Focus on
Gordon Brown pledges $1 billion support to Pakistan education plan.

The right to education.
Broadening access to education for Pakistani girls.
World Food Programme helps to close the gaps in school enrolment through “school feeding”.
The Global Partnership for Education and Pakistan.
Girls and education.
The United Nations Pakistan Newsletter is produced by the United Nations Communications Group

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A financial program to help Pakistan’s 6.7 million out-of-school children get an education, was announced by Gordon Brown. This $500 million boost for education takes the total global investment in education in Pakistan to more than $1 billion over the next three years. The announcements took place at an Education Conference in Islamabad with Prime Minister Sharif and later at a youth rally with 1,000 girls gathering together to demand the right to education. The United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, pledged that as Pakistan’s government doubles its education budget – from two to four per cent of GDP – the global community will partner with Pakistan in financing the biggest education expansion in the country’s history. The
The government’s commitment will inject an additional $4.6 billion annually into the education system. When implemented, the project could exceed the targets in Pakistan’s Accelerated Plan of Action. Ministers from all of the provinces have agreed to adopt and implement Article 25-A of the Pakistani constitution, making education free and compulsory for all. The support for education was also urged to extend to the 620,000 Afghan refugee children, of whom only 5 per cent complete education.

Also part of the visiting delegation, Alice Albright, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is reviewing a $100 million application to support the education plans of Sindh and Balochistan in Pakistan. The United States, United Kingdom, European Union, Dubai Cares, and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah’s Educate A Child initiative are also all contributing to support education for out-of-school children in Pakistan.
In Pakistan, at an inspirational youth rally I met 1,000 brave girls who were ready to stand up and fight for the right to education. They made a direct plea to the Pakistani Prime Minister and their plea was heard – Pakistan committed to doubling its education budget – from two to four per cent. In response to this landmark move the global community pledged to invest $1 billion in education in the country. As part of my visit I was able to unveil details of the financial programme to help Pakistan’s 6.7 million out of school children.

When implemented, the project could exceed the targets in Pakistan’s Accelerated Plan of Action, developed with the United Nations, and the country could achieve universal education by December 2015. Ministers from all of the provinces also agreed to adopt and implement Article 25-A of the Pakistani constitution, making education free and compulsory for all. In addition the government is committed to taking a strong stand on removing the barriers, including child labour and child marriage, to ensure all children, especially girls, are in school. At the youth rally I announced the introduction of Pakistan’s first child marriage free zone, led by Bela Jamil, Director of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA).

Pakistan has come a long way from a time when most children were not at school. In Punjab an ambitious plan placed one million children in school in only a year. Now the whole of country can benefit from this expansion of education that will help to support opportunity for its people.

Gordon Brown
United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Global Education
Focus on

Broadening access to education for Pakistani girls

Education lights every stage of the journey to a better life. Treaties and laws worldwide recognize that education is a fundamental human right. Education reduces poverty and improves prospects for employment. It increases people’s chances of a healthier life, builds the foundations of democracy and good governance, promotes tolerance and social cohesion and empowers people to make life choices. To unlock the wider benefits of education, all children need access to both primary and lower secondary education of good quality. Special efforts are needed to ensure that all children and young people—regardless of their family income, location, gender, ethnicity and or disability—can benefit equally from its transformative power.

The Education for All goals and the Millennium Development Goals acknowledge its indispensable role in imparting the knowledge and skills that enable people to realize their full potential. However, Governments are still lagging behind to sufficiently recognize and exploit education’s considerable power as a catalyst for other development goals. This needs to be much better reflected in the post-2015 development framework. It is evident that the empowerment of girls and women through quality education is one of the smartest investments for breaking the poverty cycle and achieving social justice and the development goals.

Girls’ education is a must to meet development targets in Pakistan. The United Nations in Pakistan is committed to promoting quality education for girls and boys, including out-of-school children and disadvantaged populations, such as persons with disabilities. Education is one of the key priority areas of the Government of Pakistan. However, to increase the overall literacy rate of the country, many more girls need to be educated. It is essential to change the mindset of communities steeped in patriarchy, which object to education for girls. In Pakistan, after the 18th amendment, the devolution of the Ministry of Education to the provinces was a unanimous political decision. Provinces have to make great efforts to cope with the heavy responsibility of improving and developing the education sector. Pakistan is lagging behind in the achievement of MDGs. A lot of work remains to be done in the education sector to achieve MDGs, especially in remote areas and FATA, where the female literacy rate is just three percent.

