Focus on
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World Humanitarian Day.

ILO initiates short-term job creation opportunities for North Waziristan.

Food And Agriculture Organization of the UN providing support to the displaced people from North Waziristan.

Minority families in Pakistan displaced by security operation but optimistic about peace.

A Tough Call.

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In June, the Government of Pakistan announced a security operation in the North Waziristan Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas which determined the movement of some 55,267 families to safer areas. The majority of families are currently living in Bannu, DI Khan, Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, and Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Many of them reside with relatives or in rented houses, while others live in government buildings including in 745 schools. 961 families have moved to the camp at Bakka Khel. As the school year has commenced, the displaced families living in schools face an imminent further movement. The humanitarian response, coordinated federally by the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions and provincially by the PDMA, supported by the humanitarian community, continues to assist the displaced families through various processes and provision of humanitarian services. Several agencies of the United Nations system including FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, have provided support for registering the displaced people, for distributing food and other supplies, for water and sanitation, health care, for setting up services like call centres and humanitarian communications and for ensuring assistance to livestock.

Significant humanitarian needs remain unmet. Families are worried about returning home and when this option will be feasible. Additional resources are needed to continue the humanitarian assistance. The international community requires an estimated US$54.5 to provide assistance to the displaced families till the end of the year.
World Humanitarian Day

The United Nations World Humanitarian Day was marked on 19 August, paying tribute to aid workers who carry out life-saving activities around the world, often in dangerous and difficult circumstances, while celebrating the spirit of humanitarian work worldwide.

“On World Humanitarian Day, we honour the heroic aid workers who rush bravely to help people in need. We remember their sacrifices, and we recognize the millions of people who count on humanitarian workers for their very survival,” Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in his message for the Day. Following the tradition of previous years, this year’s World Humanitarian Day theme is “the world needs more Humanitarian Heroes,” honouring the spirit and untiring work of thousands of women and men all across the world who are helping those in need. This year’s celebrations in Pakistan saw an acknowledgement of local Pakistani women and men who work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. There are thousands of Pakistani women and men delivering humanitarian assistance to families in need, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA.

Mr. Timo Pakkala, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, praised the resolve of Pakistani humanitarian workers and dedicated the day to common women and men of Pakistan for their spirit and resolve. He noted, “Pakistan is full of the humanitarian spirit. The resilience of its people to survive and rebuild their lives, despite facing a multitude of crises is just remarkable.”
The majority of the newly displaced left North Waziristan with their best livestock as livestock is the foundation of their livelihoods. Ensuring the survival and health of the animals significantly impacts the mental and physical health of the displaced families. FAO has established a supply chain to provide vaccines to combat disease, shelter for the animals and concentrated feed and nutritional supplements. As primarily a technical development agency, FAO will be most engaged in the return and recovery process as the people move home and work to rebuild their livelihoods.

Patrick Evans, Country Representative, FAO Pakistan
Marc-André Franche, Country Director, UNDP Pakistan

UNDP is focusing on community restoration, increasing the capacity of provincial and district authorities to manage the crisis and providing livelihood opportunities for both displaced population from North Waziristan and host communities which increases social cohesion while preparing them to return home as soon as possible. Such recovery support effectively bridges the gap between immediate relief and medium to longer term strategies. We are supporting the Government in carrying out a detailed assessment in host communities to better inform relief and recovery interventions.
As Protection Cluster lead, we are particularly concerned that vulnerable displaced population from North Waziristan should not be excluded during the Government’s registration process – for example, female heads of households. So we are providing grievance desks and conducting assessments of the most vulnerable families, so that all displaced people can get the help they need. In coordinating assistance in camps, we are working closely with the authorities to provide alternative accommodation for those displaced people who are currently residing in schools. As part of our responsibilities for emergency shelter, UNHCR is distributing 41,500 family kits containing non-food item relief assistance such as blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, plastic tarpaulin, mosquito nets and various other essential household goods. More than 70% of the displaced are women and children.
UNICEF is providing humanitarian assistance in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, child protection to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women and children displaced from North Waziristan. A large proportion of the displaced are children, many of whom have not been vaccinated nor attended school for years. In the mist of the crisis though there is a new window of opportunity to vaccinate hundreds of thousands of women and children previously unimmunized; providing maternal and new-born child health care not available before; addressing malnutrition and its underlying causes; helping children access learning to bring back some sense of normalcy and for many a first opportunity to experience a stimulating learning environment. Converting such opportunities into action will no doubt forever change the lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged and the path towards realizing their child rights.
focus on

Lola Castro, Country Representative, WFP Pakistan

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) rapidly initiated food distributions to the displaced population from North Waziristan registered by National Database and Registration Authority as soon as the Government of Pakistan requested assistance. Since then, WFP has completed three rounds of food distributions to 54,000 North Waziristan families. The Government of Pakistan has provided in-kind contributions of wheat to WFP to continue supplying food rations to all displaced people including the families from North Waziristan. The current Government of Pakistan’s contribution will enable WFP to continue its relief assistance until November 2014; international donors have provided cash contributions to cover the cost of milling, fortifying and distributing the wheat. “Our utmost priority is to provide food assistance, which is one of the most critical needs of the population, in the shortest possible time after their displacement,” said Lola Castro, WFP Pakistan Representative.
Michel Jean Jules Thieren, Representative, WHO Pakistan

WHO has provided 49 Emergency Health Kits covering 441,000 population until 3rd September, 7 Diarrheal disease kits estimating 7000 severe diarrheal cases, 27 doses of anti-leishmaniasis injections have been provided, 300,000 units of Diphtheria anti toxins, 25 doses of Anti snake venom, 25 doses of Tetanus immunoglobulins and 140,000 ORS sachets.

