



# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES - EPI

FEBRUARY 2019

## Adverse Effects Following Immunization (AEFI) Review Committee Meeting

**Islamabad, January 29, 2019:** A meeting of Adverse Effects Following Immunization (AEFI) Review Committee was held in Islamabad. The purpose of the meeting was to review the AEFI cases reported during the Nationwide Measles SIA 2018 and subsequent management strategies adopted by provinces/areas. The meeting was attended by the Federal and Provincial EPI representatives and committee members to devise an efficient AEFI reporting and management system. The committee emphasized that the provinces/areas should document best practices in the management of AEFI cases during Measles SIA campaign to formulate recommendations for strengthening AEFI surveillance system. The presence of AEFI management and reporting system on scientific lines is extremely important for ensuring public confidence in the immunization program.

Dr. Asad Ali, Chairperson of the Committee, congratulated all provinces/areas on conduction of a successful measles campaign and a vigilant AEFI surveillance system throughout the drive. He emphasized the need to have similar practices for AEFI reporting in routine immunization. He also proposed designing of an online application for AEFI reporting. During his concluding remarks, he highlighted the action points derived from the meeting. Action points included: revision of AEFI Case Reporting Tools in consultation with provinces



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and areas and a national level training for AEFI Focal Persons on AEFI Surveillance. Committee also agreed to hold the fourth meeting of the AEFI after three months.

Dr. Asad Aly, Deputy Director M&E, Federal EPI, proposed that AEFI surveillance should be included in the upcoming National EPI-Review meeting and supported the revision of AEFI case reporting form in consultation with provinces and areas. He also suggested that a training on AEFI Surveillance should be held for National trainers, after revision of tools.



## Capacity Building Workshop On Use Of Project Development & Quality Assurance Tools For Evidence Based Decision Making

**Islamabad, January 10-11, 2019:** Federal EPI conducted a comprehensive workshop on Capacity Building in using Project Development and Quality Assurance Tools for Data-driven decision making for the program. The workshop was part of the technical assistance being provided by GAVI to strengthen the National Inter Agency Coordination Committee for program oversight function. It was conducted by Dr. Aman Ullah who is serving as a consultant to support the Committee.





## Meeting With Centre For Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, USA

**Islamabad, January 21-24, 2019:** A high level mission of Center for Disease Control (CDC), during a visit to Pakistan, met officials of the Federal EPI to hold an in-depth discussion about capacity needs for routine immunization at the country level.

During the visit, the Mission held meetings with the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation, and Coordination (MoNHSR&C), the EPI Program, WHO, UNICEF, and relevant stakeholders to conduct landscape analysis of in-country partners and Government of Pakistan. The analysis was aimed at determining areas where potential support could be offered, the specific focus of such support, and how best to improve the programme. The mission members included Dr. William Schluter (Director Global Immunization Division, CDC), Ms. Virginia Swezy (Deputy Director, CDC), and Mr. Ahmed Liban; (Country director, CDC Pakistan).

The mission aimed at assessing the needs arising during planning and implementation of routine immunization activities in the country. Pakistan is one of the six priority countries for the M&RI collaboration and in light of this, CDC has resolved to provide in-country technical support to EPI. The aim of the mission also included subsequent implementation of a CDC technical assistance plan that will help achieve EPI's goals of increased coverage and improved quality of RI programs in Pakistan.

The landscape analysis in-country partners and Government of Pakistan was aimed at determining what additional technical support could be offered, the specific focus of such support, and how best to leverage it.





# STORIES FROM THE PROVINCES

## *Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*

### Extensive Outreach Model To Achieve Coverage And Contain Outbreaks

By Huma Nayab

By the year 2018, the reported immunization coverage rates in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were less than 90% for all EPI antigens (BCG, three doses of OPV, three doses of Penta and PCV-10, Inactivated Polio Vaccine and two doses of measles-containing vaccine). Furthermore, data revealed unequal vaccination coverage in different districts and unacceptably low coverage rates in some districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Due to low immunization coverage, a number of cases of vaccine preventable disease were reported: 372 of diphtheria, 13,317 of Measles, 37 of Neonatal tetanus, 13 of pertussis, and 79 of pneumonia.

The burden of infectious diseases was mostly reported from central and southern belt, where most of the outbreaks occurred, resulting in child deaths due to vaccine preventable diseases.

Vaccine-preventable diseases pose a significant threat to not only those who contract it but also those whom the affected come in contact with, thereby making immunization a necessity.

The EPI teams, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa planned extensive outreach activities in all districts of the province to cover due and zero dose/missed children and women, and also build on the existing set of Reach every district/Reach every child (RED/REC) approach.

### OBJECTIVES

- Zero dose/missed children, defaulter's identification and accordingly coverage
- To increase coverage of all antigen covering missed/zero dose, due & defaulters
- To contain and control outbreaks across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Improve performance of different components of the immunization program
  - Immunization service delivery, building on measles micro plan
  - Monitoring and supervision

## **DESIGN OF THE INITIATIVE:**

### **Identification of zero dose/missed children, due and defaulter for all antigens**

A list of defaulters from 2017 and 2018 was developed from permanent registers and the record of zero dose children identified during polio campaign. It was targeted to reach all children and women identified in three rounds of extensive outreach activity.

