security at distribution points to facilitate the process. Seed distribution is also underway for 42,446 beneficiaries in North Waziristan, 30,128 in South Waziristan and 9,600 in Kurram, and will be completed by the end of November.
Faces of the Kalash: Promoting and safeguarding Pakistan’s culture

To raise awareness and highlight the importance of safeguarding Pakistan’s diverse culture, UNESCO Pakistan and the Royal Norwegian Embassy launched the ethnographic photo exhibition “Faces of the Kalash” in the Satrang Art Gallery Corridor at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The five-day exhibition showcased photographs by Norway’s Georg Morgenstierne’s for the first time in Pakistan. Speaking at the opening, UNESCO Representative to Pakistan Ms. Vibeke Jensen highlighted the urgent need to safeguard the unique culture of the Kalash people, saying the exhibition provided an opportunity to raise awareness about this minority culture at risk of disappearing. She said the world would be poorer without the Kalash people and that local, indigenous knowledge is key to devising sustainable and climate-friendly development strategies.

Norwegian Ambassador Mr. Tore Nedrebø commended UNESCO’s efforts and spoke about how the unique culture of the Kalash people was captured and documented by the photographer. Mr. Morgenstierne was a linguistics professor at the University of Oslo and carried out field work between 1923 and 1971 in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Iran. He also collected some remarkable scientific materials from the culture of the regional people, including images, movies from pre-Islamic ceremonial dances, and sound recordings from nearly extinct languages.

Promoting respect for cultural diversity is at the core of UNESCO’s mandate and also features in the sustainable development agenda 2030. UNESCO’s Convention for safeguarding Intangible Culture Heritage (ICH) was adopted in 2003 to safeguard the living heritage against the threats posed by the contemporary process of globalization and unprecedented social transformation. The convention lays out a number of possible safeguarding measures including identification, documentation, research, promotion, and through formal and non-formal education.
In 2010, fierce floodwaters engulfed villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) in Pakistan’s mountainous north. Nearly 2,000 people died and 1.6 million homes were destroyed. Such sudden, catastrophic floods are expected to become more frequent as climate change takes hold. They are caused by heavy rains and glacial lake outburst flooding (GLOF) which occurs when high temperatures cause glaciers to melt, creating lakes which can suddenly burst. Pakistan was ranked third among countries most affected by extreme weather events in the Global Climate Risk Index (2014), and 33 lakes in Pakistan are considered prone to GLOF, putting more than 7.1 million people at risk. Erosion by deforestation worsens the risks, and safety infrastructure such as protective walls and spillways are largely lacking. The scale of devastation GLOF can cause is well known, but there are no disaster management and preparedness plans or early-warning systems to alert communities. The Ministry of Climate Change and provincial governments are planning to establish early-warning systems and implement small-scale infrastructure projects in 12 vulnerable districts of KP and GB. This initiative is being funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and supported by UNDP. The project will enhance communities’ ability to plan for and mitigate climate change-related risks, and will help ensure decision-makers have the technical skills and knowledge required to integrate climate change and disaster management into medium- and long-term development planning. The initiative builds on a pilot project financed by the Adaptation Fund (AF) and supported by UNDP that established early-warning and mitigation measures in two vulnerable valleys in KP and GB. The expansion will be funded by a 37 million United States Dollar (USD) grant from the GCF and will begin in March 2017 and run over five years. It is expected to benefit approximately 29 million people, helping reduce the effects of catastrophic floods and ensuring communities are assisted in developing protection measures against climate change.
In September, the Karachi Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) marked its first ever seizure by interdicting a total of 4.6 kilograms of heroin and 8.9 kilograms of ICE (crystal meth) from two similar air consignments. These were destined for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates respectively, and the seized drugs were cleverly concealed in handcrafted marble souvenir pieces. Three culprits were arrested and further investigations are in process. The ACCU is a joint enforcement unit established under the framework of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)–World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme (CCP). After more than a decade of successful operation at the major seaports of approximately 30 countries, the CCP expanded into airports with the first ACCU established at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi. This seizure marks the first operational result of the Karachi Pilot ACCU, which was established through contributions from the Kingdom of Denmark and the United States of America (USA). The CPP is supported by Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom and the USA.
Mr. Cesar Guedes, Country Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), opened a computer-based e-Learning Centre for the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Lahore. At the event, he thanked the High Commissioner of Australia, Ms. Margaret Adamson, for generously funding the development of the e-Learning Centre. He also expressed appreciation for the FIA’s support and dedication in developing its expertise to overcome a multitude of challenges, including human trafficking, migrant smuggling and other forms of transnational organized crimes which the Agency is mandated to tackle as the country’s premier law enforcement agency.

Mr. Guedes also thanked British High Commissioner Mr. Thomas Drew for financially enabling the UNODC to develop a dedicated and modern interview room, in addition to assisting the FIA in digitalizing its paper records for the first time. He added that the success of these projects would not have been possible without the cooperation and collaboration of the Government of Pakistan and its agencies, especially the FIA.

Dr. Usman Anwar, Director FIA Punjab, stated his appreciation for the support provided to the FIA from the international community through the UNODC Office in Pakistan, and assured the Agency would continue working in partnership with the UNODC in areas of mutual interest.
In September, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Pakistan, in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Division (NCD) and the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF), organized a two-day Sensitization Workshop on Precursor Chemicals Control for private industry representatives from the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness within the industries on the diversion of precursor chemicals and their illicit use, and was attended by executives, managers and employees from leading national companies based in Faisalabad. Officials from the NCD and ANF briefed participants on the processes and rules followed at their levels, and discussed the problems faced by the industry as well by the regulatory and law enforcement agencies.

Mr. Toaha Hussain Bugti, Senior Joint Secretary of the NCD, highlighted the important role of industry in helping Pakistan’s law enforcement agencies combat drug trafficking and related crimes. He expressed appreciation for UNODC’s support in combating the trafficking of drugs and precursors to and from Pakistan.

Ms. Anila Rahim, Program Officer (Precursors) at UNODC, thanked the Government of Pakistan for its continued cooperation and expressed the UNODC’s great appreciation for the Government and its law enforcement agencies for making concerted and highly commendable efforts in interdicting and seizing large amounts of illicit drugs and illegally diverted precursor chemicals destined for international markets.

This workshop was one of the many deliverables under the new project “Strengthening Border Security Against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Related Transnational Organized Crime” (2016-2019), recently signed between the Government of Japan and UNODC.
The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and the World Food Programme (WFP) have launched the fifth edition of the Pakistan Education Atlas. The Atlas is the only national publication providing education indicators by geographic location down to the tehsil level, enabling stakeholders to easily identify priority areas for interventions and resource allocation.

The data from the Atlas also serves as a baseline for measuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The report finds that school enrolment is still an area of concern in Pakistan, with just over half of school-aged children (50.8 per cent) registered. Primary education has a higher net enrolment rate of 72 per cent, with 6.08 million children aged 5 to 9 years (2.55 million boys and 3.54 million girls) out of school.

The report also reveals that 69 per cent of students who start Grade 1 stay on to Grade 5. Contributing factors include that 67 per cent of government schools have drinking water, 69 per cent have toilets for students, 57 per cent have electricity and 71 per cent have boundary walls.

“The updated, credible and detailed information can assist the Government and development actors operating in the education sector of Pakistan in making informed policy and programme decisions,” said Mr. Haseeb Athar, Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training.

“Education and food security go hand in hand,” said Lola Castro, WFP’s Country Director. “An educated family is more likely to have the means to buy food, and to make smart choices about which foods to eat.”

Pakistan’s Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and WFP have worked together on the Pakistan Education Atlas since 2010. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other partners also contributed.
Pakistan is home to 9 per cent (24 million) of the world’s 263 million out-of-school children, adolescents and youth, and a new report reveals that change is needed to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for education. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Islamabad launched the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report 2016 “Education for people and planet: creating sustainable futures for all” following its global launch in Paris. The report reveals that the Southern Asia region is trending to be more than half a century late to meet the 2030 SDG deadline.

In Pakistan, by 2030 one in ten children will still not be completing primary school, with universal primary education expected in 2060, universal lower secondary education in 2070 and universal upper-secondary education not until 2095. Also, while education is often the best indicator of climate change awareness, half of countries’ curricula worldwide, including Pakistan’s, do not explicitly mention climate change.

The GEM Report suggests breaking with past trends, saying education systems must provide people with the vital skills and knowledge to find new solutions for environmental problems and nurture higher-level skills to fulfil the needs of growing economies. It calls for national governments to focus on removing inequalities in education.

In Pakistan, UNESCO and other United Nations partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, are working with provincial and area governments to prepare a national strategy for implementing SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

The GEM Report is an editorially independent, authoritative and evidence-based annual report to assess progress towards the education targets in the SDG framework. The first in a fifteen-year series, the 2016 report shows education has huge potential to facilitate progress towards all global SDGs, but needs a major rethink to meet those expectations.
Pakistani youth for climate change: Gilgit Baltistan

In October, some 65 young people from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) participated in an interactive workshop on climate change. The goal was to raise awareness about climate change among the youth of GB, a region heavily affected by the effects of climate change, including periodic floods. Several participants shared their own experiences and suggestions for tackling the effects of climate change.

Anusha Baig, a student from Sher Qilla, explained how the climate has visibly changed since her grandmother’s youth, saying, “She used to play with snow even in the month of March. While I can only see the snow on the peaks of the mountains. She used to cover herself up with thick woollen shawls. But I face a scorching sun in the same month.” Anusha provided some sobering information about the effects of climate change in her region and possible solutions including behaviour changes and a global agreement to reduce chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Saira Zahid from Skardu urged participants to start acting to stop global warming and spoke about glacier grafting, a local practice in GB to build small glaciers as a means to combat climate change. Saira stressed, “We have to speak up for the issue, we have to divert our focus to stop climate change. It must be our first priority to save the planet earth.”

Mariya Akbar also shared her personal experience with extreme weather conditions to highlight the effects of climate change on life and livelihood in GB. Nazish Amir focused on the manmade actions contributing to climate change and said, “We shouldn’t wait for miracles to happen. Why don’t we go out and plant more trees?” Lastly, Jibran Jamil explained his vision of a “Climate Smart Gilgit-Baltistan” and proposed practical solutions such as effective waste management.

All participants received useful information about climate change as well as sustainable and environmentally-friendly bags to use as an alternative to plastic bags. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in collaboration with Australian Aid, Connect4Climate and the Aga Khan Foundation. It was held as part of the Pakistani Youth for Climate Change initiative, a multi-disciplinary project aimed at involving Pakistani young people in the global conversation on climate change.
Collaborating to implement the New Urban Agenda

By 2030, Pakistan’s population is expected to reach 260 million and half of the population will live in urban areas, making cities central to climate action, prosperity, peace and human rights. On World Cities Day 2016, officials from the Ministry of Climate Change and UN-Habitat gathered in Islamabad to discuss implementing the New Urban Agenda adopted at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador, on October 20.

Mr. Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister for Climate Change, said, “Together, with other Government agencies at federal, provincial and local levels, and all urban actors and partners, we hope to make Pakistan’s cities and human settlements ‘inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable’ as required by SDG 11.”

Mr. Syed Abu Akif, Secretary for the Ministry of Climate Change, said, “Cities as engines of economic growth also bring prosperity and positive impact if properly managed. Together with UN-Habitat, the Government of Pakistan is making efforts to improve the quality of life of not just the urban poor but also of the broader population living in urban cities through planned urbanization.”

Ms. Bella Evidente, Country Programme Manager for UN-Habitat Pakistan, said, “In celebration of World Cities Day, UN-Habitat aims to create awareness on the challenges and benefits of sustainable urbanization, promote this year’s theme of ‘Inclusive Cities, Shared Development’, and highlight the important role of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion.” She added, “On World Cities Day, let us renew our resolve to confront urban problems and forge lasting solutions. Together, we can show how success in Pakistan cities inspires change across the world.”
Celebrating International Day of the Girl Child

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) commemorated the UN International Day of the Girl Child on October 8 with a cricket day for girls.