An increased risk of diarrhoeal diseases and more diarrhoeal cases are reported among the displaced population due to hot weather and unsafe hygienic practices. Health facilities are overburdened and need human resource support through NGO partners, especially female doctors and paramedics, medicines, supplies, and OPD support.
The International Labour Organization has advised the Government of Pakistan to provide short-term jobs to North Waziristan’s displaced population to avoid their long term unemployment. ILO’s reconnaissance mission to Bannu revealed that a large number of displaced people were sitting idle most of the day either on the sidelines of the distribution hubs or in the city areas. The mission also observed the prevalence of child labour in the area which seems inevitable due to economic stress on the families. Due to a lack of credible labour force statistics on FATA, it is also very difficult to assess the actual magnitude of job losses and plan for the workforce accordingly. In view of this situation, ILO in collaboration with other UN Agencies operating in the area has designed and funded a gender sensitive intervention to facilitate short-term employment. This is with the aim of reducing vulnerabilities, burden on Government resources and improving the dignity of IDP’s and their living conditions in the host communities. The ILO will set up Emergency Employment Information Centre (EEIC) and start registering displaced populations for provision of employment under different work modalities. In addition to its available resources, the ILO is in process of mobilizing resources and developing partnerships for these interventions and will expand the scope of its interventions in future. A database of skilled workers would also be prepared to be shared with prospective employers in the local areas.
Food And Agriculture Organization of the UN providing support to the displaced people from North Waziristan

The military operations in North Waziristan have resulted in large scale displacement of the local population reaching up to approximately one million individuals. Around 80% of the displaced populations from North Waziristan has settled in district Bannu. As per the assessments by provincial Livestock Department and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), around 70% of the displaced people have brought livestock with them. In most of the cases, displaced people with livestock walked for days on foot as they could not afford transport cost for their animals. These animals, at present, are very weak and need immediate assistance in terms of feed, shelter and healthcare to prevent spread of diseases and control mortality rate. In this regard, FAO has already provided 100,000 PPR vaccines to the Livestock Department from its existing resources.

FAO team visited one of the eight mobile veterinary clinics set up by the district Livestock Department in Kotti Sadat village. They met with about 50 displaced people who had brought their livestock for vaccination. They identified shelter, feed and water as their main priority areas for livestock assistance. The district Livestock Department shared that they have sufficient stock of vaccines however; they need support in animals feed and shelters and foot and mouth disease vaccines.
Minority families in Pakistan displaced by security operation but optimistic about peace

Firdos, a 55-year-old member of the small Christian community, suffered the same fate as hundreds and thousands of families who have fled their homes due to the military operation against the Taliban in Pakistan’s North Waziristan Agency. “We left Miranshah barefoot in the boiling summer heat, and after traveling for two nights, we reached Bannu.” Some 200 Christian and Hindu families have taken refuge in schools where the government and UN agencies are providing them with emergency relief assistance. “So far UNHCR has distributed some 10,574 family kits of core relief items that include jerry cans, buckets, mosquito nets, mats, blankets, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, sanitary cloths and soap,” said Mata-ul Hussain Changaiz, UNHCR’s Assistant Field Officer. Firdos, wearing his traditional Waziristani turban, has a strong attachment to his native town Miranshah, and is optimistic peace will return. He said a large number of Hindus and Christians live in areas of NWA in harmony with the local tribesmen. “It was heart wrenching... but I am sure we will see good days again because I love my Waziristan,” he said in his Waziristan accented Pashto.

Repetedly wiping his face in the heat, his face full of worries, Otay Khan stands in a queue at one of the recently-established distribution points where WFP and its partners are providing food to the internally displaced people from North Waziristan Agency. Moving away from their area was not easy for Otay Khan and his fifteen family members. “We came on foot for many miles. I have very little means of earning and could not afford to rent a van, so we walked for almost an entire day.” The desk staff takes his national identity card and enter it into the system; soon his name appears on the screen and his token is stamped and Otay is cleared to receive his food package from WFP, which should cover him and his family for nearly two weeks. But Otay worries about his future and the uncertainty of how long he will be displaced for: “We want to go back as soon as possible, no one in my family wants to stay here. We don’t like to live in the tents; there is no privacy. But it is also not possible for me to continue to pay for the rent of the house for long.”
In addition to food and basic items like blankets and tents, temporarily dislocated population, registered with FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA also receive a cash grant), 64-years-old Sherabat Khan came with his family to Bannu from Miran Shah, the main town of North Waziristan Agency. He didn’t want to stay in the camp and preferred to find a house in Bannu town. Mr Khan also received cash and cooked meals as soon as he registered and within two days he received a two-week ration from WFP.

