UNFPA’s SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS

UNFPA in Pakistan focuses its programmes to support government efforts to eliminating stigma, discrimination, insecurity and social exclusion of people living in vulnerable conditions.

Some specific interventions are/were:

- UNFPA played a pivotal role in providing emergency relief immediately after the 2005 earthquake and the 2007 floods to ensure that women’s reproductive health, sanitary needs (through distribution of reproductive health kits) and hygiene needs (through the setting up of bathing spaces for women) were met. In the post disaster phase, UNFPA has continued to offer post emergency services focusing primarily on women, children and youth;
- Gender-based violence awareness campaigns, prevention programmes and referral systems for survivors, continue to be some of the main components of UNFPA collaboration with the government. These programmes have been carried out through curriculum development for Lady Health Workers (paramedical female personnel) that includes girl rights, trainings on human rights-based approach, as well as involving the media and men to promote human rights of the most vulnerable;
- UNFPA continues to provide technical support to interagency trainings on the human rights based approach and gender. UNFPA is chairing an interagency gender and development group (INGAT) and rolled out a work plan for 2007 to promote human rights and the human rights based approach in development interventions, in conjunction with 31 donor partners;
- UNFPA supported a consultation on the status of Pakistan’s CEDAW report;
- UNFPA has seconded a gender advisor to the UN Resident Coordinator’s office to provide technical advice to integrate gender at all stages of the joint programmes in the five thematic areas (education, health, environment, disaster risk management, agriculture rural development and poverty reduction) under the UN reform process being piloted in Pakistan since March 2007;
- UNFPA works with girl madrassas (faith based schools) for promoting rights awareness.