The Government of Pakistan’s National Plan of Action to achieve universal primary education and MDG Acceleration Framework prepared by provincial governments, with the support of the United Nations, for increasing enrollment was a positive step. Pakistan was instrumental in the establishment of UNESCO’s Malala Global Fund for Girls’ Rights to Education, after the attack on the young education activist Malala Yousafzai in October 2012.

The United Nations in Pakistan calls on the Government to fulfill its commitment to increase the share of GDP allocated to education from 2% to 4%. Such progress would not be possible without the concerted efforts, commitment and strong leadership of the Prime Minister, State Minister and the provincial Ministers of Education. The United Nations in Pakistan commends the education sector development partners for their commitment to continuing support for education, particularly girls’ education. There is now a confluence of efforts to support education in Pakistan and heightened confidence that most of the 6.7 million out-of-school children in Pakistan will be going to school within the next 3 years.

Timo Pakkala
Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator
Education is central to national development and stability as it builds the human capital needed for economic growth and sustainability of progress. It is also a critical determining factor in household food security due to an increase in subsequent earnings and expanding future opportunities for both girls and boys.

Girls’ education has additional positive socio-economic implications; increased economic productivity contributing towards the family income and therefore national outputs, reduced instances of child marriage and improved health of both mother and child.

While the focus of education has been on closing the enrolment gap between girls and boys, it is imperative to highlight the importance of retention. The World Food Programme has been working closely with the authorities in Pakistan, increasing enrolment and stabilising attendance in selected schools using food as an incentive. Also, simultaneously addressing short term hunger, reducing micronutrient deficiencies and improving overall health and learning capacity.

Pakistan is one of the four countries where a three-year “Nourishing Bodies, Nourishing Minds” joint initiative between the World Food Programme, UNESCO and UNICEF is being piloted within the framework of One UN. The World Food Programme is also currently exploring the potential of home grown school feeding especially looking at linkages with productive small farmers and retaining adolescent girls in school.

During the recent visit of Mr. Gordon Brown, the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education discussed how a school meal can improve retention, especially of a critical target, adolescent girls and reduce the number of children with low birth weight as a consequence of delayed marriage and early pregnancies.
The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is the only international partnership devoted to getting all children in school for a good quality education. It brings together donors, civil society, teachers and the private sector to support developing countries in the design and implementation of solid education sector plans that reflect the countries’ priorities. Pakistan joined GPE in 2012, committing to the Partnership’s core principles. On the basis of GPE’s guidelines, sector plans for two of its provinces—Sindh and Balochistan—were approved by the local education groups. In Sindh, the sector plan covers the years 2014-2018 and focuses on improving access and participation, reducing disparities in education services, improving learning outcomes and enhancing governance in the sector. In Balochistan, the 2013-2018 sector plan aims to increase access to school and transitions between school levels, with a strong focus on girls’ education.

GPE has received grant applications from Sindh and Balochistan, respectively for US$66 million and US$34 million. In Sindh, the grant would support a monitoring system to allow more reliable collection of education data at the school level and the establishment of a new human resource management information system. Both measures aim to increase accountability in the education system.

In Balochistan, the GPE grant aims to provide access to 100,000 additional children in primary education thanks to establishment of new community schools, and promote early childhood education. Both grant applications will be reviewed by the GPE Board of Directors at its meeting in June 2014.
Girls and education

There is a sense of achievement when we are now able to see that more girls are being educated and that the gender gap is narrowing over the years, albeit not at a speed we desire. Societies full of educated girls and women offer better living conditions and economic opportunities for all. There is countless goodness universally when girls and women are educated as much as boys and men. A saddening question is why there is a stark gender gap in education that still persists especially in countries like Pakistan. Why should two thirds of the 6.7 million out-of-school children be girls in Pakistan? UNESCO as a global leader in promoting Education for All campaign, has been watchful of the progress in girls’ education. Pakistan has taken initiative hosting the launch of the Global Monitoring Reports every year, being informed of the country’s status compared to other countries of the region, whilst strategically addressing the issues that have surfaced. Immediately after the near fatal attack against Malala - the country joined hands with UNESCO to establish the Malala Global Fund for Girls’ Right to Education with the contribution of USD 10 million. The federal, provincial and area governments are committed to spending more in education and for the cause of girls’ education in particular. The statistics and conditions of girls’ education is disappointing, but hopefully the progress will be accelerated in the years to come ensuring every girl child has her right to schooling and quality education.