More than 70 girls from four different schools and 15 women from the expatriate community participated, and 350 people attended the event held at Pakistan Sweet Homes in Islamabad, including chief guest Ms. Mahyad Tavakoli, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of Sweden, and several dignitaries from the diplomatic corps and government. Ms. Sangeeta Thapa, Deputy Country Representative for UN Women, congratulated all participants and said cricket is an excellent way to promote girls’ empowerment.

“Sport creates confidence which is required for all girls to grow into strong and independent women,” she said.

Ms. Sarah Coleman, Chief of Child Protection at UNICEF, said, “This day is a wonderful testament to girl power.” She congratulated all involved and encouraged the girls to continue playing sports and to work hard for their goals.

UN Women and UNICEF are thankful to the Millennium Roots Schools, the Pakistan Cricket Board and Pakistan Sweet Homes for their strong support in organizing the cricket day to promote girls’ rights in Pakistan.

The UN International Day of the Girl Child promotes girls’ human rights, highlights gender inequalities existing between girls and boys and addresses the various forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world. The theme for this year’s International Day of the Girl Child on October 11 was “Girls’ Progress = Goals’ Progress: What Counts for Girls.”
Pakistan’s doctHERs wins Global Goals Award

At UNICEF’s first annual Global Goals Awards held in New York, Pakistan’s doctHERs initiative was recognized with the Campaigner Award, given to an individual or organization improving the lives of girls and women.

The social enterprise doctHERS matches trained junior female doctors in Pakistan with rural women and girls through telemedicine using video conferencing technology. It reaches vulnerable girls and women with essential health care in Pakistan while providing employment opportunities for qualified female health professionals. Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram represented doctHERs at the awards ceremony. Also honoured for their contributions to advancing the rights of girls and women were Rebeca Gyumi, a lawyer who fights against child marriage in Tanzania, and Yusra Mardini, a Syrian teen and Olympic swimmer who saved fellow refugees from drowning. The awards were presented by Christiane Amanpour, Chief International Correspondent for CNN, Chris Anderson, entrepreneur and Curator of TED, and Grammy Award winner and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Angélique Kidjo.

The Global Goal Awards are part of ongoing efforts to rally support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The awards were curated by UNICEF with the United Nations’ 17 SDG Advocates forming the official judging panel, and the ceremony was organized in collaboration with Project Everyone and Unilever.
Pakistan youth activist Urooj Ashraf Awan was a guest speaker at UN Women’s HeForShe second anniversary event, held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. The HeForShe solidarity movement for gender equality provides a systematic approach and targeted platform on which men and boys can engage and become change agents towards the achievement of gender equality. This event renewed momentum to create a gender equal world by or before 2030 by showcasing the stories of global activists. Urooj shared the gender discrimination she experienced when she attended one of Pakistan’s most renowned engineering institutes in Pakistan, where the male to female ratio was 20 to 1. Her actions to combat gender discrimination began with creating an all-girls society called Zimal with the tagline “Breaking stereotypes for HER.” Urooj told the audience:

This past eight of March, International Women’s Day, our society decided had a new idea to launch the first UN Women HeForShe initiative in Pakistan. We joined up with another male society, “Khardaar”, with the tagline “As brothers we stand”, to raise awareness and engagement in the HeForShe campaign. We created posters, we hung up banners, and we set out to the goal to make people aware of everything that is wrong with gender discrimination in our societies.

As you can imagine, not everyone agreed with us. We faced considerable resistance and even threats of violence from hardcore conservative groups. A group of men complained to the university administration that such a campaign would endanger us and therefore should not be held on campus. Our posters and banners were torn down and destroyed. But we knew that we had to stick to our promise. Within 48 hours of our launch, we engaged 6,000 men and boys to sign up for HeForShe, and we contributed to the global HeForShe ticker, crossing the 300,000 mark.

In recognition of our volunteer services, UN Women presented us with the first HeForShe Hero of the Month international award in May 2015, which led me to believe that you are never too young to make a difference.

When man himself empowers women, he stands up against the stereotype, and violence and harassment that is inflicted on them. He breaks stereotype and re-creates a new status quo. Countries that are more gender equal are also the countries that score highest on the happiness scale. Equality is just, it is ethical, and it’s in favor of men as well. It’s a win-win situation.
United States pledges to help prevent violence against women in Pakistan

The United States (U.S.) Department of State and UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, signed a three-year agreement providing a grant of 3.5 million United States Dollars (USD) to support UN Women Pakistan’s initiative “Prevention and Protection of Women from Violence Through Access to Justice, Services and Safe Public Spaces.”

At a launch event in Islamabad, Jamshed Kazi, UN Women’s Country Representative, stated, “Today is an exciting day for UN Women as we welcome the high-level commitment and strong support from the U.S. State Department to considerably bolster access to justice, essential services and safe public spaces for women and girls facing violence in Pakistan.” He added that the recently-passed tougher laws on anti-honour killings and rape demonstrates the Government of Pakistan’s commitment towards ending violence against women and girls.

Mr. William Brownfield, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, expressed the U.S. State Department’s deep commitment to partner with UN Women in ending violence against women in Pakistan. He said, “This programme will not only help bring justice to the women and girls of today’s Pakistan, but help prevent violence in the future.”

Mr. Muhammad Arshad, Director General Human Rights at the Ministry of Human Rights, welcomed the initiative and pledged the Government of Pakistan’s support to work with UN Women for its implementation.

The UN Women initiative covers the provinces of Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh and initially focuses on enhancing women’s and girls’ access to justice, services and safe spaces across several pilot districts. Key interventions include capacity enhancement for law enforcement agencies and service providers, increased public awareness on prevalence and causes of violence against women, data collection through safety audits, refurbishing women’s protection facilities and exploring the establishment of women protection units.
Enhancing women and girls’ safety and mobility in public spaces

At an event in Lahore in September, national and international experts came together to discuss issues, challenges and responses to prevent and respond to sexual violence against women in public spaces. This was organized as part of UN Women’s “Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Flagship Initiative.”

A panel discussion was held on urban and social development as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing violence against women and girls in major cities. This discussion further strengthened commitments from a gender perspective as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing violence against women and girls. As well, presentations and tools were shared to help effectively adapt and pilot UN Women’s global Safe City model in Pakistan.

Mr. Jamshed Kazi, UN Women’s Country Representative, highlighted emerging key promises of UN Women’s global Safe City programme initiated five years ago as: the inclusion of a rights-based approach of safe cities and urbanization, the inclusion of women and girls in the research and planning process, and to ensure diverse programming to make sure no-one is left behind.

The event concluded with designing and endorsing a step-by-step approach to facilitating women and girls in exercising their rights to move around freely, to use and access public spaces and services, to make choices about their place of residence, work, or leisure, and to make the best of the opportunities a city has to offer.

This event was a collaboration of the Government of Punjab’s Chief Minister’s Special Monitoring Unit (Law and Order Wing), the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and Punjab’s Women Development Department and UN Women. It was carried out under UN Women in Pakistan’s “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls” programme, with support from the Government of Australia, to increase participation of women in society as leaders and change makers.
Tech-ing the path to women’s safety

Immobility and street harassment are big problems for women and girls across Pakistan, and ending it calls for bold measures. In September, Pakistani youth pitched street-savvy ideas to remove restrictions that hinder women’s public mobility, tackle street harassment and make public places safe, secure and welcoming for women.

A youth competition was initiated by the Government of Punjab’s Chief Minister’s Special Monitoring Unit (Law and Order Wing), the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and Punjab’s Women Development Department, in collaboration with UN Women and CIRCLE, a leading social enterprise working on women and youth entrepreneurship and leadership. A call-out was issued to Universities in Punjab and five teams were selected and received support to build their ideas.

At an event in Lahore, the five finalists presented their solutions to the three-member jury of Ms. Fauzia Viqar, Chairperson of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Fiza Farhan, Member of the UN High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, and Mr. Alexander Hablik, Advisor from GIZ Lahore.

Ms. Waheeda Hameed-ud-Din, Minister of Punjab’s Women Development Department, presented the award to the winning team from the Lahore College for Women University for their “Safe Campus” pitch to use digital and sustainable protective measures. The runners up were Punjab University, with their “Shoot-WithCamera” pitch to empower women using their mobile phones, and Lahore University of Management and Services for their “I Was Harassed Here” pitch to use digital means to share information on unsafe streets.

The other finalists included the University of Science and Technology with the “Fempower” pitch focused on rape awareness and prevention, and the Lahore School of Economics with the “Out and About” pitch to use safe routing and a buddy system with hazard control.

The event was carried out under UN Women in Pakistan’s “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls” programme, with support from the Government of Australia.
In October, Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif constituted a provincial task force for facilitating the coordination of women’s empowerment initiatives. This will also scale up activities and awareness campaigns across relevant frameworks including the Pakistan Women Entrepreneurship Programme (PWEP), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms. Fiza Farhan, Member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment, has been appointed Chairperson of the task force which will comprise members of public sector departments. This task force is in line with a “Call to Action” included in the first report of the High-Level Panel for Women’s Economic Empowerment in September 2016, which emphasized the need for increased partnerships and commitments to accelerate progress under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Fiza, in partnership with the Government of Punjab and UN Women Pakistan, launched the “Call for Action Campaign” in Pakistan to engage key players to promote economic, social, legal and political empowerment for women in both rural and urban settings.

Punjab is taking great strides towards women’s empowerment, including a current survey to enumerate female home-based workers, in collaboration with UN Women Pakistan, as part of efforts to strengthen the policy environment for informal female workers in the province. UN Women also recently supported 18 private sector companies to sign the Women’s Empowerment Principles in Punjab and Sindh, encouraging them to commit to gender-responsive practices in their businesses.
UNESCO Pakistan and Uks, a research, resource and publication centre on women and media, collaborated to organize a National Consultation called “Gender Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia” in Karachi. The objective was to refine and validate the Gender Sensitive Guidelines for Women in Media in South Asia developed earlier this year and propose an action plan.

The National Consultation brought together senior and mid-level media professionals, self-regulatory authorities, representatives and activists of civil society, and women-focused and media-development organizations. It addressed six issues that represent a priority for the Pakistani media institutions: 1) the importance of gender balance in media institutions, 2) the role of unions, associations and clubs in promoting gender balance, 3) gender sensitization in education and training, 4) addressing gender-based violence, safety and harassment in the workplace, 5) portrayal of women in news and current affairs, and 6) portrayal of women in entertainment and advertising.

UNESCO Representative to Pakistan, Ms. Vibeke Jensen, emphasized the important role of all media in promoting gender equality in society. She said the media in Pakistan needs a better balance of men and women in key decision-making positions and in investigative journalism, and that media content needs to be gender responsive. She emphasized that all stereotyping, including gender stereotyping, needs to be eliminated.

Uks Director Ms. Tasneem Ahmar underlined, “Although women are making strides in the right direction, the often-negative portrayal of women in the media lends strength to misogynist mindsets, trying to push women towards the wall. There has to be some guidelines for the media so that these negative elements could be checked and corrected”.

The Guidelines come at a critical point in time, and if implemented will help Pakistan achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
Wheels of change in Punjab

It was Defence Day in Pakistan, and for the 35 girls who had decorated their motorbikes with Pakistani flags and dressed up in green and white it was time to show that Pakistan not only has female fighter pilots in the air, but also Women on Wheels fighting for their right to mobility and independence on the ground.

The conservative city of Sargodha witnessed a rare sight when a women’s motorbike rally took place on September 6, as motorcycling has traditionally been a men’s field in Pakistan. The historic event was part of the Women on Wheels (WoW) initiative, which was launched by the Chief Minister’s office in Punjab in January. The programme teaches women how to ride motorbikes to increase equal participation of women in society, and aims to combat street harassment and other forms of violence in public spaces for women and girls.

More than 200 community members attended the WoW launch in Sargodha. Speaking to the audience, UN Women’s Country Representative Mr. Jamshed M. Kazi emphasized the benefits of increasing women’s mobility, saying, “Women should have the right to exercise equal opportunities, rights and choices, including their mode of transport and freedom of mobility, which also has an important economic dimension. In Pakistan, barely one fifth of the women work in paid jobs, in part due to the lack of access to transportation, high costs, as well as the risk of facing sexual harassment when commuting to work”.