“I came out of my town with very little belongings as the forces asked us to leave immediately. I have a family of 30 members and we have left our animals and our houses in haste. All I could do was to hire two vans to get my family out of the danger zone.”

WFP stepped up its efforts to provide the displaced with rations including wheat flour, high-energy biscuits, vegetable oil, pulses and salt. WFP plans to reach all registered families with a two-week food ration in the first phase and continue if necessary.

WFP is rushing to distribute food rations to all registered families who have fled fighting in Pakistan’s North Waziristan Agency under tough conditions.
Promoting intangible cultural heritage for educators to reinforce education for sustainable development in Asia Pacific

Al-Khuldunia School in Islamabad, along with 8 others are participating in a pilot project “Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage for Educators to Reinforce Education for Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific Region” spearheaded by UNESCO Bangkok office. Pakistan is one of the four countries where the pilot is being tested.

The key aspect of Pakistan’s effort for integrating ICH in education and learning is to link tradition bearers, the “Ustads” (Teacher) and practitioners, to the formal school system and to
develop mechanisms through which the cultural knowledge and wisdom can be transmitted to the younger generation. A three-pronged approach is underway. The first being awareness-raising and sharing the intricacies of the ICH element with the teachers and the students through either culture clubs or a new subject of Heritage Education introduced in the Curriculum. The second is by fusing knowledge derived and embedded in ICH into school subjects and the third aspect is “Thematic Projects”, which are mechanisms for project based learning and opens a hitherto untapped avenue for seeking knowledge. At the end of the Pilot Project Guidelines for Integrating ICH/ESD knowledge in education and learning will be developed through a consultative process. This pilot activity will hopefully pave the way to bring into the learning and education in the formal school system local content and wisdom which may be irrevocably lost if effort is not made to safeguard the ICH heritage and transmit it to the next generation.
Like many other residents of Kurram Agency, Shaukat Iqbal used to earn his living by growing wheat and rice. His 2.5 acres of land provided food and income for the entire family of five including his mother, wife and two sons. Their life was disrupted in 2008 when a protracted conflict and sectarian violence in the area forced Iqbal and his family to leave their home. “Suddenly, our lives took a U-turn. We had no idea what the future held for us,” said Iqbal. The family relocated to Peshawar. But life became tough without any source of income. One day Mr. Iqbal heard that the Government of Pakistan has allowed displaced persons to return to their homes and that a NGO was helping returnee farmers to resume their livelihoods. The visiting NGO represented an FAO project funded by the Kingdom of Belgium. Mr. Iqbal met the project criteria and received 50 kilograms (kg) of wheat seed, 50 kg of fertilizer, and 0.5 kg of vegetable seed. Mr. Iqbal harvested 1.7 tons of wheat from the seed provided by FAO, over three times more than he had ever done before. “My barren field has turned into a field of gold,” said Mr. Iqbal, his voice full of pride for the results of his work and of gratitude for the support he had received.

As a result of FAO support, 3,300 – 4,200 tons of wheat was harvested by 2,770 farmer families who had returned to Kurram Agency after the security issues in the area.
Vegetables helped me fight poverty. I was able to buy new cloths for my children, and my husband repaid loans,” says Shazadi, one of the beneficiaries of FAO kitchen gardening project in Sindh Province. Shazadi belongs to a group of 25 women who practiced kitchen gardening together with support and guidance from FAO. Shazadi and her husband Abdul Nabi have eight children all below 10 years. The 2010 and 2012 floods meant their village was flooded. For them, it meant the loss not only of their property but also of their family livelihood. Luckily for the family, Shazadi was among the 2,500 women in the districts targeted for post-flood support through a DFID-funded kitchen gardening activity. Research suggests that kitchen garden can supply up to half of all non-staple food needs and a significant share of vitamins and minerals for the household. A group of 25 women was formed to work together, and FAO helped them find a 3.5-acre plot of land for growing vegetables. In her ⅛ acre share of the garden, Shazadi produced enough vegetables for her family to use for more than three months. In addition to providing food for their families, for almost two months, Shazadi and her neighbors sold a pickup-van-full of tomatoes and okra every other day. Shazadi now plans to continue growing vegetables in her backyard, even when FAO support ends. She hopes that one day, her vegetable garden will help the family have the better future she has always been dreaming about.
"All our lives we have been defecating in the fields far from our houses," says Mai Sayani, the first woman to build a latrine in her house in Sindh. "Women in our community used to manage their diet intake in such a way that the need to defecate would not arise during the day time as they didn’t want to be seen defecating in the fields." "The community workers in our village introduced us to the concept of improved sanitation and its importance. With their help, my daughters and I built a latrine in our house. It cost us only Rupees 5000 (USD 50). The idea is common now and all houses in our village have latrines." Mai Sayani is a widow and a mother of four. Her village is one of the districts that suffered massive destruction during 2010 and 2011 floods. Open defecation, poor hygiene practices and use of contaminated water lead to incidence of diseases like Diarrhea, Cholera and Polio causing deaths or disability of people, majority of which are women and children. UNICEF sought to improve access to sanitation through introducing new social norms of say-
ing no to open defecation and creating Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages. This approach encouraged communities to construct latrines in their houses on self-help basis. This was achieved by removing the bottlenecks to latrine construction which included cultural constraints and the non-availability of latrine construction materials and expertise. “UNICEF will continue to support the Government of Pakistan, communities and sanitation sector stakeholders in creating a new social norm of ‘no open defecation’,” says Mubashra Iram, WASH Officer Sindh, UNICEF.
Denmark as first donor to pledge $1 million support for UN Women’s country program promoting women’s role in peace and security in Pakistan