Kay Nagata
Country Director, UNESCO Pakistan
Asho Mai, 50, lived with her family of nine in a one-room house, in Rajanpur District, Punjab. Her husband had a small rented farm where he grew cotton and earned enough to support his family to lead a simple life. The hill torrents of 2013 took away what little they had. A tent provided by the NGO CESVI gave them with temporary shelter. With no income as a result of the flooding, Asho and her husband started to work as unskilled laborers but the income hardly supported the family. Their main concern was the shelter as the tent could not house a large family of nine and did not save them from the severity of the weather. Her teenage daughters complained of lack of privacy and they had to cook in the open. Even from their meagre combined income, Asho and her husband were trying to save, in the hope they would one day be able to build a house. Asho’s family was identified as in need of support through the United Nations ERF project. CESVI delivered material for a semi-permanent one room shelter, and provided skilled laborers to help build the shelter while Asho’s husband and son completed the mud plaster on the walls. The United Nations Emergency Response Fund is one of the several mechanisms used by the United Nations and its partners to support families in rehabilitation from earlier disasters and to strengthen communities’ resilience to future disasters in the long run. Asho and her family were very excited when they moved to their new house, “The raised plinths will be very beneficial for us if floods surround us again. Our food and living materials will also be safe. We have a sense of safety in our minds”. Asho has plans of building a boundary wall around the house and can use her savings for the education, health and other needs of her family.
“Life is good as long as I can come here and practice football,” says Mehmood Alam (15). He is a member of the Pakistan street child football team being trained to participate in the upcoming Street Child World Cup (SCWC) 2014 scheduled to take place in Rio, Brazil. Sixteen countries will be participating in the tournament. The Street Child Football team is a part of an overall initiative supported by UNICEF for social reintegration of children working and living on the streets. UNICEF’s implementing partner Azad Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, is implementing the programme in Karachi. It is for the first time that Pakistan will be participating in the street child World Cup Tournament. The children are also trained on communication skills and team building. Adeel Rizki, the coach of the Karachi United Football Foundation identified Mehmood as a player with exceptional skills. Mehmood belongs to Orangi Town, Karachi – the biggest slum in Asia. Three years ago, Mehmood’s father left his family and never returned. His mother started doing domestic work but could not raise enough money to feed the family. With little food at home and no education, Mehmood wanders the streets for occasional jobs, he finds it difficult to focus on any particular activity with the exception of playing football. “These children have to be taught and trained well,” says Muhammad Ata, the trainer.

“It is important for them to learn to live and perform together as one team. All children are gifted and with little direction and guidance, they can put their capabilities to great use.”

1 Mehmoood Alam (15), with his football coach Adeel Rizki during a football practice session for Second Street Child World Cup to be held in March 2014 in Rio, Brazil.

2 Mehmoood Alam (15), practices football along other street children, being trained for the Second Street Child World Cup to be held in March 2014 in Rio, Brazil.

3 Mohammad Ata, the life skill trainer delivers a session to street children being trained for the Street Child World Cup, to be held in March 2014 in Rio, Brazil.
Over 200 people have died so far in 2014 in Tharparkar and surrounding districts due to a combination of factors that have worsened chronic malnutrition that has beset the drought-hit region for years.

The nutrition crisis has been intensified by limited access to effective health services and low levels of rain, which have resulted in crop failure. Further, an outbreak of sheep pox has caused the loss of small animals critical to household food security. Malnutrition levels are as high as 20 per cent in parts of the affected area, well above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent.

Government authorities and the humanitarian community have responded to the situation by distributing food items such as rice and wheat, and vaccinating livestock. Health partners have provided medical supplies and established nutritional treatment centres at government health facilities.

The relief efforts are making a difference, five-month-old Pani was admitted to a nutrition stabilization centre set up by WHO in Tharparkar’s district headquarters hospital in Mithi. She appeared to be severely malnourished, suffering from pneumonia and acute gastroenteritis. After Pani was moved to the nutrition stabilization centre and received treatment, her condition vastly improved and stabilized.

To further combat the nutrition crisis in Tharparkar and surrounding districts, WHO, UNICEF, FAO and WFP seek to implement a yearlong integrated project that will address long-standing nutrition, food security and livelihoods needs in the affected region. The humanitarian organizations are seeking $12 million to scale up support to over 1.3 million people for a year.