### **Consultative workshop on development of microplan**

To develop a quality microplan, a consultative workshop at provincial level was conducted, followed by an exercise to develop detailed microplans at each UC.

### **Development of Microplan at district level**

All of the EPI Teams/Technicians were involved in respective districts under provincial and district supervisors to develop a final microplan which was validated at desk and field.

### **Implementation of RED/REC Plan**

Reach Every District/Reach Every Child outreach plan strategy was implemented in all UCs. The areas were identified through priority of categorization and the UCs were divided into various parts according to 16 days' timeline to cover children.

### **Monitoring of Extensive outreach Activities**

Each supervisory tier monitored the activity involving TSVs, DSVs, EPI Coordinators, and LHW Program Coordinators along with partner staff. Provincial officers also monitored each district and reinforced quality implementation of plan.

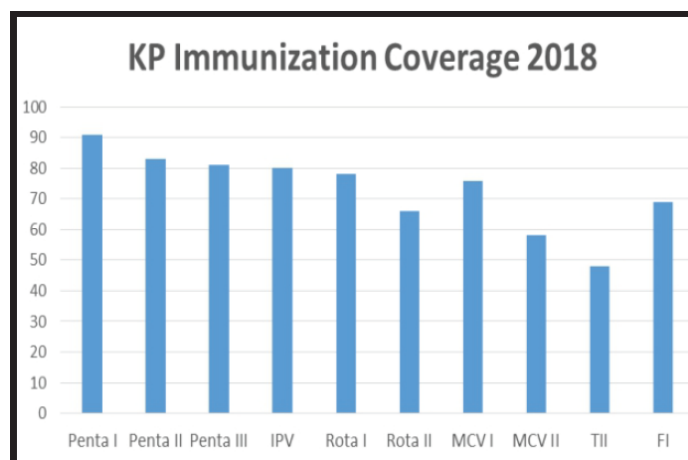
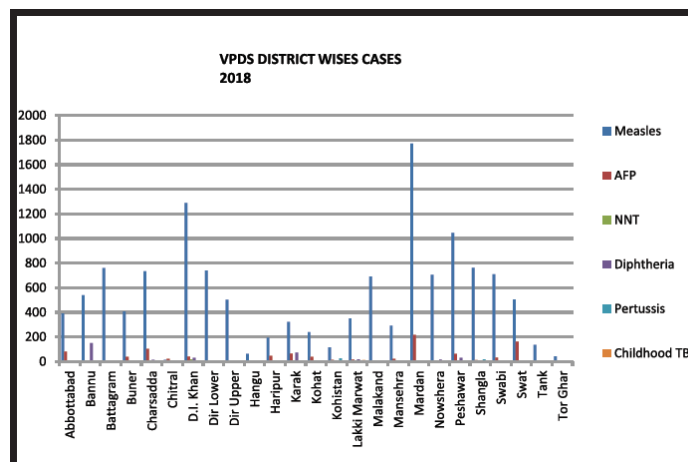
### **Outcomes**

Extensive outreach strengthened the micro-plan development and implementation process, resulting in increased coverage of all antigens.

