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Areas and the Cross Cutting
Themes of the United
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United Nations
P a k i s t a n 
Improving lives and helping people



Humanitarian Assistance / IDP's in Pakistan

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Displacement

In Lower Dir two camps have been closed. Sadbar Kalay and Wali Kandow I. They had been hosting 4,094 IDPs from Bajaur, who have now returned home.

In Kohat and Hangu IDP registration remains suspended due to security concerns.

The overall displaced population stands at over 200,000 families (1.4 million individuals); a

number that needs to be confirmed by the ongoing vulnerability assessment (see below).

The overall camp population stands at 21,338 families (or 107,585 individuals). There are 7 camps operating in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. (Source: Commissioner of Afghan Refugees, CAR)

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Hunza Lake situation

A lake created by a landslide on January 4th 2010 continues to increase. Despite an emergency spillway constructed to reduce the water level, more water is flowing into the lake than flowing out. So far, the expanding lake (current length: 24 km) has displaced 240 families (1,920 individuals).



A view of Hunza lake spillway

A further 2,677 families (23,089 individuals) have been evacuated downstream of the lake, as a precautionary measure. 1,622 of these families (13,127 individuals) are sheltering in 22 camps whilst the remaining 1,055 evacuated families (9,962 individuals) are staying with host families.

Although efforts are underway to widen the spillway and increase the outflow of water, the rising waters continue to slowly submerge houses in the upstream areas.

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Agriculture, Rural Development, and Poverty Reduction

Agriculture, energy sectors to shape sustainability of future development – UN



2 June 2010 – How the world contends with the agriculture and energy sectors will serve as a bellwether for development in the 21st century, largely determining whether growth will be sustainable for billions of people, according to a new United Nations-backed report.

With current production and consumption of fossil fuels and food draining freshwater supplies, triggering losses of forests and other ecosystems and raising pollution levels, the study concludes that dramatically reforming, rethinking and redesigning how the planet's people are fed and fueled could spur environmental, social and economic returns.

It stresses that reaching sustainability goals should start in the home, through dramatically changing heating and cooling systems, gadgets, appliances and the way people travel.

Perhaps controversially, the report – by the [International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management](#) – also calls for a shift away from animal-based protein diets to more vegetable-based foods to ease pressure on the environment.

“Decoupling growth from environmental degradation is the number one challenge facing governments in a world of rising numbers of people, rising incomes, rising consumption demands and the persistent challenge of poverty alleviation,” said Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)), which hosts the Panel.

UN identifies strategies to accelerate development and poverty reduction



UNDP Administrator Helen Clark

17 June 2010 – Development models that focus attention on the poor while expanding job opportunities, increased government spending on social services and aid flows from affluent nations are all successful strategies for alleviating global poverty, the United Nations says.

Access to low carbon energy and mobilizing domestic capital by, for example, improving tax collection, are the other factors the UN Development Programme ([UNDP](#)) identifies in a new report as crucial factors for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals ([MDGs](#)).

The MDGs are eight internationally-agreed targets which aim to reduce poverty, hunger, maternal and child deaths, disease, inadequate shelter, gender inequality and environmental degradation by 2015.

“For those living in poverty, the MDGs have never been abstract or aspirational targets,” said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark, when she launched the report entitled *What Will It Take To Achieve The Millennium Development Goals? An International Assessment* at UN Headquarters in New York.

“They [MDGs] have offered a pathway to a better life – a life with access to adequate food and income; to basic education and health services; to clean water and sanitation; and to empowerment for women. Put simply, advancing the MDGs is an important milestone in our quest for a more just and peaceful world,” Miss Clark added.

The [report](#) draws examples of development models that have worked from 50 countries across the world.

The abolition of primary school fees in Ethiopia and Kenya, for example, led to a surge in the number of children enrolled in school, while innovative health servicing options in Afghanistan resulted in a reduction of mortality rates among children under the age of five, according to the UNDP report.

Adequate expenditures by governments have led to improvements in both education and health, the report said, adding that evidence from assessments suggested that reductions in poverty and hunger occurred when economic growth is “job-rich.” That also resulted in improved agricultural production.

Ghana’s nationwide fertilizer subsidy programme, for instance, increased food production by 40 per cent and reduced hunger by nine per cent between 2003 and 2005.