Sweden’s Ambassador Ms. Ingrid Johansson, Provincial Minister of Women Development Ms. Hameeda Waheeduddin and Provincial Minister of Higher Education Ms. Begum Zakia Shahnawaz attended along with local Members of the Provincial Assembly and District Coordinating Officer Mr. Daanish Afzaal. Representatives of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and Aurat Foundation were also present at the event.
On September 25, as part of the UN Secretary-General’s UNiTE campaign to End Violence against Women, a group of women came together in the village of Abdullah Chandio in the Tando Muhammad Khan District of Sindh to join hands and raise their voices to put a focus on problems of food insecurity and child marriage in their district.

The UNiTE campaign has proclaimed the 25th day of each month as “Orange Day”, and encourages everyone to wear orange to raise awareness and take action to end discrimination and violence against women and girls. This Orange Day, with the theme of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, the UNiTE campaign called for eradication of gender-based violence and food insecurity.

The event was organized by the Sindh Community Foundation in cooperation with the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and UN Women, and many participants wore orange to support Orange Day. The village faced devastating rain floods in 2011 and 2013 that destroyed crops and shelters, and women from the Tando Muhammad Khan district described awful experiences of food insecurity threats of disasters during monsoon season.

The women gathered to share what they had learned after attending awareness sessions about avoiding early marriage of girls, and they also discussed the effects food insecurity and malnutrition have on their lives. The activity created awareness around the issues of child marriage and access to food, and as a result the participants at the Orange Day event vowed to advocate against early marriage of the girls in their community.

Women in Sindh put focus on food insecurity and ending child marriages
Leaving no one behind for health

A national conference was held to advocate for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for health, with a focus on aligning Pakistan’s health priorities and the country’s Vision 2025 with health-related SDGs. Ministers, parliamentarians, policy experts, and members of provincial governments, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) participated and pledged to work together to support implementation of health-related SDGs to achieve the targets by 2030.

World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Pakistan, Dr. Michel Thieren, said, “Universal Health Coverage is a key to achieve SDGs for health in Pakistan and it requires synergies and collaborations across the board, leaving no one behind in terms of health care access. WHO is fully committed to support achieving all the targets of SDG 3 for health in Pakistan.”

Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, Minister of State for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination emphasized that improving health and quality of life of all Pakistanis, particularly women and children, through access to quality essential health services requires joint actions and collaborations.

The conference was a collaboration of WHO, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination and provincial health and planning departments. It concluded with all partners signing a joint declaration for SDG 3: Good health and well-being.
Nutrition for children under two dire

The new UNICEF report “From the First Hour of Life” shows that worldwide five in six children under two years old are not fed enough nutritious food for their age, depriving them of the energy and nutrients they need at the most critical time in their physical and cognitive development. In Pakistan, the nutrition situation for children under two is dire. Children in Pakistan are not getting enough food nor nutritious food. Three in ten babies have not been fed any solid foods by the age of 11 months, while slightly more than half of children are fed the minimum number of times per day. Nearly 5 out of 10 children live in households that face moderate or severe food insecurity.

While 30 out of every 100 children globally eat four or more food groups a day, only 3 in 100 children in Pakistan have that luxury. Virtually no children get the right vitamins and minerals in their diets. An average household in Pakistan spends more on tea, sugar and confectionaries than on vegetables, fruit, nuts and meat. The vast majority simply cannot afford a nutritious diet.

UNICEF data show that poor nutritional practices—including the delayed introduction of solid foods, infrequent meals and lack of food variety—are widespread, depriving children of essential nutrients when their growing brains, bones and bodies need them the most. Globally, making nutritious foods affordable and accessible to the poorest children will require stronger and more targeted investments from governments and the private sector. Cash or in-kind transfers to vulnerable families, crop diversification programmes and fortification of staple foods are key to improving nutrition for young children. Community-based health services that help caregivers learn better feeding practices, and safe water and sanitation are also vital.
UAE supports eradicating polio in Pakistan

Pakistan is close to the final stages of what will be a major milestone in global health: the eradication of polio. After many years, and despite many challenges faced by the polio programme, the highly-transmittable yet vaccine-preventable virus has few places left to hide. In 2015–2016, the polio programme made steady progress in reducing the immunity gap through a series of well-planned, high-quality immunization campaigns. In 2016, supported by the United Arab Emirates Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE PAP), the programme is making more gains in the 66 high-risk districts across Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federal Administered Tribal Areas and Sindh. The Emirates Polio Campaign was launched as part of the UAE’s efforts to support Pakistan in eradicating the disease. This support has seen more than 10.5 million children vaccinated repeatedly across campaigns supported by UAE PAP. The UAE’s financial contribution through the World Health Organization (WHO) Pakistan has also extended to cover incentives to polio frontline workers in addition to associated operational costs.

At a ceremony recognizing the importance of this assistance, Mr. Abdullah Khalifa Al Ghafli, Director of UAE PAP, donated a series of images capturing the work of brave frontline workers. Dr. Michel Thieren, WHO’s Representative to Pakistan, said the continuous support of UAE PAP has enabled WHO to continue strengthening capacity and outreach in the most difficult parts of Pakistan. “Much of the recent success in Pakistan is owed to innovative practices and outreach strategies that the programme is turning to in the last mile. Without the generous and ongoing support of donors like United Arab Emirates, the programme would be lacking what it needs to push through to the end.”

The United Arab Emirates has long played a pivotal role in supporting global polio eradication efforts. This year alone, the UAE has contributed 16.9 million United States Dollars (USD) to support eradication efforts in Pakistan through WHO.
Dr. Assad Hafeez, Executive Director of the Health Services Academy and Director General of Health at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, thanked the Ministry and WHO for facilitating this training.

Global health diplomacy brings together the disciplines of public health, international affairs, management, law and economics, and focuses on negotiations that shape and manage the global policy environment for health. The relationship between health, foreign policy and trade is at the cutting edge of global health diplomacy.

WHO Country Representative Dr. Michel Thieren introduced participants to the Global Health Diplomacy Framework and various dimensions of health diplomacy, including the conduct of negotiations between officials of different countries to achieve their foreign policy objectives without recourse to war.

A number of expert doctors addressed participants, covering topics including the international dynamics of trade agreements and how they are affecting health matters, the need for broad-based reforms for improving the governance in the social sector, the importance of international health regulations and global health security issues, and efforts needed to eradicate polio in Pakistan.

A panel discussion provided an opportunity for representatives from government and donor organizations to discuss the dynamics and competency levels of stakeholders involved in diplomacy forums.
SUN Secretariat in Sindh to combat malnutrition

The Planning and Development Department of the Government of Sindh and the World Food Programme (WFP) have launched a Secretariat for the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative in Karachi.

In Pakistan, two out of every five children (44 per cent) are stunted, meaning they are short for their age due to chronic malnutrition, a condition that has lifelong consequences for physical and mental development. The 2011 National Nutrition Survey showed that half of children under five years of age in Sindh are stunted, 40 per cent are underweight, and 73 per cent of children under age of five are anaemic.

The SUN movement brings together governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers in a collective effort to improve nutrition. The Government of Pakistan joined the SUN movement in January 2013 and agreed to establish SUN Secretariats at national and provincial levels. The SUN Secretariat in Sindh will enable the provincial government to plan to scale up nutrition through multi-sectoral and stakeholder coordination.

“Tackling malnutrition, especially for mothers and children, is one of the greatest challenges facing Pakistan today. It can be done – but only if we all combine our efforts, pull together, work in partnership and prioritize,” said Mr. Stephen Glunin, WFP acting Country Director. “In a province like Sindh, where two out of three families can’t afford a nutritious diet, we need to look for solutions at a local level. The SUN secretariat in Karachi is a key step in this direction.”

WFP Pakistan is committed to supporting the Government of Pakistan at the federal and provincial levels in addressing its food security and nutrition needs, and has provided staff, technical support and funding to help set up the SUN Secretariat in Sindh.
UNICEF Representative Ms. Angela Kearney visited the Khairpur District in Sindh to meet beneficiaries of the IKEA-funded project “Child Rights in Cotton Farming Areas (CRCFA)” of Pakistan, which promotes children’s rights to education, health and protection in regions where cotton farming is the predominant economic activity.

During the harvest season, most families work in the cotton fields to generate additional income. Some families may require their children to give up education for a time, which often results in children dropping out of school entirely. The social protection and mobilization component of the CRCFA helps through three major activities: it establishes Multi-Functional Community Centres (MFCCs) that promote community participation and knowledge and awareness on child rights and women’s participation; it provides social funds for community welfare to implement small-scale projects with a primary focus on promoting the rights of children and women; and, it provides Income-Generating Grants to help ease financial burden and mitigate child labour, allowing children to attend school. The CRCFA is being implemented in Pakistan’s Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan provinces. In Sindh, UNICEF, along with its partners the Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and the Indus Resource Centre (IRC), is implementing the project in the Khairpur and Ghotki districts.

Zaheeran, a mother of five, spoke with Ms. Kearney about the MFCC in Ghulam Hyder Hundal village, saying, “It is a secure meeting place where we learn about the importance of education, health, hygiene and also about income-generating skills. Until last year, my entire family used to work in the cotton fields, including my young children.” Zaheeran received money to start a business, and began producing “rillies” (traditional bedspreads) to generate income. “Now, the entire family does not have to work in the cotton fields anymore and my children are able to continue their studies.”

Through the social funds, residents of the village were also able to construct a playground and recreational area, and UNICEF also provided a recreation kit. Ms. Kearney formally inaugurated the playground and shared the excitement and joy of the entire community. In Khanpur Junejo village, Ms. Kearney inaugurated a computer lab at the MFCC which was made possible through the social funds and will benefit more than 70 children.

Under the CRCFA, UNICEF has established 90 community-based, child-friendly schemes, including 54 safe playgrounds and seven computer centres for children in Khairpur and Ghotki districts. 351 Multi-Functional Centres have been established for the benefit of women and children, and over 1,100 women have been provided Income-Generating Grants. As well, a child-friendly methodology has been introduced in more than 350 schools. UNICEF is grateful to the IKEA Foundation for the generous funds that they have provided which we are helping children of rural communities in Pakistan.
Mr. Buhne emphasized, “A manifestation of solidarity amongst developing countries, South-South Cooperation continues to significantly drive progress. Its role has been emphasized in the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Agenda for Humanity. Now it is time to match these commitments with actions. This is essential to rising to the many grave challenges we face. While living standards have risen across the global south, developing countries continue to struggle in the face of numerous and complex challenges that stall progress. Collective action is crucial.”

In September, COMSATS University in Islamabad organized a seminar to commemorate the UN Day for South-South Cooperation. Held in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, this well-attended event focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Framework, with Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, as the Chief Guest.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Buhne noted that the dynamics of the world and cooperation patterns have been changing rapidly over the years; however, South-South Cooperation is still relevant in many ways. He stated that the development paradoxes in Pakistan are not much different from those in the developed countries. Despite a number of shortcomings, Pakistan is one of the earliest adopters of the SDGs at the level of parliament, he added. He also stressed the importance of development indicators for assessing progress achieved.

Mr. Buhne also highlighted the conscious efforts Pakistan has made to integrate itself more deeply into the multilateral markets of the South. Some examples include: the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which is valued at more than 46 billion USD; Pakistan’s Programme for Reconstruction and rehabilitation in Afghanistan which was scaled up to a commitment of 500 million USD in 2013; and Pakistan’s Specialized Technical Assistance Programme for Africa which dates back to 1986 and has been properly institutionalized.

Quoting Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Mr. Buhne emphasized, “A manifestation of solidarity amongst developing countries, South-South Cooperation continues to significantly drive progress. Its role has been emphasized in the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Agenda for Humanity. Now it is time to match these commitments with actions. This is essential to rising to the many grave challenges we face. While living standards have risen across the global south, developing countries continue to struggle in the face of numerous and complex challenges that stall progress. Collective action is crucial.”
Fostering green entrepreneurship and women in green industry

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) partnered to organize a 5-day event on “Fostering Green Entrepreneurship in Pakistan” that also promoted women in green industry.