One of the child in the stabilization centre, Mithi Hostipal, Tharparker, Sindh. Photo: OCHA/ Salman Safdar
In March, 2011, at age 37, Nauman (*) fell ill with high temperature of between 101°F – 104°F but there were no other significant symptoms. However, within a brief period of time, frequent vomiting attacks and other physical ailments surfaced. Several months of hospital visitations and check-ups at various institutions in the country turned up diagnoses of possible causes ranging from cancer to dengue fever. None of the medication prescribed had a positive effect on his deteriorating health however. Eventually, a doctor at a Government hospital in his native city diagnosed him with tuberculosis and following the hospital’s procedures, he was required to undergo HIV screening. The screening test produced HIV positive results. “My first reaction was of utter shock. Over three to four days, I had time to reflect and compromised with the situation and decided to fight it,” he says. Nauman was advised to commence on anti retroviral therapy medication which specifically treats HIV. Within days, he was out of bed and feeling stronger. He started searching for HIV support networks in Pakistan and came across a job posting for a Project Coordinator position at an organization in Pakistan which was funded by the Global Fund, a UN supported initiative via the UNAIDS agency. He applied for this position and was selected almost immediately after the interview. “Once on board, I decided to break the barrier of HIV stigma in Pakistan,” he explains. Now a senior administrator in the organization, he says, “Creating community awareness is the key to eradicating the associated stigma as well as HIV/AIDS altogether from Pakistan. My moto is simple – To get aware and act aware.”

* The name has been changed for privacy purposes.
Training teachers on education for sustainable development, peace and social cohesion

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with the South Asian Center for International and Regional Studies (SACIRS) and Trust for History, Art and Architecture in Pakistan (THAAP) organized a six day teachers’ training and sensitization programme at Peshawar. UNESCO is supporting the refugee affected and hosting areas (RAHA) communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and federally administered tribal areas (FATA) through the provision of education services. Seventy teachers were trained on key concepts and approaches to ESD, peace and social cohesion. The teachers were selected in collaboration with Provincial Education Department of KPK and Directorate of Education FATA. The training sessions were instrumental as interactive sessions were held on disaster risk reduction (DRR), health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS prevention education, food security and nutrition, cultural diversity, conflict resolution, human rights, social justice and gender equality. The training sessions were also followed by dialogue on Peace and social cohesion included oral traditions and folklore, social practices, traditional games, thematic projects and traditional craftsmanship. The participants appreciated UNESCO initiatives and presented its main findings and recommendations for follow-up. At the end, certificates were distributed among the participants upon successful completion of the training.
International training and workshop on safe, connected communities against floods through & tools

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), organized a four-day international training and workshop on Safe, Connected Communities against Floods through RS and GIS Tools in Islamabad. The training workshop was aimed at improving effective measurements of floods and hazard areas for mitigating risks to people’s life and properties in the flood prone areas. The Role and use of satellite technologies in flood hazard mapping and flood warnings, satellite based rainfall estimates, damage assessment and connecting communities against floods and Web based GIS visualization tool for information dissemination were the key themes of the event. The training workshop explored and provided learning, experience and sharing opportunities for national and international experts. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform attended the workshop as Chief Guest. Others attending the workshop included, Ambassador of the Japan in Pakistan, and officials and representatives of Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Federal Flood Commission (FFD), United Nations Residence Coordination Office (UNRC), UNESCO Islamabad and Regional Bureau Office in Jakarta.
Telenor and UNICEF to pilot birth registration through mobile technology

In an effort to innovate access to birth registration in Pakistan, Telenor Pakistan and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have joined hands in pioneering the use of mobile technology to ensure a fundamental right of children. Today, the Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Telenor Pakistan, Muhammad Aslam Hayat and UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Dan Rohrmann signed an agreement that not only reflects the global partnership between Telenor and UNICEF but also realizes a critical area of child rights in Pakistan. This is particularly important as the year 2014 is the 25th anniversary of the Conventions of the Rights of the Child.

“This project has tremendous implications for the right of every child in Pakistan as birth registration is an important instrument to realize children’s right to health, education and other services in particular protection against violence, abuse and exploitation”

said Dan Rohrmann, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. Provincial Local Government Departments, District Administrations, provincial and district offices of NADRA and other concerned government departments will contribute in implementation and success of this initiative. This innovative pilot aims at creating an enabling environment by making the process user-friendly, and building knowledge and motivation among communities and stakeholders for birth registration.
UNODC reaffirms commitment to develop and promote anti narcotics force academy as the regional centre of excellence in training

A special event entitled “Enhancing Training for Law Enforcement” was jointly hosted by the Government of Pakistan and the UNODC Country Office, during the margins of the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (Vienna), H. E. Ms. Ayesha RIYAZ, and other high level delegates were also present.

UNODC Representative in Pakistan, Mr. Cesar Guedes, said “the special event reflects our close partnership with the Government of Pakistan and our combined strategy to fight drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crimes in the region”.