The Government of Denmark is the first donor, providing a grant of USD 1 million to support UN Women’s current Country Programme area promoting “Peace and Security, and humanitarian actions shaped by women’s leadership and participation”. Ambassador Sorensen stated that “through this partnership, we aim to promote security and protect the rights of women and girls in stabilization, social reconstruction and peace-building processes. The program also aims to ensure that women and girls are engaged as change agents and promote gender equality commitments in disasters and complex emergencies on both policy and institutional level”. The funding from the Danish Government will give continuity to UN Women’s work to ensure that peace and security, and humanitarian actions are shaped by the leadership and participation of women, including grass root women. These funds will be utilized to support UN Women’s program to work with the Government of Pakistan and key partners in enhancing synergies so as to facilitate regional networking and partnerships; support advocacy for in-country and cross regional programming on integrating gender concerns in peace initiatives; undertake Training for Trainers on Gender and Peacekeeping with civil armed forces, as well as strengthen capacity for gender responsive policy frameworks and action plans.

Women parliamentarians agree on resolutions to improve leadership and political opportunities for women

The South Asian Regional Exchange Meeting, hosted by Pakistan Women’s Parliamentary Caucus, the Pakistan National Commission on the Status of Women and the Nepal National Women’s Commission, with support from UN Women and UNDP included more than 100 participants from Nepal and 45 delegates from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka took part in the meeting. Participants shared good practices and lessons learned in their countries, agreed on recommendations and a common South Asian regional approach to improving women’s political participation and leadership. Ms. Khawer Mumtaz, Chairperson of the Pakistan National Commission on the Status of Women, stated that “It is time for us to establish mechanisms and institutions at a regional level”. She added “violence against women and girls is the most potent barrier to women’s development, equality and opportunities”. The assembly agreed to develop standardised indicators to measure the extent of violence against women and to ensure the availability of comparable data in the region. The group also agreed to set up a regional portal to facilitate information sharing and peer learning, and to establish regional alliances of women parliamentarians, national women’s empowerment mechanisms and election monitoring bodies.
Football is the world’s most popular sport and humanitarian organizations are using its power to enhance social change. This is exactly what Karachi Electric and UNICEF set out to do in the volatile and poverty stricken neighborhood of Lyari in Karachi, an area that usually brings forward stories of crime, violence, poverty and unemployment.

To this effect on 16 May 2014, People’s Stadium Lyari looked nothing less than an international football stadium. The opening ceremony was performed by the police band followed by the traditional entrance of the participating teams that marched on the ground and shook hands with the distinguished guests at the event.

Football and involvement in sport not only provides an incentive for participation in development programs but instead can be used to deliver key lessons. Such gatherings not only involve the players but also the neighborhood youth who come to view these events. It is a perfect opportunity to raise awareness amongst them. They are taught about fair play, tolerance, inclusion and respect which enhance their confidence as well as knowledge to assume responsibility in their respective communities. K-Electric and UNICEF hope that the lessons on the pitch can be transferred to life off the pitch, ensuring the long term impact of social change through football.
First child health helpline launched

For the first time in Pakistan “The Child Health Care Helpline” has been launched. This initiative will enable people to access real-time information on child healthcare through phone calls. The toll-free helpline number 0800 222 99 will serve as first-point-of contact to dispel misconceptions about polio vaccinations as well as providing general information and guidance on child health and well-being. Parents and health advice seekers will simply need to dial the toll free number and get connected to a dedicated operator for general health information and have broad discussions regarding their child’s health, including immunization services and drives.

World Population Day 2014 - investing in youth

Since the global population reached the mark of 5 billion on July 11, 1987, the UN General Assembly recommended that 11 July be observed annually as World Population Day. In keeping with UN Population Fund (UNFPA)’s focus on adolescent well-being, and to support inclusion of a new goal for young people in the post-2015 development agenda, the theme this year is “Investing in Young People”. Pakistan has the 6th largest population in the world and 40% are youth aged 10-29 years. Investing in young people requires focus on their needs, addressing their challenges, recognition of their achievements and empowering them to reach their goals. Gender equality forms the basis of a successful youth policy. In Pakistan, a concerted effort is required to address the gender disparity in educational and professional fields. UNFPA launched the global “Selfie” campaign, to highlight the importance of youth as a priority in global post 2015 development plans. Millions of “selfies” from young people, decision-makers, high-profile celebrities, media and others will be gathered. The Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, said “investing in young people and enabling them to exercise their human rights not only benefits young people themselves, but can also help their countries reap a demographic dividend.”
With massive support, UNODC spreads its message against human trafficking all over the world

On 30 July, UNODC marked the first World Day against Trafficking in Persons with activities across the globe to raise awareness about this heinous crime. These activities highlighted the plight of victims of human trafficking, aided by a UNODC social media campaign entitled #igivehope. The campaign encouraged people worldwide to express their solidarity with the victims of human trafficking wherever they may be. People were asked to share photos of themselves online making the universally recognized hand heart - a gesture of solidarity representing love, care and friendship. On the social media front, a Thunderclap - a coordinated message launched collectively across Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr on 30 July - reached over 5.5 million people. Together with the #igivehope hashtag, many supporting organizations and thousands of people shared key messages to highlight the plight of victims: for instance, that more than a quarter of the victims are children, and that women and girls make up close to 60 per cent of victims globally. Events were also held across the world by both UNODC and others.