The week began with a business clinic for semi-finalists in UNIDO’s annual “Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP)” competition. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the GCIP aims to develop a sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem by supporting clean technology innovations in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-up businesses. The semi-finalist teams had their business plans vetted by experts and vowed to work hard to bring a Cleantech revolution in Pakistan. Dr. Shahina Waheed, GCIP’s National Programme Coordinator, thanked UNIDO and the ICCI and said she hoped the clinic had equipped participants with knowledge and information to help in their entrepreneurship ventures.

A consultative policy dialogue with diverse stakeholders was held under the joint United Nations Delivering Results Together Fund (DRT-F) to review policies and provide recommendations for making them more conducive to women entrepreneurs, especially those in green industry. This policy dialogue is expected to bring positive change for clean technology businesses and improve the overall environment for small companies by improving gender responsiveness. On the second day, the advocacy campaign “Women in Green Industry” was launched by the Federal Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP) to raise awareness and explore the potential of women-led green industry startups. Federal Secretary Mr. Khizar Hayat Gondal said women’s gainful employment, especially in green industry, was of paramount importance for sustainable industrial development and job creation, and that the Ministry would fully support UNIDO in implementing this initiative.

ICCI President Mr. Khalid Iqbal Malik said increased participation of women in SMEs has a highly positive impact on a country’s economic growth, and that the ICC supports UNIDO’s green-industry mandate aimed at gender mainstreaming for inclusive industrial development. UNIDO Representative Mr. Essam Alqarara said the advocacy campaign is a first step towards more intensive interventions in the industrial sector of Pakistan to meet Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 to ensure equal and full participation of women Pakistan’s development.

The week also included a mentor training session that promoted extending mentorship to women-led startups, and a training session on mainstreaming women in business that helped participants understand gender-specific cultural and professional norms and strategies to overcome them. As well, the ICCI announced a comprehensive strategy to make the Women Business Growth Centre more viable and customized to women’s needs. Additionally, a networking forum comprising all relevant stakeholders was established to provide support to green entrepreneurship in Pakistan.

This week-long event provided participants with enhanced understanding of green industry and its potential for women, and strengthened the commitment of the ICCI and all partners and stakeholders to promote green entrepreneurship in Pakistan.
Promoting decent work and international labour and environment standards

In September, the International Labour Organization (ILO) launched Pakistan’s third Decent Work Country Program (DWCP-III) and signed a six-year International Labour and Environment Standards (ILES) in Pakistan implementation agreement with the European Union (EU).

The DWCP expresses the joint aspirations of ILO’s tripartite constituents in Pakistan: the Government of Pakistan, employers’ organizations and workers’ organizations. The four priorities of DWCP-III (2016–2020) are: promoting decent work in rural economies, promoting job creation for youth and vulnerable groups, promoting compliance with International Labour Standards through social dialogue and extending social protection. The DWCP also promotes employment and income policies that are gender responsive, ensure social inclusion, improve existing working conditions, support quality job creation and ensure the provision of a social protection floor.

International Labour and Environment Standards (ILES) in Pakistan is a six-year, 11.6-million-euro project to promote enforcement, implementation and compliance with labour and environmental standards by public and private-sector institutions and organizations. The ILES programme will help public-sector institutions improve enforcement of existing legislation and compliance with ILES in Pakistan, and to define new laws where necessary. It will also assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the textile and leather sectors in institutionalizing and implementing ILES legislation.

Ms. Ingrid Christensen, ILO’s Country Director for Pakistan, recognized the joint efforts of the tripartite constituents and expressed ILO’s commitment and support for implementing DWCP-III. She also thanked the EU for its generous support towards promoting compliance with labour standards in Pakistan, and EU Ambassador Mr. Jean-Francois Cautain reiterated the European Union’s support for the ILES.

Ms. Atifa Raffat, Joint Secretary for the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, said the Government of Pakistan realizes the importance of promoting decent work and all-out efforts are being made to ensure compliance with all ILO Conventions ratified by Pakistan. Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto, ILO’s Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, spoke about the alignment of the DWCP with the SDGs and emphasized translating global goals into national priorities.
Migrant Resource Centre inaugurated in Lahore

One of the most effective ways to combat common abuses of migrants, such as underpayment, confiscated passports, substandard working conditions and confinement in the workplace, is to ensure migrants are equipped with knowledge and strategies to safeguard their labour and human rights.

Recognizing this, in 2015 Punjab’s Labour & Human Resource Department established the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Lahore. Pakistan’s second MRC, the Centre provides a range of support services to potential migrants, migrant workers and their families, including information, counselling, referral and pre-departure orientation.

Inaugurated at an event on September 20, the MRC was established with support from the EU-funded South Asia Labour Migration Governance Project (SALM) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the EU-funded project Silk Routes Partnership for Migration and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Ms. Ingrid Christensen, ILO’s Country Director, said migrant workers are important drivers of development but unfortunately face various types of exploitation and abuses at all stages of the migration cycle. She emphasized, “Partnership is a key to achieve tangible and sustainable results to promote safe migration, and this MRC is a good example of an effective partnership.”

Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto, ILO’s Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, said the government should consider ratifying international standards related to labour migration, including ILO Conventions 97 and 143. “A powerful means to reduce inequality, particularly affecting migrants, is through the protection of human rights and labour rights, which form the cornerstone of fairer migration policies.”

Mr. Raja Ashfaq Sarwar, Punjab’s Minister for Labour & Human Resource, spoke about his department’s concern for the protection and welfare of migrants and efforts to increase domestic employment opportunities. He thanked the EU, ILO, and ICMPD for their support, and together with the other speakers of the event unveiled the inaugural plaque of the MRC.
Cash for returnees in South Waziristan Agency

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has successfully implemented its first cash-for-work programme for conflict-affected people who have returned to the South Waziristan Agency (SWA) of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Under the programme, people are paid to work on projects that provide livelihood opportunities while helping reduce disaster risks in their communities. In the first phase, WFP is providing approximately 18 million Pakistani rupees (approx. $172,000 USD) to just over 3,000 participants in SWA, with each participant receiving 6,000 rupees (approx. $75 USD) for the 15-day work cycle. Beneficiaries are also trained in first aid, firefighting and other livelihood-enhancing skills. A total of 44 training courses on disaster risk reduction and vegetable production were organized for 975 participants, 55 kilometres of link roads and paths have been repaved, and the same length of irrigation channels have been rehabilitated. Overall, 67 physical infrastructure projects have been completed. WFP worked with its local NGO partner, the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), and the United Bank Limited (UBL) to ensure all infrastructure and systems were in place to implement the programme successfully.

This intervention allows beneficiaries to buy fresh produce and other necessities, boosting markets and the local economy in the process. The project is made possible thanks to 4.2 million USD from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and 2 million British pounds from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the FATA Return and Rehabilitation programme. So far, WFP has distributed over 19,000 cash cards to displaced people and returnees in FATA, and aims to exceed 26,000 cards by the end of 2016. WFP will continue to support the FATA Secretariat and the Government of Pakistan under its three-year country programme (2016-18) by providing cash and food-based assistance to approximately 2.2 million displaced and returnee people from seven agencies in FATA including Khyber, South Waziristan and North Waziristan agencies.
Voices raised in Sindh for proper handwashing

On Global Handwashing Day 2016, celebrated on October 15, students and residents of several communities in Sindh gathered to demonstrate the importance of handwashing through advocacy walks, interactive plays and debates. UNICEF, UN-Habitat and USAID supported these efforts as part of their water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) initiative in Sindh province. Gaddap Town in Karachi and Peon Colony and Sehrish Nagar in Hyderabad are marked as polio endemic areas and therefore require immediate sanitation attention. It is critical to ensure residents maintain proper personal hygiene, especially washing hands with soap, to control diseases from spreading.

Ms. Bella Evidente, UN-Habitat Country Programme Manager, said that before the WASH initiative “these communities were not using hygienic techniques, children barely washed their hands and were completely oblivious to the concept of hand washing with soap. Raising awareness regarding proper sanitation on Global Handwashing Day is a part of UN-Habitat’s continuous efforts to change lives and effectively accomplish SDG 11 in Pakistan through programmes and campaigns aimed at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.”

Global Handwashing Day is an international advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. This year’s theme “make handwashing a habit” claims that for handwashing to be effective, it must be practiced consistently at key times. While habits must be developed over time, this theme emphasizes the importance of handwashing as a ritual behavior for long-term sustainability.
Handwashing can save children’s lives

On the eve of Global Handwashing Day (October 15), UNICEF said that in 2015 more than 300,000 children under the age of five died globally from diarrhoeal infections linked to poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation – a rate of more than 800 per day. Yet many of these deaths could have been prevented through the simple act of handwashing with soap.

Every year, approximately 53,000 children in Pakistan die from diarrhoea linked to poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Ensuring proper hygiene, including hand washing with soap at critical times, is essential to reducing these cases. Government studies suggest that only about 63.5 per cent of households in Pakistan have water and soap available for hand washing, with the statistics starker in rural areas.

UNICEF and its partners work alongside communities to promote the use of low-cost handwashing facilities for households. In schools, UNICEF promotes group handwashing sessions where children receive information on hygiene promotion to replicate at home.

“A simple act like handwashing with soap could make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of a child,” said Cris Munduate, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Pakistan. “Not only does it help prevent diseases, it also reduces the likelihood that they will suffer from undernutrition. Children suffering from continuous bouts of diarrhoea or other infections resulting from poor water and sanitation are most likely to fall behind in school or drop out altogether. Urgent action is needed to ensure that even the most deprived children have access to safe water and sanitation facilities.”
Building water and sanitation capacity in Sindh

Demand for water and sanitation services in Sindh has been rising, and a new capacity assessment has revealed major service delivery areas that need improvement. This assessment was discussed at an exposure visit to Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP), which has improved service delivery by initiating proper mechanisms and social mobilization.

The capacity assessment was conducted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SPDI) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

It identified that service providers in Sindh are facing challenges regarding timely collection of solid waste, recovery of unpaid bills and maintenance of fixed assets or inventory, and that there is a need to build capacity to centrally control supporting departments.

The exposure visit was part of mobilizing communities to improve Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, and aimed to support the Government of Sindh in taking the necessary steps to improve services by learning from Peshawar’s urban service providers. It included technical sessions on addressing challenges and visits to operational sites to showcase WSSP’s state-of-the-art methods to improve services and meet increased demand.

WSSP’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Khan Zeb Khan, stated that, “WSSP is continuously improving its services, and through this workshop we aim to facilitate learning of other urban service providers and extend our support to UN-Habitat, UNICEF, and USAID to improve municipal service delivery in Sindh.”

Mian Muhammad Junaid, Basic Services Manager for UN-Habitat, said, “Successful public service delivery systems require sustainable and efficient management of WASH services, along with responsible social mobilization and behavioural change communication with the public. We hope that this capacity building exercise will help the urban service providers of Sindh improve service delivery and harness demand for water and sanitation services.”
Changing hygiene behaviours by involving youth

UNICEF, UN-Habitat, and the community-based Aman Social Organization (ASO) partnered to educate Karachiites about water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), polio eradication, the importance of vaccination and hygiene behaviour change. To ensure the messages were effectively delivered, they involved youth in the awareness campaign by organizing a Health and Hygiene Youth Cricket Tournament in Karachi’s polio high-risk UC4 (Gujro) Gadap Town.

During the tournament’s semi-finals, Muhammad Din, a match winner for his team, stated, “It’s not just the love of the game. It’s also the love of my community. I am a local star, a source of pride and respect. I want to use this respect to raise awareness among my people, whether it is about polio and other health-related issues, or staying away from drugs, or highlighting the importance of education.”

Through youth engagement, local community stars like Muhammad are encouraged view themselves as leaders in their communities. They learn about the advantages of safe drinking water and regularly washing hands with antibacterial soap to fight off the polio cases in their community. They also learn that children can be protected from the paralyzing Polio virus by improving WASH services and behaviour, and by taking the Oral Polio Virus vaccine. These youth leaders then go back to their communities to share these positive messages.