Other examples include a national rural employment initiative in India which benefited 46 million households. The programme guarantees a minimum of 100 days of work for landless labourers and marginal farmers, with almost half being women.

“Such robust social protection and employment programmes reduce poverty and reverse inequality,” the report stresses.

It praises Albania for adopting a “ninth MDG” by reforming public administration, legislation and policies to promote accountability and strengthen results, an indication that country-led development and effective government are at the root of achieving the MDGs.

The report, which will be shared with UN Member States as they prepare the outcome document for the September MDG Summit, also singles out the failure to conclude the World Trade Organization’s ([WTO](#)) Doha Development Round of trade negotiations as the most significant gap in formulating a global partnership for development.

Market access for products from developing countries remain limited and domestic agricultural subsidies by rich nations continue to overshadow policy coherence needed to accelerate MDG progress, UNDP notes.

Health and Population

World Cup teams back UN appeal to keep mothers healthy and babies free of HIV



Captain of the South Africa football team Aaron Mokoena signing the UNAIDS World Cup Appeal

7 June 2010 – Nine teams that will compete in the soccer World Cup kicking off in South Africa later this week are supporting a United Nations-backed global [campaign](#) whose goals are to keep mothers infected with HIV/AIDS healthy and to prevent their babies from becoming infected.

Each day nearly 1,200 babies are born with HIV worldwide, according to the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS ([UNAIDS](#)), which is spearheading the campaign. During the course of a 90-minute football match, almost 80 babies will become newly infected.

“Between now and 2014, when the next World Cup is played in Brazil, together we can stop babies from becoming infected with HIV and keep their mothers alive and thriving.

“Hence we appeal: from Soweto to Rio de Janeiro, give AIDS the red card and prevent babies from becoming infected with HIV,” said UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassadors and international football stars Michael Ballack, former captain of the German World Cup team, and Emmanuel Adebayor of Togo.

The two stars personally asked the captains of nine World Cup teams – South Africa, Nigeria, France, Paraguay, Uruguay, Australia, Côte d’Ivoire, Greece and Serbia – to sign the appeal, and they agreed.

“Through the appeal, the global popularity of football and the prestige of team captains will help us raise awareness about the toll of HIV on mothers and babies and promote action to ensure that HIV testing and treatment services reach all who need it,” said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé, who will attend the World Cup opening ceremonies later this week.

Mr. Sidibé noted that HIV infections in infants have been virtually eliminated in many high-income countries. “Now we must apply the tools at our disposal to create an HIV-free generation in Africa and worldwide,” he said.

The star players are taking action because in 2008 alone, 430,000 babies were infected with HIV, 90 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS-related illness is the single largest cause of death of infants and young children in much of Africa, and the leading cause of death of women of reproductive age across the world.

But countries are making progress in stemming mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Nearly half of all HIV-positive pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries receive HIV treatment to prevent the transmission of the virus to their babies, according to UNAIDS.

The efforts are helping to improve maternal and child health and bring the world closer to achieving all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the social development targets that States have agreed to make efforts to meet by 2015, the agency said.

UN launches new scheme to make cities friendlier to elderly people



An elderly couple walks arm-in-arm in Bolivia

29 June 2010 – Elderly people have an ally in the United Nations World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), which today [launched](#) a new scheme to ensure that they can remain active and healthy in the world's cities.

The Global Network of Age-friendly Cities is part of the agency's broader response to rapidly greying populations. The greatest changes are taking place in less-developed countries, and it is estimated that 80 per cent of the expected 2 billion people over the age of 60 will be living in low- or middle-income countries.

"Older people are a vital, and often overlooked, resource for families and for society," said John Beard, Director of WHO's Department of Ageing and Life Course.

"Their contribution will only be fully realized if they maintain their health and if the barriers that prevent them engaging in family and community life are broken down," he added.

While government responses have been focused on the implications of ageing populations on increasing demand for pensions and health care, WHO hopes to highlight the positive contributions older people make to society.

The agency first started identifying the key elements in cities that support active and healthy ageing, looking into 33 urban areas. The research confirms the importance for older people of access to public transport and outdoor spaces, as well as appropriate housing, community support and health services.

WHO has also stressed the need to foster connections allowing older people to take part in society, overcome ageism and access civic participation and employment.