The ongoing partnership between UNODC and the Government of Pakistan was highlighted whilst underlining the combined training strategy based on international best practices. “Our record drug seizures during 2013 are directly attributed to our commitment and resolve to fight the drug menace, as well investing in the institutional strengthening of the Anti Narcotics Force Academy three years ago” said Major General Malik Zafar Iqbal, Director General of the Anti Narcotics Force. UNODC Country Office Pakistan briefly presented how various core and specialist curriculum modules were developed and customized for junior, mid and senior level officials in Pakistan, and the “train-the-trainer” strategy that aims at integrating these modules into the national training curricula.

Triangular Initiative underscores need to address maritime routes for opium

The Triangular Initiative, launched in 2007, coordinates the efforts of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan against the threat of opiates flowing from Afghanistan, as well as other forms of transnational organised crime in West Asia. To halt the trafficking, countries need to intercept ships as they move between ports in West Asia and the Gulf region.

As part of its own efforts, UNODC has developed a Maritime Cooperation Framework to confront this issue. In 2013, Iran, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Australia and Oman launched operations that seized vessels containing more than 10 tons of different drugs. Speaking at a ministerial review meeting of the Triangular Initiative, the Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, said, “Addressing maritime trafficking routes is an issue of increasing urgency.” Efforts include joint operations and the use of liaison officers to ensure greater information sharing between the three countries. UNODC is currently developing new and innovative approaches to tackle drug trafficking. Described as the inter-regional drug control approach, the strategy brings together regional centres to enhance criminal intelligence sharing and operational collaboration along the Balkan, Northern, and Southern routes used for shipping drugs and precursors to and from Afghanistan.
UNFPA Pakistan gets a new Country Representative

Ms. Ann Keeling (UK) took up the position of UNFPA (UN Population Fund) Representative Pakistan on 31 March 2014, as a human development specialist she will bring diverse knowledge and unique experience to UNFPA.

Ms Keeling was Chief Executive Officer of the International Diabetes Federation and Founder of the NCD (Non Communicable Diseases) Alliance and as the Chair of the NCD Alliance she has led the successful civil society campaign for a UN High Level Summit on NCDs.

Her 30 year career has included posts in Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, the Caribbean, Belgium and her home country, UK, spending 8 years in Pakistan with the British Council, UK Department for International Development (DFID) and UNDP. Ms Keeling has also held the post of Head of Gender Equality with the UK Government and senior posts with the Government of Papua New Guinea, and Commonwealth Secretariat.

With a Masters’ degree in Politics and Economics from Oxford University UK she also studied Social Research Methods at Ann Arbor University USA, and Chinese at the People’s University in Beijing, China.

Ms. Keeling said UNFPA remains committed to improving the quality of life of the people of Pakistan and extends full cooperation to the Government of Pakistan.

Japan contributes USD 6 million in support of UNHCR refugee programme in Pakistan

The Government of Japan has announced a generous contribution of USD 6 million in support of the UNHCR’s refugee programme in Pakistan. The new funding will bolster UNHCR’s interventions in the areas of education, healthcare and the provision of legal assistance to some 1.6 million Afghan refugees in the country. The largest portion of this amount, USD 2.3 million will go to the health sector and benefit approximately 600,000 Afghan refugees residing in 76 refugee villages, through improved health care services. Around USD 2.2 million of the total donation will be spent on the improvement of education sector to ensure that refugee children have unhindered access to education in refugee villages. Other activities in the area of education include provision of salaries to more than 1,000 teaching staff in refugee villages, maintenance costs for schools, training and capacity building activities, and awareness raising sessions. Some 96,000 children are expected to benefit from the activities. H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Inomata, Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, emphasizes the importance of meeting basic human needs of Afghan refugees. The UNHCR Representative in Islamabad, Mr. Neill Wright, while paying gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan said, “The Japanese contribution is essential to UNHCR operations in this country.”
Saudi Fund for Development and UNHCR handover ownership of 150 houses to homeless returnees in Mohmand

The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) and the UN Refugee Agency today in Mohmand Agency handed over ownership certificates of two-room shelters (houses) to some 150 families left homeless during the law enforcement operation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). With the financial support and technical guidance of SFD, UNHCR is committed to build 625 permanent, two-room houses worth USD 8.2 million for 3,700 most vulnerable returnees whose houses had been fully or partially destroyed in the conflict-affected Agencies of FATA. On 03 April, in Bakhmal Shah Village, Mohmand, the Head of UNHCR in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Jacques Franquin, presented ownership certificates to the new inhabitants of some 150 houses provided by the project. “UNHCR understands that the needs of the people are huge and we are aware of the difficulties faced by those returning to completely destroyed houses,” said Mr. Franquin. For the SFD housing project, only the most vulnerable returnees were selected. While the overarching criterion was to reach those who have not received prior government shelter assistance packages; persons with specific needs, women and children-headed households, as well as women at risk with little or no income were given priority.