“We are pleased to join hands with UN-Habitat for a healthier future of our community,” said Lala Abdul Raheem, ASO’s Chairman and member of local government. “We are glad to be part of a drive in which we can help prevent major diseases. We believe in this community and will strive for a better Pakistan in days to come.”

Ikram Yaqoob, UN-Habitat Representative in Sindh, said, “Aman Social Organization and Sindh Government’s commitment to children showcases that an investment in children is an investment in the future of Pakistan. This support will increase our outreach to communities with critical awareness raising messages in support of WASH improvement for polio eradication efforts.”
The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan hosted a Social Good Summit in September in Islamabad. The one-day panel discussion was part of a larger global event held annually during United Nations General Assembly week. The flagship event took place in New York during the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly, with a dynamic panel of young social activists, entrepreneurs, young parliamentarians, innovators and sports enthusiasts discussing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) theme, “What type of world do I want to live in by the year 2030?” Over 100 country offices followed suit with their own summits. The Summit in Pakistan focused on youth, recognizing that almost 64 per cent of Pakistan’s population is below the age of 29 and about 31 percent is aged 15–29 years. The country has a unique opportunity right now to invest in an energetic and talented young population, and such engagement can help boost the national economy and bring about societal prosperity.

The discussion focused on four SDGs that are a part of UNDP’s strategic plan focus areas: SDG 4: Quality education, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 10: Reduced inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.

“UNDP Pakistan believes that investing in youth is paramount to sustainable development, inclusive growth and peace and justice. Our most recent works have included the National Human Development Report on youth and youth engagement, and skills development in Karachi and Dera Ismail Khan,” said Tracy Vienings, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Pakistan.

After a lively discussion, the panelists concluded that they wanted to see a Pakistan that was tolerant and inclusive, and where more women participated in decision and policy-making.
In October, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan was pleased to announce the appointment and arrival of its new Country Director, Mr. Ignacio Artaza. A Spanish national, Mr. Artaza has spent his professional career working in international development and has served the United Nations in various capacities since 1999. Prior to his assignment in Pakistan he served as Country Director of UNDP in Egypt. Mr. Artaza will lead the UNDP team in Pakistan, supporting the federal and provincial governments in achieving their development goals, notably the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Pakistan is a fascinating country. I look forward to working with the UNDP team and Government and people of Pakistan to develop and support nationally-driven solutions to poverty reduction and improving livelihoods and resilience” said Mr. Artaza.
Achieving the Zero Hunger generation

Just some days ago, on September 22nd, FAO co-organized along with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the Pathways to Zero Hunger event, which took place in the sidelines of the 71st Session of the United General Assembly in New York.

The international community, including many influential leaders, had the opportunity not only to reinforce their commitments to achieve Zero Hunger but also to exchange information, experiences and ideas on the progress already made and the best way forward.

Since its launch in 2012, one of the main contributions of the Zero Hunger Challenge has been raising awareness of the importance of adopting a holistic approach to eradicate not only hunger but also all other forms of malnutrition.

In fact, there was a time when providing food security, addressing nutrition, improving rural livelihoods and promoting sustainable agriculture were viewed as separate tasks, as the responsibility of different actors, and with different purposes.

The Zero Hunger movement has helped the international community to understand that we will not achieve these objectives unless we recognize that they are interdependent, and unless we decide to tackle them together.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goes further and takes the concept of interconnectivity to other areas, based on the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental.

In fact, achieving Zero Hunger is also linked to ending extreme poverty, ad-
addressing climate change, fighting inequality, building resilience as well as many other aspects.

Over the past years, I had the honour to meet the Minister for National Food Security and Research, Mr. Sykandar Hayat Khan Bosan, on several occasions during which we discussed ways to continue boosting the National Zero Hunger Programme launched in 2012.

Minister Bosan had visited Brazil in 2014, and he was impressed with the results achieved by the Brazilian Zero Hunger Programme, particularly on the link between school meals and the acquisition of food produced by family farmers.

The Zero Hunger strategy, one of the cornerstones of Luiz Inácio “Lula” da Silva’s presidency, brought together a set of programs that acted on four pillars: facilitating access to adequate food, agriculture support especially for family farmers, income-generating activities and social protection.

This model can also work well for Pakistan. With strong commitments and political will, achieving zero hunger in Pakistan is possible.

For this, the country needs strong political will and an integrated national strategy. It is also important to work close to the beneficiaries, with oversight provided by the communities and civil society.

Recent figures estimate that some 30% of the population in Pakistan lives below the poverty line, while 22% is considered food insecure.

Population growth is a continuing issue in Pakistan with the current estimate being around 190 million people. As population continues to rise, concern is mounting on the ability to increase agricultural production in a sustainable way. Agriculture has been challenged by less predictable and more erratic weather swings which are now attributed to the changing climate. Agriculture itself needs to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

FAO has a long history in Pakistan as this country joined FAO only three weeks after gaining independence in 1947. The Organization is working with the Government and communities in all parts of the country to support agriculture and food security policy formulation and implementation.

Activities include animal health (Foot-and-mouth disease and Sheep and Goat Plague control), marine fisheries assessment for management planning, aquaculture development, irrigation development, small farmer agriculture improvement, climate smart agriculture farmer field schools, kitchen gardens and women empowerment, amongst others.

FAO is also working closely with the Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Secretariat to support the resumption of agriculture based livelihoods for the many thousands of formerly displaced farmers returning to the FATA region.

How to ensure that there are no hungry people in Pakistan is a question to which we must find an answer – and the clock is ticking toward 2030, the year world leaders agreed would be the deadline to reach zero hunger and 16 other sustainable development goals. Countries acting alone cannot resolve all of the challenges of today. Strong collaboration with other nations, international organizations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector will be key to finding sustainable solutions. And the focus needs to be on the youth of today; with their enquiring minds and access to new technologies and innovations, they will help to lead us to the final goal where we can rightly call ourselves the Zero Hunger Generation.

I am convinced that this is the right moment for working harder than ever towards these objectives. FAO is committed to support efforts which will ultimately lead to a more productive and sustainable future for Pakistan and its people.

The time to act is now.

Mr. José Graziano da Silva
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Fifty years ago, the UN General Assembly created the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The Organization quickly grew to its current size of 170 members. As we look back on our 50 years, there is no doubt that UNIDO is still as relevant as it was when it was created.

In the early 70s, when Pakistan’s leather industry was in its infancy, UNIDO started to play a catalytic role in building capacity to create the conditions for the rational progression of that sector. Since then, UNIDO has been diversifying and significantly increasing its activities into multiple areas in various productive sectors. As a result, we can say that UNIDO in Pakistan has been actively working to improve the country’s industrial development, trade capacity, access to renewable energy and environmental protection.

While it is beyond UNIDO’s mandate to address all economic and social challenges faced by a country like Pakistan, the impact of UNIDO’s interventions are already showing multiple effects, which will be instrumental in boosting job opportunities, reducing poverty and enhancing the country’s overall economic growth. The salient achievements in the past can be seen in various sectors. It is particularly worth mentioning UNIDO’s efforts in building Pakistan’s trade capacity and how that enabled many sectors to meet global market requirements. This was a multi-dimensional and intensive task. For example, UNIDO helped with the establishment of a comprehensive food safety system, starting with the passage of Pakistan Food Safety Bill developed by UNIDO over more than three years in cooperation with more than eight ministries. In the process, UNIDO helped 40 laboratories get accreditation and more than 120 food inspectors and master trainers...
gain internationally recognized qualifications.

Setting up the first laboratory of its kind in the region for dioxin-testing is yet another good example, and facilitating the resumption of fish exports to the EU market, after a seven-year ban is another. Thanks to UNIDO the mango farmers of Multan have now received sufficient training so that they can export their products directly to high-end markets, such as Walmart in the United Kingdom. Similarly, the certification of CE Marking was a gateway for accessing the EU market for various industrial products like surgical instruments, electric fans and cutlery, which will go a long way in boosting exports by capturing a niche in the global market.

In a country like Pakistan, where there is a dearth of encouragement of innovation at the state level, UNIDO has been a flag-bearer supporting youth who have innovative ideas, especially in clean technology, and enabling them to access and compete at global arenas like Silicon Valley, USA.

Back in the 1980s, UNIDO started addressing the prevailing environmental issues in Pakistan by establishing the first combined effluent treatment plant at Kasur, a city in Punjab. The plant helped minimize the pollution generated by tanneries which were dumping production waste in adjoining water bodies.

Some personal success stories can also be highlighted. Asra, a young lady from Lahore was very shocked to hear her name announced by the jurist at the National Cleantech Award Ceremony, which was held in Pakistan last year. Asra was the only woman among the five winners who were selected from more than 450 contestants. Her idea was to create a hybrid technology to power bicycles by using the energy generated and stored while pedalling. The idea was further polished and developed with help from UNIDO’s Cleantech Project.

Similarly, Faisal, a young engineer, won the runner-up in the competition of the 2015 Cleantech Global Prize held in Silicon Valley. His novel idea was for a gasifier that runs on agricultural wastes and is mounted on the tractor that it drives. These are but a few of UNIDO’s groomed innovations which were built up to international standards. These endeavours have recently been acknowledged at the government level, a move that could pave the way for thousands of other innovations to grow into viable and successful businesses. Last but not least, UNIDO has given a lot of emphasis to gender mainstreaming. One example is the story of Fakhra, a women hailing from Rawalpindi, who saw her family left helpless when her husband got acutely sick and lost his source of livelihood.

She undertook a training in fashion design under a UNIDO project entitled, “Women’s Entrepreneurship Development”. She subsequently has become a successful businesswoman, running an enterprise which hires more than 10 women. The gist is that UNIDO’s portfolio is diverse and dynamic in multiple areas. These achievements also depict clearly the inclusive and sustainable industrial development spirit and are very much in line with the Government’s so-called “Vision-2025” for Pakistan.

The guiding principle for UNIDO’s concrete role in the future lies in promoting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and contributing to other SDGs.

Following the development path that Pakistan has embarked upon, UNIDO will continue to advance and diversify its focus in targeted areas without losing sight of the need to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises, create jobs and combat poverty.

Mr. Li Yong
Director General
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Urbanization is a human process that has led to profound changes in the daily life of more than half of the world population. By 2030, Pakistan’s population is expected to reach 260 million and half of the population will live in urban areas. The way our cities are planned and organized affects our lives more than we can imagine. The design of a city affects the time we spend commuting from one place to another; our housing modalities namely public, private, or informal; streets, parks and public spaces; education and job opportunities; urban poverty; space for different cultures and ethnicities; integration; cultural activities; pollution and environmental sustainability among others.

However, the attention, consciousness and global debate over the negative trends of the current urbanization of the world and its impact have not been sufficiently analyzed in the last decades: decrease in planning, diminishing densities, increased urban expansion, less public space, more energy consumption. The lack of attention also applies to the tremendous benefits that can be generated from good urbanization. Although it is a very complex human process, the advantages that urbanization offers can be an important contribution to the solution to many of the challenges that the world is facing today.

It is now time for a paradigm shift. Habitat III, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, 17–20 October 2016, Quito, Ecuador, is offering us the opportunity to adopt an ambitious New Urban Agenda that can drive the wealth, prosperity and human progress for
present and future urban dwellers, who are expected to represent 70 per cent of the world population by 2050.

We cannot miss this opportunity. The recognition of the power of well-planned urbanization as an engine for sustainable development is a historical paradigm shift embraced by Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. In UN-Habitat, the leading agency on human settlements and urban development, we have not only assessed the associated problems of unplanned urbanization but we have also tested the immense opportunities of good urbanization all around the world. Sustainable urbanization is a powerful engine for growth, social cohesion and environmental protection. We strongly believe that the New Urban Agenda is an opportunity for all.