The new Global Network builds on these principles, [calling](#) on participating cities to continuously assess and implement steps to improve the environment for their older residents.

WHO said that it has been inundated by responses since sending out invitations to cities, both large and small, to join the network last December.

New York has become the first city to sign up, with Mayor Michael Bloomberg being presented with the first certificate of membership today.

So far, WHO has also set up formal agreements with the French Government, the Irish Ageing Well Network and the Slovenian Network of Age-friendly Cities.

Education

Dutch Government and UNICEF provide new impetus to education for the children of Chunal Bung, AJK



For eight-year-old Irsa, the sight of the red roof of the new Government Girls' Primary School, Chunal Bung is an inspiring call to complete her education and become a teacher

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan-Administered Kashmir, May 2010 – It takes eight-year-old Irsa half an hour to walk to school every morning. Living in the hilltop village of Chunal Bung, she and her friends climb down the steep slope, towards the shining red roof gleaming in the early morning sunlight. "We can see it from everywhere in the village," Irsa says excitedly. Indeed, she can see it from her own home, and it has become a symbol of her dearest ambition: to complete her education and teach at the same school.

Irsa and her classmates are enrolled in the brand new Government Girls Primary School in Chunal Bung, a small village of 6,000 people near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-Administered Kashmir. Five years ago, in October 2005, the original school building was destroyed by a catastrophic earthquake which took the lives of 73,000 people in the region, including 18,000 schoolchildren. UNICEF immediately mobilised emergency relief and rehabilitation operations, including urgent activities to ensure that children were able to continue their education.

Since then, with support from donors, government counterparts and implementing partners UNICEF has built 425 schools, 144 permanent and 281 transitional shelters that directly benefit 40,000 children including 18,000 girls.

Mehzub Bibi, a woman in her early fifties, is the head teacher at the Chunal Bung school. In nearly thirty years of teaching in this community, she has seen many ups and downs in the struggle to achieve universal education. "More than twenty years ago, a windstorm brought down the two-room building of the only primary school in our village," she recalls. That time, she started teaching children in her own home. Later, the earthquake badly damaged the school, but Mehzub Bibi knew the importance of an uninterrupted course of education. "I had to shift the school to an open area. Then to a transitional shelter and now, after four years, we have this beautiful school building like we had never seen before," she says.

The Chunal Bung school was constructed by the UNICEF construction team with generous support from the Government and people of the Netherlands. Completed at a cost of Rs 8 million (about US\$ 96,700) the school has three large classrooms, a principal's office, storage areas, an airy veranda and six toilets. Large enough to accommodate over 200 students, the school is presently benefiting 175 children.

Nearby, the local boys' high school is also under construction. Though feeling sorry for the older boys, Mehzub Bibi is pleased that her primary school was completed first, even though construction began later. "I feel privileged that our school is complete and running, praise Allah," she says. Ensuring that all children complete a full course of primary education is a key Millennium Development Goal, and in a context where girls' education is historically under-valued, ensuring that school facilities are available is an important prerequisite to its achievement.

Environment

Restoring damaged ecosystems can generate wealth and employment – UN report



Rehabilitating nature-based assets generate jobs and combat poverty

3 June 2010 – Repairing forests, lakes and other types of nature reserves that have been damaged or depleted can generate wealth, create jobs and become a vital means of alleviating poverty, the United Nations Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)), says in a report released today.

The report identifies thousands of ecosystem restoration projects worldwide and showcases over 30 initiatives that are transforming the lives of communities and countries across the globe.

Entitled [*Dead Planet, Living Planet: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration for Sustainable Development*](#), the report underlines that far from being a cost on growth and development, many environmental investments in degraded, nature-based assets can generate substantial and multiple returns.

"The ecological infrastructure of the planet is generating services to humanity worth by some estimates over \$70 trillion a year, perhaps substantially more," said Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director.

"This report is aimed at bringing two fundamental messages to governments, communities and citizens on World Environment Day (WED) and in 2010 – the UN's International Year of Biodiversity. Namely, that mismanagement of natural and nature-based assets is undercutting development on a scale that dwarfs the recent economic crisis," Mr. Steiner said.