Photo credit © UNHCR Peshawar
On Monday, April 7 in Islamabad, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) hosted a demonstration of a mechanical sheep shearing system designed to modernize shearing practices in Balochistan. The new equipment cuts down the shearing time six-fold and produces higher quality wool.

The wool industry is an important source for incomes and jobs in Balochistan, which has an estimated 12 million sheep and earns $5 million in annual revenues from wool clip. With funding from USAID, FAO is helping Balochistan farmers in remote communities to adopt modern wool-related practices and is also helping women earn more income through activities they can do from their homes. FAO estimates that these improved practices can increase the revenues of Balochistan wool industry to to $20 million a year. The demonstration included a mobile shearing shed which was designed and produced by FAO in cooperation with Pakistani manufacturers. The shed has four shearing stations and can be operated by a team of 7 men – 4 shearers, 2 rousta-bouts, and a maintenance mechanic. During the event, the prototype mobile shed was handed over to the Government of Pakistan for introduction and replication throughout the country.

1 A Balochistan man is shearing a sheep using mechanical tools sponsored by FAO and USAID.

2 Minister of National Food Security and Research Sikander Hyatt Khan Bosan with representatives of various organizations are watching as a beneficiary from the FAO and USAID Balochistan Agricultural Project sharpens sheep shearing tools
The United Nations’ Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US$9.5 million (920 million Pakistani rupees) to help meet the needs of the more than 1 million people who remain displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in Pakistan due to insecurity. The funding comes at a crucial time, as significant humanitarian needs remain in KP and FATA, yet aid agencies have limited resources to meet those needs.

“This money will save lives by ensuring that humanitarian organizations can continue to support the Government’s efforts to help the most vulnerable in KP and FATA,” said Timo Pakkala, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan. The funds will give life-saving food aid to 980,000 people; primary health care for 500,000 people; critical water, sanitation and hygiene services for 200,000 people; nutrition services for 65,000 people, including malnourished children; and emergency shelter and non-food items for 14,000 people.

The UN estimates that some $283 million are required to maintain essential humanitarian services in KP and FATA this year. So far, $100 million have been received, leaving a considerable funding gap. The CERF is funded by voluntary contributions from UN Member States, non-governmental organizations, local governments, the private sector and individual donors.
UNIDO and UNIC’s meet and greet to commemorate International Women’s Day

In order to commemorate International Women’s Day and celebrate its women entrepreneurs, UNIDO in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre, held an event in the honour of some of its women entrepreneurs on the 3rd of March 2014. Fifteen talented women met with the UNIDO Representative Mr. Esam Alqararah who, on the occasion spoke about fresh potential markets for women as well as budding avenues.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization’s Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme (WED) has been working to develop the creative industries of Pakistan by strengthening and establishing industrial institutions for the integration of women in highly non-traditional sectors of marble, gems/jewellery and textiles. Through the implementation of innovative strategies, women are trained as producers and entrepreneurs and connected to the value chain to become productive members of the creative industry.

Creative industries are an effective foundation for empowering women. The UNIDO-WED programme for creative industries recognizes the integral role of culture in industrial development and the importance of combining culture with innovation and opportunity-driven entrepreneurship.

The WED Programme was celebrated as a successful pilot programme now ready for use as a successful model for women across Pakistan.
As part of the United Nation’s Polio-Plus Initiative in Pakistan, the Education and Women Entrepreneurship Development (WED) Programme at UNIDO has developed a curriculum with the aim of aiding the rehabilitation of working-age disabled individuals through technical training programs in employable skills, enabling them to contribute socially and economically in their respective communities. Polio-affectedees are able to only work on some types of trades, those selected were more mind-intensive and focused on work with the hands rather than weighty, machine-oriented, work. Paving the way for the mainstreaming of the polio-affected into Pakistan’s workforce, whilst promoting equality in the workplace, can be possible with the notification of these curricula by the chief governing body for Vocational Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC).

The burgeoning Creative Industries of Pakistan have the capacity to involve greater numbers of people due to their emerging demands. The chances of trained individuals being absorbed into the burgeoning Creative Industry as opposed to traditional industries are higher now.