To improve the lives of the people of Pakistan, UN-Habitat has facilitated to carefully tap opportunities in harnessing the economic and social potentials of Pakistan’s cities for growth and development and in promoting socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities through its various development programmes and initiatives. 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 getting a grip on urban sprawl and guiding urban development.

On World Habitat Day, October the 3rd this year, we would like to continue promoting a culture and a consciousness about the importance of cities in our daily lives and the enormous opportunities that the New Urban Agenda is bringing to the prosperity and sustainability of our lives. In the lead-up to Habitat III, we specifically want to call for repositioning housing at the centre of good urbanization. Indeed, where we live defines who we are in many ways; it also defines our ability to participate in the fabric of our cities through access to basic services, education, job opportunities and culture. On this day, we urge urban decision-makers to remember that adequate housing is a universal human right, and it means much more than four walls and a roof. We must globally commit political will and public intervention and adequate investment to ensure housing at the centre of good urbanization, and improve the living-conditions of slum-dwellers and urban poor.

The prosperity of our growth will be intimately related to the quality of our urbanization and planning of cities. The historical transition from the primary sector towards more productive sectors of the economy is intimately linked to urbanization. Implementing the New Urban Agenda is the best investment for our quality of life. Looking forward, the SDGs and Habitat III Conference in 2016 could set the pace for Pakistan to focus on SDGs, particularly SDG 11 - making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Pakistan’s “Vision 2025” recognizes the importance of adopting strategies that ensure that benefits of growth are distributed. To this end, this October, let’s celebrate together World Habitat Day, Urban October, Habitat III and World Cities’ Day (October the 31st each year) in this very special October of 2016, and renew our global commitment to good urbanization.

Ms. Bella Evidente
Country Programme Manager
UN-Habitat
Photography for the goals

The Sustainable Development Goals are a central pillar of our work at the United Nations. They are pushing the entire system to improve the way we work to make this world a better place to live in. These goals take the concept of interconnectivity based on dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental.

Many countries, including Pakistan, are tackling challenging situations that include extreme poverty, malnutrition, extremism, epidemics, natural disasters and illiteracy among others.

Hand in hand with the Pakistani government and many local and international partners, the UN System in Pakistan is working steadfastly to achieve targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Working in partnership is extremely instrumental to achieving the Goals and all citizens of Pakistan have a role to play. To be effective, all stakeholders have to be fully aware of what the Goals are and how they can contribute to achieving them. Increasing knowledge of the Goals is the main objective of the United Nations Information Centres around the world and the top priority of our Centre in Pakistan.

There are numerous inspiring stories to be told. Sometimes it’s a tale about the resilience of vulnerable communities in Pakistan and in other instances it’s the smile brought to an individual going through a difficult situation in life. However, sometimes words fail us.

Feeling the pain and sharing the joy of the other is an experience that only eyes can capture. Many say that one picture being worth a thousand words and I totally agree. Moreover, when a photograph is no longer the mere remnant of an instant’s exposure to light, but instead reveals truths, our perceptual experience changes dramatically and feeds our needs for knowledge.

When photography meets journalism stories are narrated through concerned images and bring stories bluntly to our knowledge the way they are, regardless of the physical distances and contexts.

Today, on the occasion of UN Day, we inaugurate “Pakistan: Sustaining Development — Human Stories through Photography”, an exhibition that showcases images of human stories related to development issues in Pakistan. It is a collection of 102 outstanding and breathtaking photographs with a sense of journalism that offers an overview of the development priorities in the country and it also sets a visual agenda for the years to come.

These photographs have powerful imagery that hopefully will enhance awareness of Pakistan’s development priorities and inspire and encourage Pakistani citizens to take action themselves. It is a creative effort meant to remind ourselves of the work that needs to be done to end extreme poverty, address climate change, fight inequalities, promote human rights and build resilience in the country as well as in the world. They are a visual narration of untouched realities that highlight challenges and opportunities we all have to look at while striving to achieve the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Vittorio Cammarota
Director
United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Islamabad
The eradication of Polio: there will be no way back

It is inevitable that polio will be stopped, with all likelihood even by the year’s end. Wherever the virus is still actively transmitting, mostly in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the core polio epidemiological indicators attest that this virus is actually on the run. The number of new cases – and the virus’ presence in the environment – is facing an historic decline, with low results in both countries. The last reservoirs of polio are almost cleared of polio cases and cleansed from the endemic strain of indigenous poliovirus. More, the genetic sequences of the collected viruses show unprecedented uniformity, stemming for its near-extinction. All trend lines are swiftly heading for zero, with no return possible to the dark ages of the crippling disease.

This World Polio Day 2016, which by all means is very likely to be the last one celebrated in a polio endemic world, is less an opportunity to set a final date for viral elimination than it is to reflect one last time on the three meanings of a polio-free world for the next generation of children.

First, there is the moral imperative to end polio. Forty years ago, smallpox vanished from earth and created an historical precedent by removing the immense sufferings it had caused for centuries all around the world. Next came polio, with the unequivocal claim on the World Health Day on April 7, 1995: “Target 2000: A World Without Polio.” The decision to eradicate polio once and for all was taken not only on scientific evidence as being more cost effective than to control it indefinitely, but also as a global conscience that polio, like smallpox, represents absolute evil to public health. Poliomyelitis, a few decades back, was a singular childhood horror repeated in millions of households across the world: the sudden and brutal withdrawal by the virus of the basic physical skill a child learns to master during his/her first twelve months, “to walk.”
Eradicating polio is therefore exactly this: freeing the world from a crippling disease which condemns the most underserved children to a lifelong social death. This moral imperative is the prominent legacy of a polio-free world.

The second is the epidemiological imperative of ineluctability of eradication. No matter how entrenched the virus is and how hard it still is to find the last vulnerable, unprotected child, there will be no way back in the effort. Eradicating polio is a target that, by definition, bears no variance: no child will be left unattended. Utilitarians may view this otherwise. Half a billion USD, the annual cost of the program in Pakistan, may better be re-invested in interventions with much higher impact on child survival, such as routine immunization or breastfeeding feeding. Let us remember that Pakistan ranges among the lowest achieving countries on Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 associated with child and maternal mortality. But such a resource shift, right now, from polio towards other public health programs would signify a dangerous indulgence to a “near eradication” target, which actually would be an “epidemiological oxymoron”. There is no room for a 99.9% decline in eradication: the goal is zero cases everywhere and no more viruses anywhere. Because polio cannot be ‘controlled’, it can only be eradicated. The handful number of cases, and their ten thousand times less frequent occurrence compared to many other lethal illnesses, doesn’t provide any justification for the world to surrender the fight. Any lost terrain would irretrievably reopen safe havens for the virus to transmit freely again. The 23 cases of this year would quickly trigger a domino effect, with thousands of new cases falling down in just a few years only. Global polio eradication is unstoppable, and failure to eradicate would lead to 200,000 cases of polio per year, worldwide. Once achieved, polio eradication will leave an immense legacy of practices that will benefit public health initiatives for generations.

And then comes the third meaning: is eradicating illnesses a messianic vow? As we enable the ‘sixth great extinction’ of species on earth, the small string of DNA that the poliovirus is shows remarkable resilience, having for long defied the most powerful and technically equipped individuals and entities in the world. The road from half a million polio cases per year decades ago to 23 cases today hasn’t been easy, and along that long night, the program had to reset its global target at least three times. Eradicating a disease is by any means “extreme public health practice.” In Afghanistan and Pakistan, this year alone, the Global Polio Eradication Program has delivered half a billion doses of OPV (Oral Polio Vaccines) to approximately fifty million children during nine monthly national campaigns through mobilizing 300,000 vaccination workers each time. This represents the backbone of an even bigger logistical and operational system, with the field presence of the world’s finest polio eradication experts. The story of the collective, sustained endeavor complemented with hundreds of thousands of individual narrative accounts has yet to be told. The take-home message however, for all of us on the ground in Pakistan and Afghanistan is very simple: Polio eradication works; polio eradication is much more than just a medical jargon and a “doctor thing”; it belongs to religious leaders, army personnel, security experts, peace negotiators, policy makers, the legislator and the executive; it stands on the shoulders of courageous anonymous professionals who, every morning are not going out to work, but with a resolve to fight. Most importantly even, polio eradication in its last mile requires the integral ownership and undertaking of the tasks by the community, in disregard to any top down programmatic intrusion from the outside. The “community based vaccination” approach is at the core of our count down to zero strategy in the next several weeks.

It is paradoxically when there will be no more polio virus, that the world will have reached its top capacity and savoir-faire to eradicate it. This ability will transfer to future eradication efforts in malaria and measles eventually. Eradication overall is a humanitarian and epidemiological imperative, and it is an imperative in its own. It reassures a constantly worried world about emerging health threats that actually deadly diseases can also be forced out. This is what the world is celebrating today.

Dr. Michel Thieren, MD, MPH
Representative to Pakistan
World Health Organization (WHO)
Taking Stock: disaster preparedness as we remember the devastation of the 2005 earthquake

Pakistan has shown immense resilience in the face of devastating natural disasters and crippling emergencies, time and time again. Today, we are eleven years from the horrible earthquake in 2005 that took thousands of lives; it turned several towns and villages in Northern Pakistan into graveyards with thousands buried under rubble – very many of them children. The Government of Pakistan has declared that tragic day, 8th October, as the National Disaster Awareness Day to sensitize communities to learn from disasters and play their role as socially responsible citizens.

Dealing with a calamity of such magnitude would overwhelm any country. But it was made more difficult because of the lack of strategic Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning and management. Public buildings, notably schools and hospitals, were not built to reduce the risks from an earthquake. Roads were not engineered to withstand an earthquake and capacities and procedures were not in place for rapid response. Houses, especially those of the poor, were especially vulnerable to their roofs collapsing.

Pakistan has learned lessons from that experience and is applying those to reduce the considerable risks it faces from earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides, climate change and man-made crises. The effects of disasters on people, society and the economy can accentuate poverty and social exclusion, especially if preparedness planning does not take this into account. The UN is committed to helping Pakistan weather these storms – offering immediate relief, strengthening preparedness and enhancing capacities to rebound from disasters. By helping Governments to identify dangers and how to overcome them, the UN is working to help Pakistan be better prepared to withstand disasters.
By building the capacity of a host of actors—communities, state officials and implementing partners—through training on Disaster Risk Reduction, we equip them to better handle catastrophes. Provincial governments demonstrated their capacity to respond to ad hoc emergencies in their coordinated response to earthquakes in northern Pakistan in late 2015 and the year before in Baluchistan.

Through effective risk assessment and hazard mapping—which is now firmly in place in KP—a Provincial Government is implementing cohesive disaster risk management policies, coordination and oversight mechanisms. This allows us to do our part in ensuring that if calamity strikes, we would be able to overcome it.

Just last year, 45,900 households were assisted by DRR initiatives in areas beset by drought and floods in Sindh and KP, including via conditional cash transfers of US$ 6.59 million. Preparedness centered on water management in Sindh's drought-ridden district of Tharparkar: 240 household water storage tanks and 6 community water harvesting structures were built—capable of storing 1.2 million litres of water, enough to meet the needs of 20-25 households for 4 months—complemented by training on livestock management, nutrition and hygiene.

With UN support, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) developed a National “Multi Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment Policy” and a “National Disaster Management Implementation Road Map” for Multi-Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessments, Community-Based Disaster Management and Capacity Building (2016-2030), with guidelines for vulnerable districts. Advocacy is driving its implementation across Pakistan. Multi hazard, cross-sectoral Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans have been created for FATA and all four provinces, evoking a host of contingency agreements. Contingency supplies are in place for 100,000 people.

The Pakistan UN team has worked with NDMA to support households in flood- and earthquake-affected areas to rebuild safer, disaster-resistant shelters through conditional cash-based interventions, coupled with technical and monitoring attentiveness. To help communities "build back better", a Construction Guide has been designed to optimize recovery shelter programmes. This Guide places environmental management at its core, outlining innovative techniques like dynamic thermal modelling, energy efficiency, air quality and daylight analysis.