"Well-planned investments and re-investments in the restoration of these vast, natural and nature-based utilities not only has a high rate of return, but will be central, if not fundamental, to sustainability in a world of rising aspirations, populations, incomes and demands on the Earth's natural resources," said Mr. Steiner from Kigali, Rwanda, the main host for this year's global WED events. The Day will be officially marked on Saturday.

Nature restoration activities include rehabilitating water flows to rivers and lakes, improving soil stability and fertility for agriculture and combating climate change by sequestering and storing carbon from the atmosphere.

The report underlines that maintaining and managing intact ecosystems must be the key priority. However, given that more than 60 per cent of the ecosystems, ranging from marshes and coral reefs to tropical forests and soils, are already degraded, restoration must now be an equal priority.

Rehabilitating ecosystems also generates jobs in a world where currently 1.3 billion are unemployed or underemployed, while supporting international goals to substantially reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity, a key theme this year.

The report cites evidence that well-planned, science-based, community-supported programmes can recover between 25 and 44 per cent of the original services alongside the animals, plants and other biodiversity of the former intact system.

Marking World Environment Day, UN sounds alarm on biodiversity



World Environmental Day, 5 June 2010

4 June 2010 – As millions around the globe celebrate [World Environment Day](#), United Nations officials are warning that the incredible variety of life on Earth is in peril and urging everyone to speak out to protect biodiversity.

Rwanda, which is home to over 50 threatened species, is the global host for this year's celebrations, which will culminate on Saturday with a ceremony at which high-profile figures such as President Paul Kagame and Hollywood actor Don Cheadle will have the honour of naming baby gorillas.

The events in Rwanda are among the thousands that will take place worldwide on 5 June to mark the Day, which this year celebrates the incredible diversity of life on Earth as part of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, under the theme "Many Species. One Planet. One Future."

As part of the celebrations, the UN Environment Programme ([UNEP](#)) has launched an updated report and documentary entitled *The Last Stand of the Gorilla*. The report warns that unless urgent action is taken to strengthen the enforcement of environmental law and counter poaching, endangered gorillas may largely disappear from the Greater Congo Basin in the next 15 years.

"From frogs to gorillas, from huge plants to tiny insects, thousands of species are in jeopardy," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warns in his message for the Day, adding that species are becoming extinct at the fastest rate ever recorded.

He stressed the need to stop this "mass extinction" and raise awareness about the vital importance of the millions of species that inhabits the planet's soils, forests, oceans, coral reefs and mountains.

"I appeal to everyone – from Kigali to Canberra, from Kuala Lumpur to Quito – to help us sound the alarm. Get involved, speak out. Learn and teach others. Show leadership and help clean up."

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner noted in his message that the near invisibility in national accounts of biological diversity and of the economically-important services of ecosystems such as forests and freshwaters is short-changing the planet and its people.

"2010 is a year in which this status quo needs to be firmly and decisively challenged in order to halt the loss of species and catalyse a far more intelligent management of the natural world," he stated.

"This is a central thrust of the Green Economy, an initiative of UNEP and a response to the multiple challenges, but also multiple opportunities at hand. It is gaining resonance and traction across the globe among world leaders, businesses, citizens and the UN system."

At the UN, Mr. Ban used the occasion of the Day to publicly call on all UN agencies, funds and programmes to become climate neutral and 'go green.' A new website has been developed to improve the UN's communications on its internal sustainability performance.

'[Greening the Blue](#),' which was launched on Friday, shows what is happening to make the UN more sustainable and provides advice to staff on how they can contribute. It includes the greenhouse gas inventories of 49 UN organizations, as well as detailed tips and tools for staff in how to reduce their personal carbon footprints.

Cross Cutting Themes / Other Issues

As role of police grows in peace missions, UN wants more female officers in ranks



UN Police Adviser Ann-Marie Orlor

10 June 2010 – The United Nations is stepping up its efforts to boost the number of female police officers serving in its peacekeeping missions around the world, highlighting that women can play a unique role in certain areas, including responding to sexual- and gender-based violence.

The number of female blue helmets is climbing, and the world body is aiming to more than double the proportion of women comprising UN Police ([UNPOL](#)) to 20 per cent by 2014.

“The continuing growth and complexity of our police components underlines the central role of promoting the rule of law in post-conflict environments,” UN Police Adviser Ann-Marie Orlor told reporters today in New York.