#igivehope.
UNODC holds the 3rd regional meeting on human trafficking and migrant smuggling routes

As part of United Nation’s global fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling under its Global Plan of Action, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been committed to enhancing cooperation amongst regional stakeholders. UNODC Office in Pakistan brought together senior law enforcement officials from Bahrain, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, Qatar and Pakistan to meet and discuss the emerging routes and challenges related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the region. The participants deliberated upon practical solutions for enhancing information sharing amongst the regional countries. The opening session was addressed by Mr. Cesar Guedes the UNODC Representative in Pakistan. He said “this form of crime exploits and victimises millions around the world each year, countries in the region need to work together to devise an effective strategy for eliminating human trafficking and migrant smuggling”. Mr. Guedes concluded his speech by reiterating the importance of the need to fight this global menace and the urgency to find regional solutions as it effects the lives of millions around the globe especially women and children. He assured that UNODC office in Pakistan would continue to support and strengthen the efforts of the Government of Pakistan in eliminating human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

FAO is supporting rural women working in livestock sector

In Pakistan, both male and female farmers are involved in multiple sources of agriculture-based livelihoods and majority of them are either small subsistence farmers or tenants. Women in particular are involved in crop production from sowing to harvesting stages, livestock rearing, and other allied fields in agriculture. Within the agriculture sector of Pakistan, the livestock sub-sector is critical to rural livelihoods especially for the small and subsistence farmers and landless rural inhabitants. Only in Sindh province, there are approximately seven million small rural households who depend on the sub-sector for their livelihoods and majority of them are females. Women who undertake much of the work in the livestock sector, reap little of the returns due to limited mobility and virtually no access to markets. Livestock has a highest potential for growth and poverty alleviation in Pakistan in the short term. It also has the highest potential for reaching landless women who have few other assets. Gender equality is central to FAO’s mandate to achieve food security for all by raising levels of nutrition, improving agricultural productivity and natural resource management, and improving the lives of rural populations.
The theme of the International AIDS 2014 Conference in Melbourne, Australia was stepping up the pace. UNAIDS has developed a strong programme of activities for parliamentarians at AIDS 2014, including engagement with civil society groups, other parliamentarians from around the world and the main conference programme. In Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines, injecting drug use has been a significant factor in the expanding epidemic. HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs was 27.2% in Pakistan and 13.6% in the Philippines in 2012. The distinct leadership role of parliamentarians and networks in achieving the triple zero challenge was discussed: zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths by 2015.

**Green job training**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) held a workshop looking at the fundamentals of a Sustainable Green Business Start-up: idea creation, green product development and marketing, green business standards and strategies to create competitive and sustainable green entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship, and green entrepreneurship in particular, can be the catalyst for poverty reduction through local economic development. However, in order to promote green entrepreneurship, it is necessary for governments and other relevant institutions such as workers’ and employers’ organizations to develop and implement apt policies and intervention programs that can assist this process. In support of that, the ILO has developed a comprehensive entrepreneurship training package called “Start Your Green Business (SYGB)”, aiming at promoting the creation of green entrepreneurs and equipping them with the suitable skills and tools to succeed in a fast changing environment and the transition to a green economy.

**Making businesses better: ILO training for entrepreneurship**

The International Labour Organization organised training to strengthen business incubation centres. It had a special focus on gender dimensions of entrepreneurship training and business development so that business incubation centres can meet the needs and expectations of female entrepreneurs effectively. The initiative is being piloted in 12 HEC accredited universities from all four provinces of Pakistan as well as Gilgit-Baltistan. The initiative is being supported by the ILO project Promoting Gender Equality for Decent Employment (GE4DE) funded by Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) Canada. Small and micro-enterprises employ a large share of workers and create jobs in developing economies and helps in poverty alleviation and women empowerment, particularly in the informal economy. Therefore, the support to these enterprises has been a policy priority for many economies in the past decades. The International Labour Organization has been part of these efforts by helping governments and private sector to provide more and better services to start-ups and existing small enterprises to support job creation. This initiative ties in well with the government’s focus on promoting entrepreneurship through programmes such as the Prime Minister’s youth business loan programme.
One of the largest irrigation systems in Sindh rehabilitated

Over the past several years, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been instrumental in a successful rehabilitation of Nara Canal, one of largest irrigation system of Sindh Province. One of the key assignments that the FAO team has been given was to transparently and accountably manage the contracting process for the Sindh Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP). The project supports irrigation sector reforms in the province, works to modernize irrigation and drainage systems and assists in identifying systematic ways to deal with floods and drainage issues. To date, the project has rehabilitated the Nara irrigation system that includes 101 distributaries and minor canals, fall structures, head regulators, and various other hydraulic structures to facilitate storage and distribution of water through the area. The project has also helped develop a comprehensive 50-year Master Plan to manage the floods and drainages issues, and carry out detailed diagnostic studies for rehabilitation and modernization of two barrages in the province. These studies are now serving as a basis for a new project which will work to modernize Guddu Barrage.