Similarly, the Emergency Services (PLaCES) model offers child protection, education, recreation and community engagement in emergencies, addressing the needs of girls, boys, women, men, the elderly and persons with disabilities. To build community capacity, 14,000 multilingual Disaster Risk Reduction Resource Kits raised awareness, including storybooks and animated videos for 2.8 million children, last year.

The UN has a responsibility to safeguard communities from environmental hazards by building long-term resilience through integrated recovery programming, in collaboration with the government. We strive to always do our best to reduce risk in a place that is one of the ten countries in the world most affected by climate change and natural disasters. If the lessons Pakistan has learned from the 8 October, 2005 can be applied to all of the country, progress towards the SDGs will be met. If not, coming disasters may derail development.
The United Nations in Pakistan lauds passage of bills on anti-honour killing and anti-rape

In October, the United Nations joined people across the country in lauding the Pakistani Government in unanimously approving the much awaited anti-honour killing and anti-rape bills as a historic success. Both bills were originally laid before the Senate in January 2014 and with review, revision and follow-up, have finally made their way to adoption.

“Every year, hundreds of women have their rights violated, are abused physically or sexually, and even killed in the name of honour,” said United Nations Resident Coordinator, Neil Buhne. “The crisis of violence against women and harmful traditional practices have often been seen as private matters that are ‘outside’ justice. Passing and implementing effective laws and policies to protect the rights and well-being of survivors and strictly punish perpetrators can provide the foundation for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to end violence against women across the country.”

The UN System stands ready to assist the Government of Pakistan to address the marginalization and discrimination against women, and provide all possible support to implement measures to strengthen effective implementation, including training of officials who handle cases of violence against women, the establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and impact evaluation, accountability and better coordination.
In this edition, we begin a series of interviews with donor countries to the United Nations in Pakistan. As we celebrate United Nations Day and the first year of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are happy to share insights from the ambassadors and high commissioners of the donor countries who partner with us to help achieve the SDGs and improve the lives of Pakistan’s people.
Australia

How is your country’s partnership with the United Nations helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan?

Australia has a long standing history of working with UN agencies in Pakistan.

We are collaborating with the World Food Program (WFP) in food security, nutrition, livelihoods, education and disaster risk reduction and management. Our contribution to the Protracted Relief and Recovery Program and Food Assistance for Assets initiatives is supporting the Sustainable Development Goal “Zero Hunger.” Australia has provided over 90 million Australian Dollars to disaster relief since the 2005 earthquake.

The Australia Balochistan Agribusiness Program (AusABBA) is improving food security and nutrition and helping generate income for more than 30,000 rural households. AusABBA will benefit over 175,000 underprivileged from Balochistan’s western border districts.

We are co-chairing with UN Women the Inter Agency Gender and Development (INGAD) group which is working to promote gender equality. We have convened three well-received panel debates bringing together representatives from the Government of Pakistan, the diplomatic community, civil society and media.

We have worked with UNICEF to provide psych-social support to affected students of the Army Public School Peshawar attack and to support rehabilitation following the 2005 earthquake.

Can you tell us about a UN initiative your country is contributing to that is improving the lives of Pakistan’s people?

Australia’s support to UN Women’s Ending Violence Again Women (EVAW) campaign through the “Safe City” model aims to enhance safety for women in exercising their legal right to move around freely, use and access public spaces and services, including legal services and police protection, make choices about their place of residence, employment or leisure activities, and access all opportunities a city has to offer.

The program also seeks to support stronger participation by women as leaders and decision-makers. “Safe Cities” will reach more than one million women and youth in vulnerable Punjab and Balochistan communities.

When you look at your country’s partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan, what success story are you most proud of so far?

Australia’s annual support to WFP provides lifesaving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable. Australia is supporting WFP’s twinning program to fortify and distribute wheat to vulnerable communities providing nutritional support, emergency food relief and encouraging children back to school through a school feeding program.
How is your country’s partnership with the United Nations helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan?

Canada’s extensive UN partnerships support several SDGs. Our polio eradication efforts with UNICEF and the World Health Organization contribute to SDG 3 regarding health. We support the International Labour Organization on SDGs 5 & 8 on gender equality and economic issues, and we also work with UN Women. Our humanitarian partnerships contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 11 & 13 to combat poverty and hunger while helping to build sustainable communities and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Can you tell us about a UN initiative your country is contributing to that is improving the lives of Pakistan’s people?

Pakistan faces a longstanding humanitarian challenge in supporting internally displaced persons and refugees and assisting people affected by flooding. Climate change and food insecurity risk exacerbating the situation. With our support, the World Food Programme helps improve living conditions, reduces malnutrition, and enhances the disaster response capacity of the government and other partners. WFP’s Humanitarian Response Facilities have proven their worth when floods devastate communities.

When you look at your country’s partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan, what success story are you most proud of so far?

I am proud that Canada helps UNICEF and WHO build community support in high risk areas for polio immunization campaigns and improve surveillance to end polio transmission. Canada has thereby contributed to the drastic reduction of new polio cases and we hope that Pakistan will achieve polio-free status by 2019, an important step towards worldwide eradication.

As a Member State, what would you like to see the United Nations focus on more in Pakistan?

Canada is a strong advocate of gender equality and empowering women and girls globally. The UN already does significant work in these areas in Pakistan and we encourage it to continue these efforts.

What would you say to the youth in Pakistan to encourage them to get involved in transforming our world?

Climate change is one of the leading issues of our day but not many in Pakistan know much about it, despite Pakistan’s particular vulnerability to its impact. As young Pakistanis pursue their education, I encourage them to learn about climate change and think about what it means for Pakistan and the world.
Germany

How is your country’s partnership with the United Nations helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan?
Germany has a long-standing partnership with the UN throughout the world. The SDGs are a major global achievement and the UN have an important role to play in helping to achieve them. Germany works towards realizing the 17 goals not only through the UN, but also through NGOs and the civil society as well as our bilateral development cooperation agencies GIZ and KfW. We above all support initiatives in the areas of skills development, social protection, good governance and renewable energies. We believe that we need to work on different levels and with different stakeholders in order to create a sense of joint responsibility.

Can you tell us about a UN initiative your country is contributing to that is improving the lives of Pakistan’s people?
Germany has amongst others continuously supported WFP’s nutrition activities over the past years with a special focus on supporting people that have been displaced from the FATA. The twinning program for fortified wheat in which development partners and the Government of Pakistan join forces is a great initiative to share the burden of displacement and respond to the most immediate needs of people.

When you look at your country’s partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan, what success story are you most proud of so far?
Germany is proud to have been able to contribute to the Government of Pakistan’s “Refugee Affected and Hosting Area’s” (RAHA) program which is implemented by UNHCR and UNDP for the third time now. Since 2009, 30 Mio. EUR have been made available to UNHCR in order to support areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that are affected by Afghan refugees. Hospitals, schools, roads and irrigation channels have been upgraded for the betterment of the lives of Afghan refugees and their Pakistani hosting communities.

As a Member State, what would you like to see the United Nations focus on more in Pakistan?
We believe that the UN are doing a great job in Pakistan and play an important role especially in advocating for and supporting reforms in areas that are sometimes not very high on the nation’s priority list, like empowerment of women, climate, governance reforms and human rights.

What would you say to the youth in Pakistan to encourage them to get involved in transforming our world?
Nothing will change unless you change it! You are the future of the country and you are many, make your voice heard and engage wherever you can.

Ms. Ina Lepel
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan
91

How is your country’s partnership with the United Nations helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan?

“Leave no one behind” is the heart of the SDG principles and Japan’s assistance in collaboration with the UN to FATA displaced persons and returnees, the most vulnerable population in Pakistan, is exactly along this line. Our assistance to FATA includes providing resources for recovery and building a foundation for development of the area, such as rehabilitation of the infrastructure for local communities, technical assistance for agriculture, vocational training for youth and education for children (both boys and girls), and so on. We believe our contribution will help Pakistan achieve the SDGs and will continue to partner with the UN in this field to attain the goals.

Can you tell us about a UN initiative your country is contributing to that is improving the lives of Pakistan’s people?

All we wish is for the people of Pakistan to improve their lives and, with this always in mind, Japan has been addressing a number of development challenges in the country, such as education, health, agriculture, gender, and security. I could probably refer to our support for prevention of natural disasters as an example of uniqueness. Through its own unfortunate experiences, Japan has uniquely advanced technologies and know-how for prevention of natural disasters. We believe that we can provide Pakistan, which unfortunately suffers from similar disasters sometimes, with assistance to strengthen its resilience capacity. Six Humanitarian Response Facilities were built across the country in cooperation with WFP and are now being utilized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to improve disaster management capacity. One of these facilities enabled them to deliver relief items within 24 hours when an earthquake took place in KPK and FATA regions in 2015. We will continue the support in this area.

When you look at your country’s partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan, what success story are you most proud of so far?

One of our success stories is the joint efforts with UNICEF to eradicate polio in Pakistan. Japan has been assisting Pakistan for polio eradication since 1996 and UNICEF is one of the most important partners for us. In only this year, two sets of agreements have been signed by Japan and UNICEF to procure the polio vaccine. Unfortunately, Polio has not been eradicated in Pakistan yet, however, the number of polio cases decreased significantly in the last years. Children are treasures for the family and the future of the country. We hope our continued contribution will bear fruits to achieve a polio-free Pakistan as soon as possible.
Norway

How is your country’s partnership with the United Nations helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan?
The Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad is working closely with several UN organizations, especially through our development program. We have a Women Economic Empowerment Program with UN Women. Through UNODC, the Embassy is supporting the Punjab Police Department to improve training and investigation capacities. In disaster management and capacity building, we are cooperating with the WFP and UNOCHA. Furthermore, the Embassy is also involved with UNDP in Community Based Disaster Risk Management and a Youth and Social Cohesion program, which works in vulnerable communities in KP to engage young people in community activities and leadership. Through all these programs we are contributing towards achieving the SDGs.

Can you tell us about a UN initiative your country is contributing to that is improving the lives of Pakistan’s people?
All our programs are meant to contribute in some ways towards this goal.

When you look at your country’s partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan, what success story are you most proud of so far?
If I have to pick out one area, I think that the disaster management and capacity interventions over many years have improved the capabilities of the Pakistani authorities, and that they are now better equipped to handle natural disasters themselves.

As a Member State, what would you like to see the United Nations focus on more in Pakistan?
I think we need to focus more on the challenges of the increasing youth population. Around 70 percent is under 35 years old, and the population is expected to grow from 190 million to 270 million by 2050. Young people represent the future of Pakistan and we cannot afford to leave them behind. We have to focus on education, skills training and job creation, so that they get a chance to make a positive contribution to society. This will also create youth resilience against involvement in violent extremism.

What would you say to the youth in Pakistan to encourage them to get involved in transforming our world?
I would encourage them to get an education and become a valuable member of society, because that is the key to the development of the country. Transforming the world (e.g. through the fight against climate change) cannot be done by individuals alone. We can only solve the global challenges if everyone makes an effort and tries to make a small difference.
United States of America

How is your country’s partnership with the United Nations helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Pakistan?

As the host country of the United Nations, America believes in its ability to improve people’s lives throughout the world. America is proud to work with the UN to help Pakistan achieve its Sustainable Development Goals by addressing critical issues for its vulnerable communities: maternal and child health, food security, employment, and education. We’re working together to help communities overcome development challenges by investing in schools and teachers, providing health care, rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure, and providing assistance to help farmers and small business owners succeed.

Can you tell us about a UN initiative your country is contributing to that is improving the lives of Pakistan’s people?

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNICEF are supporting the Government of Pakistan’s Chlorhexidine Scale-Up Initiative. Chlorhexidine is a lifesaving medicine for newborn care in Pakistan, which has one of the highest newborn mortality rates in the world. Through joint efforts, USAID and UNICEF have helped the government introduce this drug across Sindh, Punjab, KP, and Balochistan. This initiative will protect 2.1 million newborn babies by September 2017.

When you look at your country’s partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan, what success story are you most proud of so far?