Last August, the UN launched a so-called Global Effort to increase the number of female police officers in serving with peacekeeping missions. Currently, of the 13,680 UNPOL serving in 17 missions, just 8.5 per cent are women.

The number of female UNPOL must increase “not just because deploying more women reflects natural justice... but because women bring an essential extra dimension to one of our most important tasks – bringing peace, stability and development to populations recovering from conflict,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said last week at a meeting with female blue helmets.

Ms. Orlor today pointed to the need to make the UN selection and training processes more efficient so that more female police officers can be brought on board peacekeeping operations.

The Global Effort also aims to augment the number of female police officers serving with Member States’ national police forces.

The Police Adviser noted that Bangladesh is aiming to recruit 10,000 more female police officers in the coming months, while Liberia has also set the 20 per cent target for 2014.

The presence of female police officers in Liberia has helped to increase the reporting of cases of sexual and gender-based violence, according to Doreen Malombo, the police gender adviser for the UN peacekeeping mission in the West African nation, known as [UNMIL](#).

“It is not very easy for a woman to [discuss] sexual violence issues with a male officer,” she told the UN News Centre, but they “feel free to bring out their cases” with female police officers.

When Liberian women see female UN police officers carrying out tasks, such as guarding government sites, “which they feel are supposed to be performed by males, it has given a change of an image for the organization,” Ms. Malombo said.

“They now know that policing is not for males alone, but for everybody,” encouraging more women to join the ranks of the Liberian National Police (LNP), she said.

UN agencies urge greater action to eliminate child labour by 2016



12 June 2010 – With global efforts to end child labour showing mixed results, United Nations agencies are urging greater action to achieve the goal of eliminating the scourge by 2016.

The latest [report](#) by the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)) says that if current trends continue, the 2016 target will not be reached and a renewed push to end child labour is urgently needed.

As millions of people around the world focus their attention on the football World Cup that kicked off yesterday in South Africa, ILO made an urgent appeal to “go for the goal and end child labour,” referring to the theme for this year’s World Day against Child Labour.

"Across cultures and continents children will be joining in the anticipation and excitement of this global event, it will be dominating their play time and leisure time at home, in schoolyards and on the streets," ILO Director-General Juan Somavia noted in his [message](#) for the Day, observed annually on 12 June.

"But for some 215 million child labourers – most in hazardous work – who labour long and hard instead of learning and playing, the World Cup is a world away," he pointed out.

ILO's new estimates on child labour, released last month, present a mixed picture suggesting some progress, but also with cause for concern, according to Mr. Somavia.

On the positive side, among children aged 5-14, child labour has fallen by 10 per cent. The number of children in the same age range in hazardous work fell by 31 per cent. And there has been a 15 per cent decrease in the number of girls in child labour.

"The bottom line, however, is that overall, progress has slowed," said the Director-General, noting that there has been an "alarming" 20 per cent increase in the 15-17 years' age group which mainly comprises children who have reached the legal working age but are working in hazardous conditions in one of the worst forms of child labour.

At the end of a two-day Global Child Labour Conference in The Hague last month, more than 450 delegates from 80 countries agreed on a so-called roadmap, which characterizes the effective abolition of child labour as a "moral necessity." The UN-backed action plan seeks to boost global efforts to eliminate child labour by 2016.

The UN Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)) is also calling for stepping up efforts to eliminate child labour, which it said is "both a cause and a consequence of poverty, and compromises children's education and safety."

Dr. Susan Bissell, UNICEF's Chief of Child Protection, [noted](#) that progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in education, poverty, gender and HIV/AIDS are being systematically undermined by child labour and that no single policy will end this problem.

"Evidence has shown that an effective, coherent response to child labour requires a mix of decent work employment measures, child sensitive social protection systems and the extension of basic services to the most vulnerable," she stated.

UNICEF called on governments and donors to increase investment in accessible and quality education, and to support the establishment of social protection measures that cover all children. It also urged the private sector to use its potential as agents of social change to ensure that children's rights are protected in their supply chains.

World Day against Child Labour events will be held in more than 60 countries involving governments, employers, workers, and UN, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

For more information on the United Nations and its activities, please visit the main UN website at www.un.org or the UN Pakistan website at www.un.org.pk

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