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## Humanitarian Assistance to IDP's in Pakistan

### Humanitarian Update

#### South Waziristan Agency

Although there is no new displacement from South Waziristan, over 800 families who were omitted from the original registration process or had problems with their registration have now been registered and verified by NADRA in D I Khan. Registered IDPs from Waziristan now total 254,000 individuals (approx. 39,000 families).

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## Displacement

People continue to leave Orakzai and Kurram Agencies in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) due to continued fighting. Also the Government has now all of Kurram notified as a conflict-affected area.

270,426 individuals (45,239 families) have been listed as IDPs from Orakzai and Kurram. Verification of the registered IDPs by the National Database Registration Authority (NADRA) is underway.

A registration point for IDPs from Orakzai and Kurram has also been established in Peshawar.

The overall camp population in NWFP stands at 128,563 individuals (24,875 families). There are 11 camps operating in NWFP. With 106,423 individuals Jalozai remains the largest camp.

## Hangu and Kohat

A new camp has been established in Hangu. The new site, the Togh Sarai camp has a capacity for 1,000 families, and the relocation of IDPs has begun from the old Mohammad Khawaja camp site, which was overcrowded and had inadequate services. So far 410 families have been moved. Once the relocation is complete Mohammad Khawaja will be closed.

In Kohat, WFP has meanwhile established four food distribution hubs. Female staff have been employed at registration points to provide gender sensitive assistance.

## Mohmand Agency

The returns of IDPs to Mohmand Agency started on 15 April. WFP is providing food rations and the food cluster is establishing distribution hubs in the area of return. UNHCR is providing transportation and Non Food Items (NFIs) to those who have not yet received NFIs. To assess the scale of possible compensations, the government is currently conducting a survey of damaged and destroyed houses in Mohmand

This is the start of a phased returns process from the camps and host communities, for those IDPs who are ready and want to return.

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## Agriculture, Rural Development, and Poverty Reduction

### UN and sports federations team up to score for development



UN Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace Wilfried Lemke

30 April 2010 – Sports organizations can boost their efforts to alleviate poverty and promote global peace and show they care about more than just results on the field, a United Nations official said today as he launched a partnership between the UN and sports bodies to help achieve the social and economic targets known as the Millennium Development Goals ([MDGs](#)).

"Traditionally, sports federations focus on the success of their events and championships. However, sport is more than gold medals and records," said Wilfried Lemke, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace.

"We need partnership between the world of sport and United Nations to harness the full potential that sport has to be an agent for social change," Mr. Lemke told a gathering in Dubai where he launched a five-year partnership between the United Nations and SportAccord, the umbrella organization grouping 104 international sports federations and organizations.

Under the partnership, the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace and SportAccord will work together this year to come up with a strategy that will expedite the achievement of selected MDG targets.

In 2000 world leaders agreed at a special summit to try to attain the MDGs – which include targets for slashing poverty and maternal mortality and increasing basic education – by 2015

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who was in Dubai to attend the SportAccord convention, urged the international community to increase efforts to use sport as a tool to fight poverty, heal divisions and protect the planet.

"Sport promotes social integration, overcoming prejudices of race, background and **gender**; yet it is sadly not yet the case that racism has been rooted out of sport. Sport is also proving important in breaking down **gender** barriers, and providing role models for empowering women and girls," said Mr. Annan. "We have also seen how sport helps people look anew at those with disabilities and provides a valuable route for integration," he added.

### UN official urges responsible investment in agriculture in poorer countries



UNCTAD Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi

26 April 2010 – Responsible investment in agriculture in developing countries can help them tap the enormous potential in farming in the wake of the recent food crisis, the head of the United Nations trade and development said today, calling for both national and international efforts to ensure domestic economies benefit.

“There is an urgent need to invest more in agriculture both to ensure food security and as the basis for long-term economic development,” said Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**), when he addressed a meeting of the agency’s investment, enterprise and development commission.

The five-day meeting in Geneva will focus on the role of States in improving efficiency in public investment for development.

“Smart laws and procedures, organizational schemes, and e-government tools that have demonstrated their efficiency in one country could be helpful to other countries confronted by the same problems,” Dr. Supachai said.

According to last year’s UNCTAD World Investment Report, global foreign direct investment (FDI) in agricultural production has been increasing.