America is committed to combating hunger in Pakistan. Working alongside the World Food Programme and the Government of Pakistan, we have fed more people, saved more lives, and supported more communities than any partner could have achieved alone. Together, we have provided food assistance to 1.6 million Pakistanis temporarily displaced in FATA. Thanks to our joint efforts, people can focus on rebuilding livelihoods and communities.

As a Member State, what would you like to see the United Nations focus on more in Pakistan?

Education is a driver of the economic, social, and political growth of any nation. We look to the United Nations as a partner to ensure children throughout Pakistan have access to quality schools, staffed by well-trained, dedicated teachers. For all stakeholders in a stable, prosperous Pakistan, education must be front and center.

What would you say to the youth in Pakistan to encourage them to get involved in transforming our world?

Education is transformative, especially for girls and young women. With a sound education, young people are better positioned to flourish and advance the development of their nation. Pakistan’s future will be determined by the quality of education provided to coming generations. Equipped with the best possible education, Pakistan’s youth will have the energy, creativity, and determination to shape a very bright future.
Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr. José Graziano da Silva, made his first official visit to Pakistan and met with the President of Pakistan, Mamnoon Hussain, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, ministers, senior government representatives and agricultural scientists. In a meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister confirmed the government’s support to FAO food security activities and appreciated its emergency and rehabilitation efforts for displaced people. Mr. Graziano da Silva attended a number of events during his visit, including viewing an exhibit of Pakistani pulses and planting a tree at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) in Islamabad. During his visit, Mr. Graziano da Silva was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Pakistan’s University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) in Lahore. The degree was conferred by the UVAS Chancellor Mr. Muhammad Rafique Rajwana in acknowledgement of his “outstanding contributions to rural development, food security and agriculture.”

Before joining FAO, Mr. Graziano da Silva, an agronomist and academic, led the team that designed the Zero Hunger (Fome Zero) programme in Brazil in 2001. Two years later, he was named Special Minister of Food Security and the Fight against Hunger with the mandate to implement the programme. This was the starting point of an effort that has since helped some 28 million Brazilians overcome extreme poverty and hunger.

Mr. Graziano da Silva joined FAO in 2006 as the head of FAO’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and served as Regional Representative until 2011. He actively supported the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, which made the region commit to eradicating hunger by 2025. He was elected by FAO member countries as Director-General in 2011 and was re-elected for a second term in 2015. A cornerstone of his tenure at FAO has been to ensure that this generation becomes the Zero Hunger Generation worldwide.

“This is truly a great honour,” said Mr. Graziano da Silva in his acceptance speech to the university, adding, “This award goes to the causes of sustainable rural development and especially the fight against hunger.” He also commended UVAS for its contribution for agricultural development in Pakistan.

He congratulated Pakistan for its own efforts to end hunger, saying, “The Zero Hunger model can also work well for Pakistan. With strong commitments and political will, achieving zero hunger in Pakistan is possible.”
SDG 9 highlighted on PTV

United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr. Neil Buhne and UNIDO Representative Mr. Esam Alqararah appeared on PTV in an interview with Omar Khalid Butt. They spoke about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UNIDO’s work in Pakistan to promote SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, including efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change by promoting green technologies. The interview highlighted that sustainable development offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.

Youth and climate change on the airways

Mr. Vittorio Cammarota and Ms. Myrah Nerine Butt from the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) along with a young Pakistani from Gilgit Baltistan participated in an interview on the Radio Pakistan show UN Perspectives. The focus of the conversation was on climate change in the Gilgit Baltistan region, why youth need to be informed about its adverse effects and how they can become active citizens in the fight against climate change. The interview also highlighted how the UN involves Pakistani youth in the global conversation on climate change.
Perspectives on gender

Ms. Fauzia Yazdani, UNDP Pakistan’s Gender Advisor, spoke about gender-related initiatives on Radio Pakistan’s show UN Perspectives. Emphasizing the United Nations agenda for 2016 and its rallying cry “leave no one behind”, she discussed some of the ways UNDP is incorporating the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 in all strategic focus areas, and said UNDP was working to achieve Planet 50/50 and the Pledge for Parity.

Localization of the SDGs in Pakistan

United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Neil Buhne, appeared on the PTV News programme Focus Pakistan to discuss “Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Pakistan.” He explained what the SDGs are and what the UN in Pakistan is doing to help achieve them, including the World Food Programme’s work to address stunting in southern Sindh province. He explained how these efforts are helping to ensure children grow up with healthy bodies so they can contribute more to their society and economy, which in turn means they are more likely to be lifted out of poverty.

Promoting diet, physical activity and health

Dr. Francesco Branca, Director of the Nutrition Department at World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva, spoke on Radio Pakistan’s UN Perspectives about WHO’s Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. He emphasized that governments should increase taxes on sugary drinks to tackle obesity.
Perspectives on United Nations Day

United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Director Vittorio Cammarota appeared on Radio Pakistan’s UN Perspective to speak about United Nations Day activities in Pakistan. He highlighted initiatives including the “Pakistan: Sustaining Development” photo exhibition, the UN Corner bookshelf, and the launch of the United Nations Basic Facts in Urdu.

Urdu-language interview on Radio Pakistan

Vittorio Cammarota and Ishrat Saleem from the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) appeared on Radio Pakistan to talk about United Nations Day and what it stands for in the Urdu language. They also answered questions about topics including UN peacekeeping, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN activities regarding Kashmir.

Highlighting the rights of persons with disabilities

Vittorio Cammarota, Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) appeared on the Islamabad local radio station Power Radio FM 99. He highlighted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the importance of promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and promoting respect for their inherent dignity.
International Day of Charity, 5 September

Charity is one of the best investments we can make in our common future. On this day of International Charity, I call on people everywhere to be part of our 15-year partnership for humanity, and to help make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for all.

International Literacy Day, 8 September

Fifty years ago, International Literacy Day was proclaimed to promote literacy as a tool to empower individuals, communities and societies. We have made significant progress over the past five decades, but the world is still very far from universal literacy. On this International Literacy Day, I call on governments and their partners, including in the private sector, to join forces for universal literacy so we can translate the vision of the 2030 Agenda into reality and build peaceful, just, inclusive and sustainable societies.

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, 12 September

The countries of the South have established themselves as indispensable participants in the global socioeconomic arena. As we mark the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, let us reaffirm our commitment to this invaluable means of achieving sustainable development and improving the lives of billions of people in the global South and beyond.
International Day of Democracy, 15 September

Our new Agenda aims to leave no one behind, which means we must reach those who are rarely seen or heard, and who have no voice or group to speak on their behalf. The implementation of the Goals must be underpinned by a strong and active civil society that includes the weak and the marginalized. We must defend civil society’s freedom to operate and do this essential job. On this International Day of Democracy, let us rededicate ourselves to democracy and dignity for all.

International Day of Peace, 21 September

Every year on the International Day of Peace, the United Nations calls on warring parties to lay down their arms and observe a 24-hour global ceasefire. The symbolism of a day without fighting is a crucial reminder that conflict can and must come to an end. Let us all work together to help all human beings achieve dignity and equality; to build a greener planet; and to make sure no one is left behind. On this International Day of Peace, express your commitment to peace by becoming a champion of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September

On this International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, let us remember how much has already been accomplished, and commit to do more to protect our atmosphere.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, 26 September

Nuclear disarmament is one of the founding principles of the United Nations. It was the objective of the first General Assembly resolution. Disarmament is in our DNA. There are many paths to a world free of nuclear weapons. What matters is that all States act now, without delay, to fulfil their disarmament and non-proliferation commitments. Let us pledge to work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons with urgency and a sense of collective purpose. Our very survival depends upon it.

World Tourism Day, 27 September

With almost 1.2 billion people travelling abroad each year, tourism has become a powerful economic sector, a passport to prosperity and peace, and a transformative force improving millions of lives. On this World Tourism Day, let us recognize that all people can and should be able to participate in tourism and enjoy unforgettable travel experiences.

World Maritime Day, 29 September

As the world’s population continues to grow, particularly in developing countries, low-cost and efficient maritime transport has an essential role to play in growth and sustainable development. The importance of shipping in supporting and sustaining today’s global society makes it indispensable to the world, and to meeting the challenge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
International Day of Older Persons, 1 October

The International Day of Older Persons is our chance to take a stand against the destructive problem of ageism. Older persons are both agents and beneficiaries of change. By advancing progress on the SDGs, we can mobilize the considerable talents, energy and experience of all older persons in carrying out this Agenda. Let us mark the International Day of Older Persons by forcefully rejecting all forms of ageism and working to enable older persons to realize their potential as we honour our pledge to build a life of dignity and human rights for all.

World Habitat Day, 3 October

On this World Habitat Day, I urge national and local governments, city planners and communities everywhere to keep “Housing at the Centre”. Guaranteeing dignity and opportunity for all depends on people having access to affordable and adequate housing. I look forward to a successful Habitat III Conference that will help us advance our sustainable development agenda for the benefit of all humankind.

World Mental Health Day, 10 October

On World Mental Health Day, the United Nations highlights the importance of making mental health care available to all people who need it, whatever their circumstances and wherever they live. This year, we are drawing attention to the urgent need to provide immediate support to people who experience psychological distress after surviving a crisis. On this World Mental Health Day, let us all show compassion and empathy for those who have survived a crisis and make sure they can access the help they need, for as long as they require it.

International Day of the Girl Child, 11 October

The theme of this year’s International Day of the Girl is based on the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. The slogan is: Girls’ Progress equals Goals’ Progress: What Counts for Girls. The wellbeing, human rights and empowerment of the world’s 1.1 billion girls are central to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. When we agreed on that agenda, we promised girls quality education and health services. We committed to ending discrimination and violence against girls, and harmful practices like child marriage. We pledged to leave no one behind. Let us all work hard to make sure we count all girls, because all girls count.

International Day of Non-Violence, 2 October

Every year on the International Day of Non-Violence, we re-commit ourselves to the cause of peace, as exemplified by the life of Mahatma Gandhi who was born on this day 147 years ago. I am pleased this year’s International Day of Non-Violence puts the focus on sustainability and the environment. Today that commitment is reflected in a momentous way. India is depositing its instrument of ratification to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. I urge all countries to complete their domestic processes for ratification and also strive in all activities to achieve progress through non-violence. This is essential to building a safer, healthier and more peaceful world.
International Day for Disaster Reduction 13 October

We can replace material possessions, but we cannot replace people. I am repeatedly appalled at how many people die in disasters. The majority of victims are invariably the poor and vulnerable. On this International Day for Disaster Reduction, I call on all Governments to work with civil society and the private sector to move from managing disasters to managing risk. Let us move from a culture of reaction to one of prevention and build resilience by reducing loss of life.

International Day of Rural Women, 15 October

Rural women make up nearly half the agricultural labour force around the world. They grow, process and prepare much of our food. They are the backbone of rural communities, and in many households they have the key responsibility for food security, education opportunities and health-care. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises to leave no one behind. To deliver on that, we must help rural women to thrive, and to access the support and information they need, so that they can fulfil their potential without leaving their communities.

World Food Day, 16 October

On this World Food Day, we highlight the close link between climate change, sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security with the message that “The climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too.” On this World Food Day, I urge all Governments and their partners to take a holistic, collaborative and integrated approach to climate change, food security and equitable social and economic development. The well-being of this generation and those to come depends on the actions we take now. Only by working in partnership will we achieve a world of zero hunger and free from poverty, where all people can live in peace, prosperity and dignity.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October

Today, some 1 billion people live in extreme poverty and more than 800 million endure hunger and malnutrition. On this International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, let us listen to and heed the voices of people living in poverty. Let us commit to respect and defend the human rights of all people and end the humiliation and social exclusion that people living in poverty face every day by promoting their involvement in global efforts to end extreme poverty once and for all.

World Cities Day, 31 October

Cities are increasingly the home of humanity. They are central to climate action, global prosperity, peace and human rights. More than half of all people live in cities and human settlements, and that proportion is projected to grow to two thirds by 2050. To transform our world, we must transform its cities. On World Cities Day, let us renew our resolve to confront urban problems and forge lasting solutions. Together, we can show how success in cities inspires change across the world.
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.