By the Youth, for the Youth

Preparations for Pakistan’s National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2015 on youth got off to a flying start. The goal of Pakistan’s NHDR 2015 is to chart the opportunities and obstacles for youth in Pakistan today. In so doing the report will seek to identify how best to realize the potential of young people within the context of human development. The report will identify a set of recommendations to transform the national and provincial policies on youth, and influence the ways investments are made for young people in Pakistan. With almost 64% of Pakistan’s population below the age of 29 (and 31% between 15-29 years of age), youth is one of the most important forces that will forge the future of Pakistan. The themes centre around three drivers for youth empowerment – education, employment and engagement - and the process focused on an intensely participatory approach whereby the report is ‘by the youth, for the youth’. Themes discussed spanned physical and mental health of young people; the experience of minorities and marginalized groups in societies, and the role of technology in young people’s lives in Pakistan. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2014.
The Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the Local Government Act 2014 on 18 August. UNDP and Gilgit-Baltistan Policy Institute provided technical support to the Committee throughout the process. Since September 1979 Gilgit-Baltistan has operated under the Punjab Local Government Ordinance of 1979. The region’s local governance system is based on two tiers: District Councils and Union Councils/Municipal Committees below them. Law Minister Ali Madad Sher remarked, “It’s a memorable occasion. The Assembly has enacted yet another law that empowers the citizens in having a say in the region’s development planning.” The local government bill was drafted through a participatory and consultative process similar to that undertaken by the Parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Reforms in drafting the 18th Constitutional Amendment. The 13 member Committee included representation from all political parties represented in the Assembly and conducted multi-stakeholder consultations to incorporate feedback in the draft law. A conscious effort was made by the Committee to engage with political parties, representatives of civil society organizations, youth and women leaders and constitutional experts. Gilgit-Baltistan’s local government legislation promises to maximise benefits of self-governance to citizens at the lowest tier, introduces local participatory and democratic decision-making processes, encourages women’s participation in local governments and ensures the effective transfer of power from the regional to the local government.

Planning commission and UNDP launch reforms and innovation in government for high performance at vision - 2025

A multi-partner joint project of the Planning Commission and UNDP initiative provides support to the Planning Commission of Pakistan for reforms and innovation in public sector for improved service delivery, citizen’s satisfaction and reducing multi-dimensional poverty. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Marc-André Franche jointly inaugurated the project at the launch of Vision 2025. The initiative endeavours to improve governance at different levels, track and monitor the implementation of Vision 2025 towards the targeted results and improve inter-provincial and inter-departmental coordination and enhance capacities for MDGs and reducing multi-dimensional poverty. This 14 million dollars multi-partner project is for three years which directly supports the implementation of Pakistan Vision 2025. The project endeavours to strengthen Planning Commission as a public sector think-tank and technical advice providers to provinces and the Administrative Regions in the post 18th constitutional amendment scenario. The project seeks to promote partnership with provinces and regions for implementation of most of the targeted interventions.
Delivering as One in Pakistan: an interview with Lola Castro, Country Representative, WFP

1. What does “Delivering as One” actually mean? What does it mean in Pakistan?

The UN launched the Delivering as One pilot initiative in 2007 to respond to the challenges of a changing world and test how the UN family can provide development assistance in a more coordinated way. Governments from eight countries – Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Vietnam – volunteered as pilot candidates. Together, they experimented with ways to increase the UN system’s impact through more coherent programmes, reduced transaction costs for governments, and lower overhead costs for the UN system. The eight pilots made reforms based on four principles: One Leader, One Budget, One Programme, One Office. Moving outside our respective organizations “breaking the boxes,” is something that staff need to see not as a threat to their jobs, or as something that will only create more work, but instead as something that breaks the silos, something that donors and governments want to see.

2. What do you see as the top 3 benefits of Delivering as One in Pakistan?

WFP’s work is designed to complement existing UN programmes, support achievement of the MDGs and align with the strategic priorities identified in the Humanitarian Operational Plan and the One-UN Operational Plan II for Pakistan. Combined implementation and geographic convergence ensure on ground synergies, being in the same place at the same time increases efficiency. It reduces duplication and pools resources so that agencies can reach a larger number of beneficiaries.

There is an increased role in policy support resulted in more coherent advocacy by the UN system on national priorities and the MDGs. In Pakistan it has strengthened governments’ confidence in the system by ensuring that they have access to the experience and expertise of a wider range of United Nations organizations to respond to their national
priorities. The more projects we do together, the more [donors] see the added value. We present a stronger case, a huge menu of projects, building on past successes, expanding them, making them grow. New tools, innovations, different approaches. Focusing on the UN’s comparative advantages, together we are making a positive impact on the (food security) chain at every step, from production to nutrition.

3

How do you think that DAO makes the delivery of the WFP’s work more effective for the people of Pakistan?