Dr. Supachai, however, stressed that that such mounting investment must be not only encouraged, but well managed. “We also have to recognize that the actual amount of FDI in the [agricultural] sector is still low, and that potential risks, such as land grab, may pose serious threats to developing country farmers,” he added.

He said national governments need to have comprehensive measures in place to ensure that FDI works to the benefit of domestic economies and agricultural sectors. A global set of principles should also be established to guide the agricultural investments of transnational firms, Dr. Supachai added.

UNCTAD took the opportunity of the meeting to announce this year’s winners of the agency’s Empretec Women in Business Awards. The Empretec programme trains entrepreneurs in developing countries, many of whom go on to found their own businesses.

This year’s winner is Beatrice Ayuru Bvaruhanga of Uganda, who founded Lira Integrated School in northern Uganda in 2000.

Ms. Bvaruhanga's school now has 1,500 students, some of whom board at the school, and its integration of nursery, primary, and secondary classes is one of its strengths, she said. She has plans to expand the school to include a university. She received a \$6,000 study tour as a prize.

Second among the 10 finalists was María de la Luz Osses Klein of Chile, an entrepreneur who established Biotecnologías Antofagasta SA, which creates biotechnology products for the mining industry. Joy Simakane of Botswana won the third-place award. Her company, Extramile Express PTY Limited, provides customs-clearing and messenger-delivery services.

The winners were chosen by an independent panel of 20 judges, comprising corporate executives, entrepreneurs, academicians and gender specialists.

## Experts at UN meeting consider green economy’s impact on society and environment



### Green Economy

8 April 2010 – Experts from 75 countries gathered in Geneva today for a United Nations-backed meeting to discuss the social and environmental impact of transitioning to a more environmentally-friendly economy. More than 600 delegates to 30th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**), will look at the five sectors that have been identified as key green investment opportunities – agriculture, industry, tourism, cities and transportation.

"When they met in Bali [Indonesia] two months ago, the world's environment ministers emphasized that the full impacts of green economy policies should be assessed, including environmental, social and economic aspects," **said** Achim Steiner, UN Under Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director

"Professionals involved in impact assessments thus have an important role to play in delivering more intelligent and sustainable choices to their customers and clients including governments, business, local authorities and civil society: choices that can direct investments to fit local, national and regional needs while addressing the broad agenda of low carbon, resource efficient development, poverty eradication and higher levels of decent employment," he added.

One of the key goals of the conference – hosted for the first time by a UN agency – is to present the tools and methods that will help countries to assess and identify which green investments to make.

Nick Taylor, President of the IAIA, said delegates at the six-day meeting would share their ideas and insights on how impact assessment can address a complex range of global issues.

"A growing field of expertise, impact assessment can evaluate the linkages between investments and the environment, health, job creation, economic diversification and poverty reduction. This forum comes at a time when there's heightened interest in the potential of impact assessments, so it's vital experts exchange information and contribute to a growing body of knowledge," Mr. Taylor said.

UNEP's flagship Green Economy Report, to be released later in the year, will present in-depth assessments of 10 sectors based on economic analysis and modelling. Three of the report's chapter authors will be present to share some of the report's preliminary analysis.

IAIA is a global network for best practice in the use of impact assessment for informed decision-making regarding policies, programmes, plans and projects. It brings together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of impact assessment from around the world.

## Health and Population

### On World Day, Ban spotlights health burdens on urban populations



7 April 2010 – As the world's population becomes increasingly urbanized, so too is the poverty burden, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today on World Health Day, highlighting the need to address resulting public health challenges.

By mid-century, seven out of every 10 people will be city dwellers, up from just over 50 per cent of the global population currently.

Developing countries will experience most of this growth, Mr. Ban said in his **message** for the Day. "Rapid, unplanned urbanization is expanding slums and informal settlements, and municipal authorities are struggling to cope."

He pointed to the many threats to public health posed by disparities in people's incomes, opportunities, living conditions and access to services, such as inadequate sanitation, industrial pollution, infectious disease, crime and violence.

"To a large extent these problems lie beyond the direct control of the health sector," the Secretary-General acknowledged. "Improving urban health therefore requires sound policies across all areas of government and awareness among all sectors of society."

For its part, the UN is working to curb pollution and congestion, as well as improve housing and water safety, among other moves.

"Although the threats to health in cities are many, there is also reason for optimism," Mr. Ban said, adding that both the root causes and cures – which "need not be complex or costly" – for urban health problems are known.