The Technical training programs have been rolled out for implementation across Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTAs) in high-priority polio districts of Pakistan and due to the Government’s direct ownership, supervision, implementation and involvement, this mainstreaming will prove sustainable.
More funds are urgently required to provide humanitarian services and sustainable development solutions tackling the nutrition crisis in the drought-affected Tharparkar region. Overall, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and FAO and their partners, including Merlin and Muslim Hands, are seeking $11.67 million to scale up nutrition and other support to over 1.3 million people for a year in Tharparkar and surrounding districts. Those funds are urgently needed to establish 44 community-based malnutrition treatment sites, to provide emergency health services, to build and rehabilitate water harvesting structures, to establish health and nutrition surveillance systems and to provide livelihood support, concentrated animal feed and vaccination of small ruminants. Those interventions would complement the support so far provided by Government authorities that in the last six months distributed more than 15,000 tons of food items, including wheat, rice and food packs to families in need and vaccinated 2.2 million livestock. Timo Pakkala, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, called the nutrition crisis in Pakistan a silent emergency requiring urgent attention and investment and added that the situation is bound to recur, unless root causes are addressed.

USD 367 million sought for implementation of projects in refugee hosting and affected areas in Pakistan

These projects are part of the regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) The SSAR is a multi-year strategy to find solutions for the world’s most protracted refugee caseload - Afghan refugees. The voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration of Afghan refugees in Afghanistan remains at the centre of this strategy, which also focuses on support to host and refugee communities in Pakistan and Iran, as well as on increased resettlement to third countries, as concrete demonstrations of international burden-sharing.

The proposed projects vary in scope and size, and will be implemented in refugee hosting areas as well as districts that have hosted refugees in the past, in all four provinces and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Minister Baloch, expressed gratitude to UNHCR and the donor community for continuously assisting Pakistan’s refugee programmes. “The projects in this Portfolio will address the humanitarian and developmental basic needs of both refugees and host communities in Pakistan,” said Guterres.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres together with the Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qadir Baloch, launched the Pakistan Portfolio of projects under the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) seeking USD 367 million from the donor community for the future implementation of these projects across Pakistan.
The UN One Programme II (2013-2017) is the programmatic framework within which the UN system in Pakistan is implementing its recovery and development work. The management structure of the One Programme reflects the partnership between the UN system and the Government of Pakistan. The committees are co-chaired by the Planning & Development Department of the administrative area and a representative agency of the UN system.

Reflecting the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, joint Government-UN Steering Committees have been established in each of the administrative areas of Pakistan as well as at the federal level. The joint Government-UN oversight is an integral part of the UN Reforms and DaO, and is based on the principles of aid effectiveness.

The first Steering Committee meetings related to the second Operational Programme were successfully held in March and April 2014 in Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and in the Islamabad Capital Territory. Outcomes in all meetings included the endorsement of the terms of reference of the Steering Committee and the establishment of the operational procedures of the committees.

The province-specific key achievements under Operational Programme in 2013 and Work Plan for 2014 was presented and discussed. Follow-up meetings will be held to discuss activities in the ICT region.
Sports bring people together

The first International Day of Sport for Development and Peace was commemorated with talk shows on both Radio Pakistan and PTV World. Vittorio Cammarota, Director, UN Information Centre, Sami Abul Malik, Communication Specialist at UNICEF together with a young participants in the Youth Leadership Camp and representatives from Right to Play, highlighted the benefits of sport for development activities on children and adolescents and the potential of sports advancing human rights... The also commended the success of the UNICEF-trained street children team from Karachi that made it to the semi-final of the Street Children World Cup in Brazil.

Food security and malnutrition

On News Line @ Pakistan Television hosted by Mariam Chaudhry, WFP Representative Lola Castro spoke about access to food and shared an update on the situation in Tharparkar district of Sindh province where the percentage of malnutrition amongst children and women is extremely high.

Pakistan’s role in global peace

Mr. Hervé Ladsous, gave exclusive interviews to Radio Pakistan and PTV World during his visit to Pakistan. Mr. Ladsous highly appreciated the Pakistan’s contributions to the UN Peacekeeping missions and paid tribute to the 134 Pakistani Peacekeepers who lost their lives in the past while contributing to the international community.
International Women’s Day

Ms. Parveiz, Radio Pakistan, Kay Schwendinger, United Nations, Rabia Khattak, UNDP Pakistan, Lola Castro, WFP Pakistan, Mari Memon, Chairperson National Assembly Standing Committee on Information & Broadcasting, and Mumtaz Khawar, Chairperson National Commission on Status of Women participated in a special radio talk show to discuss women’s development in Pakistan.

HIV/AIDS awareness

UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for AIDS, Prasada Rao, UNAIDS Regional Director Asia-Pacific, Steven Kraus together with Dr. Baseer, National Programme Manager, National AIDS Control Programme and Mr. Asghar Satti National Coordinator, Association of People Living with HIV, shared challenges and opportunities for scaling up the fight against HIV/AIDS in Pakistan.
On 25 March, Mr. Ladsous visited UNMOGIP office in Islamabad. The UN delegation included UN Military Advisor, Gen. Maqsood Ahmed, Police Advisor, Mr. Stefan Feller and USG’s Political Affairs Officer, Mr. Guillaume Darme. 