In the United Nations Country Team for Pakistan, WFP leads the Logistics Cluster, co-leads the Food Security Cluster and is part of the Cash and Voucher Working Group under the Food Security Cluster co-chaired by WFP and FAO, which coordinates humanitarian activities. WFP chairs the Information and Communications Technology working group, leads Strategic Priority Area 6 (“Food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable groups”) and is a member agency of Strategic Priority Area 3 focusing on enhancing national resilience to disasters, crises and external shocks under the Pakistan. WFP in partnership with UNICEF, FAO, WHO, UNESCO, and UNWOMEN are working in SPA-6 to support the government efforts to address food insecurity and under-nutrition of the most vulnerable population during the period 2013-2017. Based on the country’s necessities and government priorities, and taking into consideration UN agencies comparative advantage, WFP is contributing towards two outcomes ensuring that household food security and nutrition are increased especially for vulnerable and excluded groups, envisioned through joint planning, programming and reporting of an integrated and multi-sectorial package of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, engaging other sectors as well. The Co-chairs of SPA-3 are WFP, IOM and UNHABITAT in collaboration with the Disaster Management Authorities at National, Provincial and District level. It is of particular significance to Pakistan given the country’s exposure to disasters, crises and external shocks. The last several years have shown the extent to which the people remain vulnerable, either by way of natural calamities such as floods or earthquakes, or human-made such as internal conflicts. The UN is working to support the capacities of de-centralized bodies such as PDMAs and DDMAs to strengthen their capacities in all aspects of contingency planning, preparedness, disaster risk management and reduction. WFP Pakistan continues to build partnerships and coordinate interventions with UN agencies, NGOs and donors to meet the evolving needs of the people of Pakistan. On behalf of the Government, the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) leads the process.
Clean water quenches thirst in FATA: UNDP support brings community water projects to remote areas

In the Khyber Agency, in the north of Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), many residents lack access to clean drinking water as a result of a prolonged energy crisis and the scarcity of surface water throughout the region. It is important to note that the responsibility for collecting water falls to the women of each household. They carry water from open wells and existing springs, often located far from their homes. Carrying water on their heads from distant areas can cause health problems for women, including spinal and muscular conditions, and it takes up a significant amount of the day. The Refugee Affected and Hosted Areas project in FATA, with financial support from the Government of Japan and the FATA Secretariat, has installed 56 solar and 7 gravity-based water supply schemes in the area. Qari Mujahid Ahmad, president of Mujahid Kalay village in Landikotal, observed “We had a spring with plenty of water near a hill in our village for 60 years. Local women carried water from the source and also by a pipeline, but there were still two problems for the community: a great deal of water was wasted, and the water source was not protected. RAHA constructed a gravity scheme with a network of pipelines and water tanks, giving everyone access to clean water.”
Increasing independence and building confidence

For the past year I have been a women’s social organiser with the Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA) Programme in Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). I had an opportunity to visit the Khyber Agency and hear the voices and the concerns of tribal women. The women I spoke with lamented that due to limited livelihood opportunities in the area, most of the men were either unemployed or they earn very little, often insufficient to meet their families’ needs. RAHA started a two-month vocational and skills development training programme which were designed to improve local women’s livelihoods and living conditions, enable them in a traditional setting and enable them to become valuable and self-sufficient citizens of Pakistan. Initially 150 women were trained in block printing, tie-dye, weaving, embroidery and dressmaking. In addition to a stipend, each trainee was provided with equipment or supplies to start a business. One of the trainees, 28-year-old mother of four Ms. Zainab Bibi, was trained in block printing. Her husband went abroad to work, but has been missing for the last three years. He never sent her money and she was left completely dependent on her in-laws. Ms Bibi noted that after receiving the skills training she is able to earn enough money to meet her family’s basic requirements. Since I am also a self-made tribal woman and I have suffered from limited or no educational and employment opportunities, I felt strongly for women like Zainab Bibi. She not only lacked opportunities, but also self-confidence. Zainab's new confident demeanour as a self-employed woman seems to me to herald a new dawn for tribal women. The training programme has brought new skills to the area. The programme trained 150 women, 30 in each skill – block printing, tie-dye, weaving, embroidery and dressmaking.
In a talk show on PTV World, Neil Wright, Acting Humanitarian Coordinator of UN in Pakistan talked about the humanitarian assistance and response of the United Nations to the displaced populations from North Waziristan. He said that humanitarian assistance is managed under a ‘cluster approach’ and UNHCR is taking care of coordinating protection, emergency shelters, camp coordination and camp management for Internally Displaced People. Fawad Khan from WHO also discussed the latest update on the health assistance provided to the displaced population from North Waziristan.

