



Expanded Program  
on Immunization  
Government of Pakistan



Ministry of National Health Services  
Regulations & Coordination  
Government of Pakistan

# REPORT

## Discussion Forum on “Child Health and Role of Public Representatives”

16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014



**Federal EPI Cell**  
**Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Islamabad.**

## **Prologue;**

Member of Parliaments are public personalities with the power to generate visibility for important issues in their governments, among their constituencies and in the media.

Parliamentarians are the only group that can hold governments accountable for their commitments, influence policies and funding, generate visibility and provide leadership to control and eradicate the nine Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) still a threat to the Pakistani communities.

## **Activity Description and Objectives;**

Keeping in view the above, the Federal EPI Cell under the guidance of Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination in collaboration with its partners (UNICEF, WHO, GAVI) organized a Discussion Forum with a theme of “Child Health and Role of Public Representatives” on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 in Islamabad.

The aim was to sensitize the members of Pakistani Parliamentarians and equip them with the desired amount of knowledge on the 9 Vaccine Preventable Diseases and the Immunization scenario in Pakistan that they use this power to become ‘Vaccine Preventable Diseases / Immunization Champions’ and later can create a multiplier effect by being knowledgeable, passionate spokespersons about these deadly disease and the urgency required to combat it as a means to achieve the MDGs and save the lives of millions of Pakistani children at stake. Various discussion points were covered under these 4 generic objectives of the forum: -

- To improve the political, policy and funding environment to combat the suffering and mortality caused by these 9 Vaccine Preventable Diseases.
- To Examine the respective legislative framework and propose/initiate changes to minimize / eradicate VPDs
- To promote the exchange of knowledge, information and good practice, share lessons, and support and coordinate the work of parliamentarians around specific events, such as World Immunization Week.
- To increase funding and promote solutions for effective malaria reduction by developing a cohesive partnership and raising awareness, knowledge and support among parliamentarians in Pakistan
- To later form a focal point that will serve as a platform incorporating members from various fields but sharing the same objective. (i.e. “National Child Health Council” (NCHC))

## **Proceedings of the Event;**

- Guest Welcomed by the Facilitator Syed Talat Hussain
- Recitation of Holy Quran cited
- Context Setting for the Discussion Session
- Presentation delivered by Dr. Ejaz Ahmed, Director Surveillance – Challenges of Child Health Immunization and Role of Public Representatives
- A Video Documentary on Child Immunization and Measles screened
- Open Discussion forum facilitated by Syed Talat Hssain on need to improve Child Health and Immunization Services through necessary legislation (Syed Talat Hussain) mainly focusing on the following: -
  1. Local threats to the immunization campaign and also identify the possible mitigation strategy /interventions
  2. How parliamentarians can contribute in their respective constituency to improve the child health care service
  3. Develop/establish a platform to strengthen and support and to reach out to communities with and integrated approach using immunization campaigns and activities i.e. Establishing “National Child Health Council” (NCHC)
- Recommendations and suggestion Session participated by all Parliamentarians
- Remarks made by Chief Guest
- Group Photograph followed by an Iftaar Diner

- **Pictures of the Event;**



IEC Material Displayed at the Entrance of the Discussion Forum Venue



Director Surveillance EPI with Forum's Facilitator and Organizer





Syed Talat Hussain Welcoming the Participants



Discussion Forum being started in the name of Allah



Chief Guest of the Event



Facilitator conducting the session





Director Surveillance and Communication Consultant EPI Observing the Proceedings



Screening of Documentary Film in Progress



Director Surveillance Delivering his Presentation



Director Surveillance Delivering his Presentation



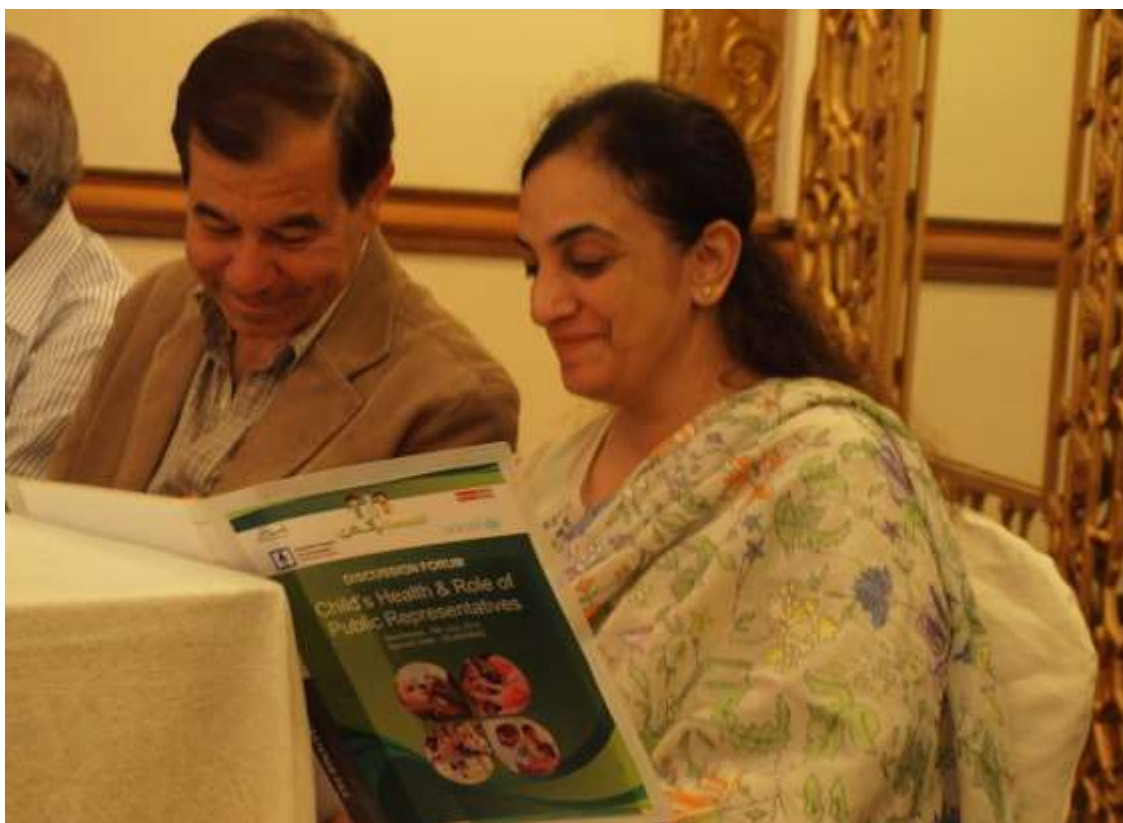


Use of Infographics by Director Surveillance to Inform and Persuade Parliamentarians



EPI Partners (UNICEF, WHO, GAVI, SACH Reps) at the Event





WHO and UNICEF Officials at the Head Table Going through the Event Description Folder



International Delegates on The Head Table



The Brains Behind The Initiative



A Public Representative Sharing his thought during the Open Forum Discussion





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