Mr. Ladsous met with the Chief Military Observer and UNMOGIP Head of Mission Major General Young-Bum Choi as well as Military Observer staff and UNMOGIP Section Chiefs. The participants were briefed about the UNMOGIP operations and prevailing issues regarding the UNMOGIP mandate at present. Mr Ladsous, a former French diplomat, was invited to Pakistan by the Government of Pakistan for the period from 24-26 March to discuss matters relating to the troop contributions provided by Pakistan to UN operations throughout the world. Pakistan is currently one of the most steadfast support and largest troop contributors to UN military missions in Africa.
Towards an AIDS-free Pakistan: a time of challenge and opportunity

We are at a time of both challenge and opportunity on HIV in Pakistan. We recently travelled to the country to meet with high-level government officials, including President Mamnoon Hussain, to take stock of the situation in Pakistan and to discuss together the strategies that will best support the country to move towards a time where a new generation ‘free from HIV’ is able to emerge.

Pakistan is one of four countries in Asia and the Pacific where HIV is on the rise with 87,000 people reported to be affected with HIV in 2012. Around 90% of HIV cases exist in the 10-12 major cities of Pakistan. Strong city-based health programmes are therefore critical to the development of the country’s AIDS response.

Though HIV-related stigma in Pakistan poses a major barrier to access to HIV services, Pakistan is showing significant efforts in various areas such as in the support and protection of people who use drugs by the provision of opioid substitution therapy. A Provincial level effort with Federal oversight that involves affected communities in the planning and implementation of programmes can lead to greater uptake of services and treatment. HIV testing programmes for pregnant women to minimize risk to new born babies are essential for an HIV free future.

Financing is a critical component of an HIV response effort. While the Global Fund to Fight AIDS has allocated multi-million dollar grants for HIV programming in Pakistan, and the Government has increased its domestic contribution, overall spending on AIDS is still low. In our meeting with high-level officials, we were encouraged by the dedication to address blockages and capitalize on successes on HIV. The United Nations and partners are fully committed to work hand in hand to further develop the response. Working across sectors, and together with communities and civil society, we can move closer towards the goal of ending AIDS in Pakistan.

United Nations Secretary General’s Special Envoy on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Mr Prasada Rao and Director of UNAIDS Asia and the Pacific, Mr Steven J. Kraus
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

This year we celebrate the first-ever International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. We at the United Nations know that sport is a universal language, uniting groups and nations across divides. Sport empowers youth, promotes good health and deepens UN values such as equality, mutual respect and fair play. Sport helps us in spreading messages of peace, driving social change and meeting the Millennium Development Goals. This International Day will highlight the potential of sport to advance human rights, eliminate barriers and promote global solidarity. To reach our goals, we need all players on the field: governments, international organizations, the sport sector, civil society, and many others. I urge all global citizens to join this growing movement and become part of our team to harness the power of sport to build a better world for all.
Every year more than one million people die from diseases carried by mosquitoes, flies, ticks and other insects, such as triatomine bugs. These vector-borne diseases – which include malaria, dengue, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, Chagas disease and leishmaniasis – cause chronic illness and immense suffering for hundreds of millions more.

Climate change, altered habitats and increased international trade and travel are exposing more people to the vectors that transmit these diseases. They present a risk in all regions, including countries where the threat had formerly been eradicated, but the most affected are the world’s poorest people, especially those who live in remote rural communities far from health services or in urban shanty towns. By profoundly affecting people’s health, vector-borne diseases are a serious impediment to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

As we work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and define a post-2015 development agenda, let us recognize that investing in vector control and disease prevention is a wise and necessary investment. We have the scientific knowledge and have developed proven interventions to tackle these diseases. In Africa, for example, more than 700 million insecticide-treated bed nets have already helped to cut malaria rates dramatically, particularly among children and pregnant women. Sustained political commitment can save millions of lives and yield substantial social and economic returns. But it is important to recognize that vector control goes beyond the health sector. Poorly planned development initiatives -- such as forest clearance, dam construction or irrigation to boost food production -- may increase the disease burden. Addressing this issue demands an integrated, coherent and united effort across many sectors, including the environment, agriculture, water and sanitation, urban planning and education.

Everyone has a role to play in the fight against vector-borne diseases – international organizations, governments, the private sector, civil society, community groups and individuals. On this World Health Day, I urge countries and development partners to make vector control a priority. Let us work together to tackle this serious but eminently preventable threat to human health and development.
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.