For its part, the UN World Health Organization (**WHO**) will organize a campaign called "**1,000 cities, 1,000 lives**," in which urban areas will be cleaned up and roads blocked off to cars, while health champions who have made a significant impact in their cities will have a chance to tell their stories.

"In general, urban populations are better off than their rural counterparts," Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, **said**. People in urban areas have better access to social and health services and their life expectancies are longer.

But, she noted, cities are also concentrations of inadequate sanitation, traffic accidents and other health threats.

WHO said that cities face a triple threat: infectious diseases, which thrive when people live in crowded conditions; non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and cancer, which are on the rise due to unhealthy lifestyles; and the burdens resulting from accidents, injuries, violence and crime.

Currently, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in cities and are the second highest killer of children in the 10-14 age group.

Despite these challenges, the agency said, urban areas also bring opportunities, pointing to five actions that will boost city-dwellers' chances of enjoying better living conditions. They are: better urban planning, improving city living conditions, ensuring participatory governance, building inclusive cities and making urban areas resilient to disasters and emergencies.

## UN envoy for malaria optimistic on reaching near-zero deaths by 2015



14 April 2010 – Malaria, which causes an estimated one million deaths around the world every year, will cease to be a killer by 2015 if the world can keep up its current momentum in efforts to combat the disease, the official spearheading United Nations efforts against malaria says.

Ray Chambers, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Malaria, says the most effective way to reach the goal of zero or near-zero deaths by 2015 is to strive to provide bed nets to all people who live in malaria-endemic countries by the end of this year, a milestone he is hopeful will be reached provided that donors continue funding the 'Counting Malaria Out' campaign.

The two-year campaign is designed to intensify global efforts to make mosquito nets available for all populations at risk and to reduce the number of malaria cases and deaths by 50 per cent by the end of 2010. Malaria, which is caused by a parasite transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes, kills an estimated one million people around the world every year with most of these deaths occurring in Africa. Malaria, which is caused by a parasite transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes, kills an estimated one million people around the world every year with most of these deaths occurring in Africa.

"Once we reach that goal we must be ever diligent and vigilant after 2010. We have to keep replacing bed nets and we have to be aware of the malaria parasites developing resistance to the medication or the mosquito developing resistance to the insecticide on the net," Mr. Chambers told the UN News Centre in an **interview** ahead of World Malaria Day on 25 April.

"If we stay vigilant, if we accomplish our goal this year, we are predicting zero deaths from or near-zero deaths from malaria by 2015," says Mr. Chambers, who was appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in

February 2008 to help raise awareness of the global malaria problem and to lead efforts to raise funds to fight the disease.

Malaria is caused by a parasite transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes. The disease is a major health problem in Africa where most of the deaths occur.

"I believe very strongly and with heartfelt passion that if we keep working all together as hard and as cooperatively as we've been working, we will have taken a disease that had become a 'genocide' and virtually eliminate deaths from it until a vaccine comes along," says Mr. Chambers.

"This is really unprecedented in our lifetimes and it should encourage us with regard to maternal health, child mortality, HIV/AIDS, TB [tuberculosis] and other diseases. I think malaria can stand up as an example of just what progress we can make by all working together," he adds.

## Environment

### UN agency takes aim at two birds with one stone – poverty and global warming



Maryam Jurakulova of Tajikistan with a fruit tree seedling she received from WFP

7 April 2010 – In a novel track in the battle against global warming, the United Nations World Food Programme (**WFP**) has given 800 poor families in Tajikistan thousands of seedlings to plant not only to provide fruit, but to offset the carbon footprint of vehicles used in the agency's food aid work. Some 63,000 fruit, nut and pine trees are currently taking root in the Central Asian country thanks to \$100,000 provided by WFP's vehicle-leasing department in Dubai, as part of what the agency calls "unique climate-change project."

In a series of villages in the west along the border with Uzbekistan, WFP has given 800 vulnerable families 40 trees apiece – apricot, pomegranate, cherry, mulberry, almond, pistachio and pine. In a series of villages in the west along the border with Uzbekistan, WFP has given 800 vulnerable families 40 trees apiece. The families will also get WFP food while they receive training in looking after the trees. In three years, when the trees become productive, the families will have ample supplies of fruit for the first time in their lives with enough left over to sell at the market. At the same time the trees will help to absorb the equivalent amount of carbon emissions from WFP vehicles.