Investing in Youth

Ann Keeling, Country Representative of UNFPA, Pakistan participated in a talk show, on PTV World, on the occasion of World Population Day. She said that Pakistan has the 6th largest population in the world and 40% are youth aged 10-29 years. Investing in young people requires a focus on their needs, addressing their challenges, recognition of their achievements and empowering them to reach their goals. A safe and successful healthy passage from adolescence into adulthood is the right of every child. This right can only be fulfilled if families and societies make focused investments and provide opportunities to ensure that adolescents and youth progressively develop the knowledge, skills and resilience needed for a healthy productive and fulfilling life.
Cesar Guedes, UNODC Representative in Pakistan, in an interview with Iran TV spoke about the third regional meeting on Human Trafficking and migrant smuggling routes to and from Pakistan, held in Islamabad. He said that UNODC Office in Pakistan brought together senior law enforcement officials from Bahrain, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey and Pakistan to meet and discuss the emerging routes and challenges related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the region. He said “this form of crime exploits and victimises millions around the world each year, countries in the region need to work together to devise an effective strategy for eliminating human trafficking and migrant smuggling”. He reiterated the importance of the need to fight this global menace and the urgency to find regional solutions as it affects the lives of millions around the globe especially women and children. He assured viewers that UNODC office in Pakistan would continue to support and strengthen the efforts of the Government of Pakistan in eliminating human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Lola Castro, Country Representative, WFP, gave interviews with Voice of America and with PTV World’s program ‘Analysed’. She spoke about the ongoing situation of the displaced population from North Waziristan and WFP’s food assistance programmes for them. “Women in these cases of displacement are the most vulnerable. There will be widows, there will be old people there will be female households with a lot of children. These are our main points of interest and we want to assist all of them,” said Castro.
World Population Day

11 July 2014
The world today has its largest generation of youth in history – 1.8 billion young people, mostly in developing countries – with enormous potential to help tackle the major challenges facing humanity. But too many are denied their rightful opportunities to get a quality education, find decent work, and participate in the political life of their societies. On this World Population Day, I call on all with influence to prioritize youth in development plans, strengthen partnerships with youth-led organizations, and involve young people in all decisions that affect them. By empowering today’s youth, we will lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future for generations to come.

International Day of Friendship

30 July 2014
This year’s International Day of Friendship comes at a time of widespread war, violence and mistrust in many parts of the world. People who have previously lived in harmony find themselves ever farther apart. On this International Day of Friendship, let us remember the ties that bind us together, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or borders. Let us cultivate solidarity as a single human family on our one and only planet. Let us pursue true and lasting friendship.
World Day against Trafficking in Persons

30 July 2014
Human trafficking is a callous global industry that denies victims their rights and dignity and generates billions of dollars for organized criminal networks. Most of those trafficked are vulnerable women and children deceived into a life of suffering. They are exploited for sex and forced to work in conditions akin to slavery. This first World Day against Trafficking in Persons is a call to action to end this crime and give hope to the victims, who often live unrecognized among us.

To stop the traffickers, we must sever funding pipelines and seize assets. I urge all countries to ratify and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

Let us open our eyes to this crime and our hearts to the victims. It is time to say no to human trafficking.

International Day of the World’s Indigenous People

9 August 2014
This year’s International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples comes at a critical moment as the world endeavours to meet the Millennium Development Goals, forge a new vision for sustainable development and prepare the groundwork for the adoption of a new legal climate agreement – all by 2015. Indigenous peoples have a central interest in these objectives – and can act as powerful agents of progress. In order for them to contribute to our common future, we must secure their rights. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes minimum standards for their survival, dignity, well-being and rights. But huge gaps remain between those ideals and the circumstances facing most of the world’s indigenous peoples.

World Humanitarian Day

19 August 2014
On World Humanitarian Day, we renew our commitment to life-saving relief efforts – and we remember all those who died serving this noble cause. Last year, more humanitarian workers were kidnapped, seriously injured or killed than ever before. This is an outrage. On World Humanitarian Day, we honour the heroic aid workers who rush bravely to help people in need. We remember their sacrifices, and we recognize the millions of people who count on humanitarian workers for their very survival. Let us honour the fallen by protecting those who carry on their work – and supporting humanitarian relief operations worldwide.
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

30 August 2014
The enforced disappearance of individuals by States constitutes an unacceptable violation of human rights. Acts tantamount to enforced disappearance of individuals by armed and terrorist groups also constitutes a gross abuse of human rights. This abhorrent practice places people outside the protection of the law, and thus potentially in great danger of physical violence and sometimes barbaric execution. In addition to causing unimaginable worry and anguish for the victims and their loved ones, this creates a generalized climate of fear and terror across entire societies. On this solemn day, I reiterate in the strongest possible terms that under international law, no one should be kept in secret detention. Any person deprived of his or her liberty must be held safely in officially recognized and supervised locations that observe the rule of law. States should provide full information about the whereabouts of persons who have been disappeared. And they must effectively implement the right to the truth, justice and reparation for all victims and their families. Enforced disappearance is a practice that cannot be tolerated in the 21st Century. I urge all Member States to sign and ratify the Convention without delay. It is time for the universal ratification of the Convention and a final end to all enforced disappearances.

International Day against Nuclear Tests

29 August 2014
As Secretary-General, I have had many opportunities to meet with some of the courageous survivors of nuclear weapons and nuclear tests in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Semipalatinsk. Their resolve and dedication should continue to guide our work for a world without nuclear weapons. On this International Day against Nuclear Tests, let us all take a fresh look at those survivors’ stories. Listen to their words and imagine the effects of these detonations as if they were experienced by each of us. Only then can we can better understand the imperative to renew our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear tests. Together, let us demand an end to all nuclear tests, get on with the unfinished business of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, and usher in a safer and more prosperous future.
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 in 2014.