In the eastern Rasht Valley, WFP is partnering with the UN Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) in 50 secondary schools in a learning and environmental awareness programme. Some 10,000 secondary students have been given one tree each – apricot, apple or poplar – which is marked with a plaque bearing their name. They are responsible for making the tree grow, and in doing so, learn about the role of trees in preventing soil erosion. Tajikistan's Forestry Agency is collaborating in the project, designating staff to train the beneficiaries, providing technical assistance from maps and reports going back 50 years, assigning a forest ranger to patrol the pistachio seedlings on horseback, and signing a 20-year land lease with the new tree-owners for just \$1 a year.

One beneficiary, Ilmira Jaffarov, sees the project is a dream come true. To buy one fruit tree at the market would cost her family several weeks' savings. Now they have 43 saplings growing in their small garden, even if they have to wait three to four years for the trees to give fruit. "These trees are our future" Ms. Jaffarov, 50, says. "Even if they don't give us fruit now, they will remain here even for our children to enjoy."

### Milk production accounts for nearly 3 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions – UN



A dairy farmer in Khiam village, Lebanon

20 April 2010 – Just under three per cent of the global greenhouse gas emissions are a result of milk production, according to a new **report** by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**). This figure includes emissions related to the production, processing and transportation of milk products. The percentage climbs to four when emissions from meat production from animals originating from the dairy system are factored in, the study says.

FAO points out that methane contributes most to milk's impact on global warming, accounting for more than half of the sector's emissions in both developing and developed countries. Its landmark 2006 study, entitled "Livestock's Long Shadow," found that 18 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions were caused by the livestock sector

Nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide also account for large proportions of the dairy sector's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.

The new report covers all major milk production systems, from nomadic herds to intensified dairy operations, focusing on the entire dairy food chain, including the production and transport of inputs, such as fertilizer, pesticides and feed.

"This report is fundamental to understand and identify opportunities for reducing the environmental impact of the dairy sector while providing safe and nutritious foodstuffs," **said** Samuel Jutzi, Director of FAO's Animal Production and Health Division.

The latest report is part of the agency's ongoing efforts to analyze and recommend steps to mitigate climate change.

Its landmark 2006 study, entitled "Livestock's Long Shadow," found that 18 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions were caused by the livestock sector.

## Cross Cutting Themes / Other Issues

### Ten million detainees held in dire conditions worldwide – UN expert



16 April 2010 – Some 10 million detainees around the world are held in appalling conditions and stronger measures are needed to improve prison conditions and ensure full respect for **human rights**, according to a United Nations expert on torture.

“In light of some 10 million human beings deprived of personal liberty and their alarming conditions of detention, the need for a legally binding and enforceable **human rights** instrument is pressing,” UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Manfred Nowak **told** the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice currently under way in Salvador, Brazil.

He cited countries he had already visited in his role as a UN independent unpaid expert, from Uruguay, Indonesia and Nigeria to Georgia, Moldova and Kazakhstan and from Mongolia and China to Jordan and Sri Lanka. He said his mandate provides for unannounced visits and unsupervised interviews with detainees, two conditions denied him by Russia and the United States.

Of the millions detained under degrading conditions, many might be innocent victims of corrupt and dysfunctional criminal justice systems and often belong to the groups facing the greatest discrimination in society, such as the poor, minorities, drug addicts or aliens, Mr. Nowak said yesterday as he delivered a keynote address to a workshop at the conference.

Moreover, strict prison hierarchies meant that those at the bottom – children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and diseases, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons – suffered “double or triple discrimination,” Mr. Nowak added.

Besides corporal punishment and other forms of violence, deprivation of food, water, clothing and health care is a cause of concern to him, as are violations of the right to the minimum of space, hygiene, privacy and security necessary for a humane and dignified existence.

In a visit to Uruguay’s Libertad Prison, Mr. Nowak said he found hundreds of convicts and pre-trial detainees had spent months or even years in tiny metal boxes in which summer temperatures could reach 60 degrees Celsius. Detainees drank water from the toilets and defecated in plastic bags which they later threw out of their cells.

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) official Fabienne Hariga noted that while prison populations comprise many drug addicts and sex workers, health-care standards and access to medicine, water and quality food are sub-standard in many cases.

Tuberculosis is rampant in many prisons, resulting in preventable deaths in various parts of the world. Prison officials are often corrupt and negligent in attending to prisoners’ needs while officials often deny the problems, she said, emphasizing that all too often prisoners’ right to health was not respected.

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