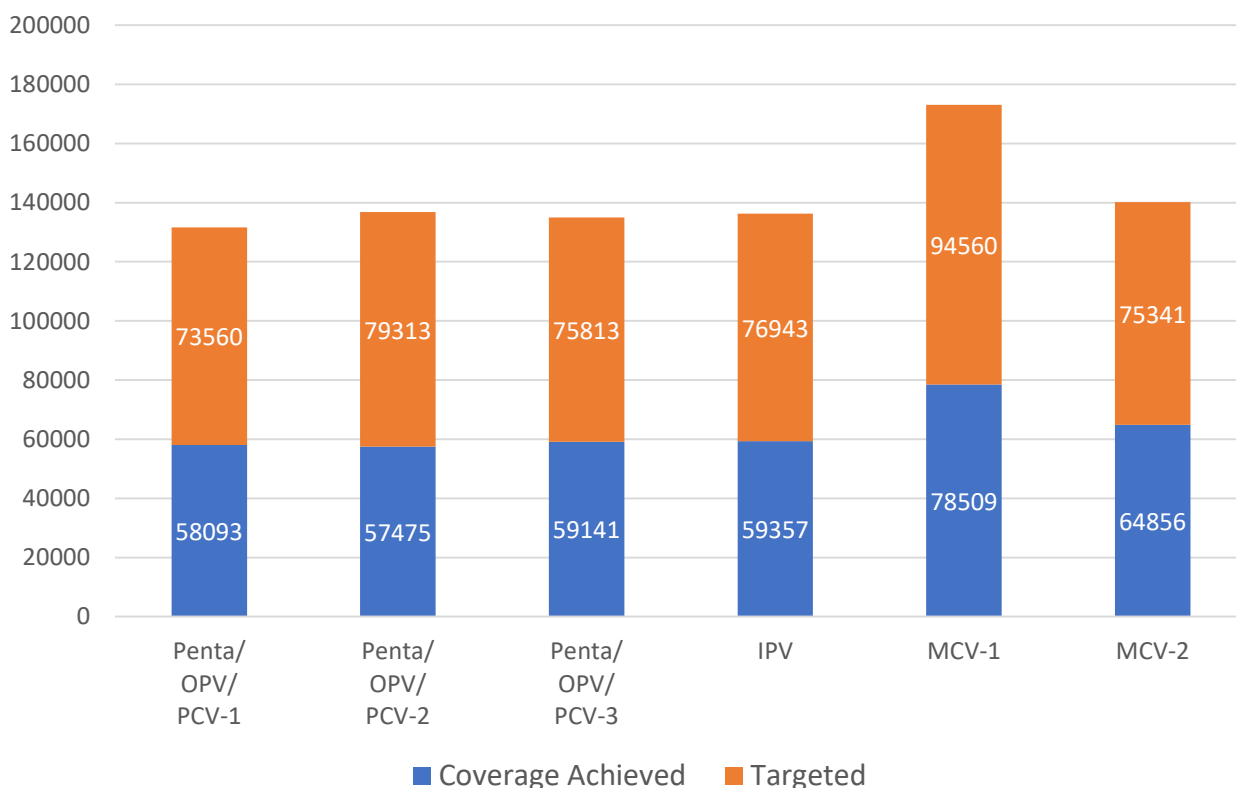
## Attaining high coverage

The targets identified across KP for Penta I, II & III were 73,560, 79,313, and 75,813, and 58,093 (79%), 57,475 (72%), and 59,141 (78%), respectively, were effectively covered. Two vaccines were administered simultaneously with pentavalent vaccines, i.e., bOPV & PCV-10.

Inactivated polio vaccine is one of the most important vaccine to eradicate polio and 59,357 (77%) children were administered IPV against the target of 76,943. Another antigen which increases immunity and controls cases of Measles is Measles containing vaccine, the target defaulters were 94,560 and 75,341 for MCV-I & II, and the activity led to the coverage of 78,509 (83%) and 64,856 (86%), respectively.



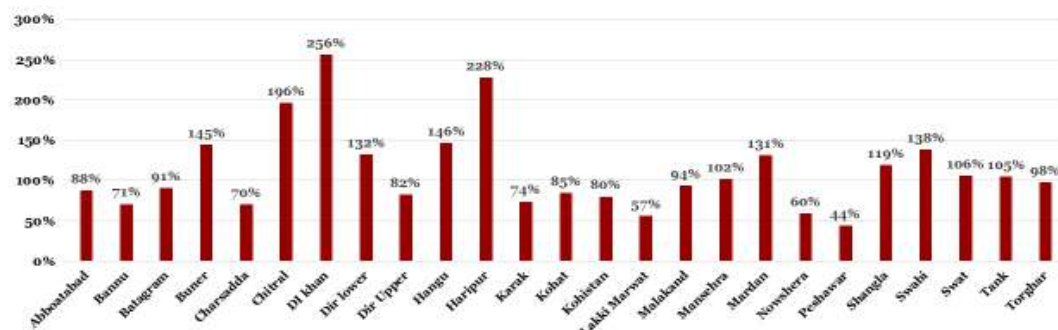
## Coverage vs Targeted



## Coverage of zero dose children

The target identified across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for zero dose children was 39,112, out of which 29,441 (75%) were successfully covered. The statistics revealed that 3 districts - Peshawar, Lakki Marwat, and Nowshera, covered 50-60% of zero dose cases while 10 districts covered 70-98%. 12 districts crossed 100%, these districts were D.I.Khan, Buner, Chitral, Dir Lower, Hangu, Haripur, Mardan, Shangla, Swabi, Swat, and Tank.

### District-wise Zero Dose Coverage

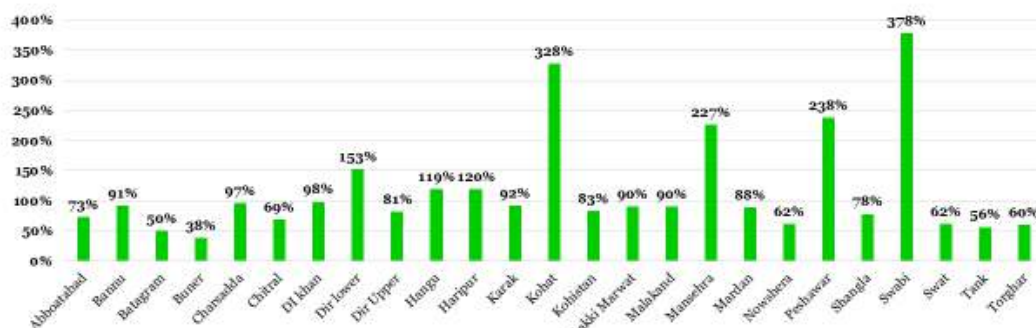


District	Abbottabad	Bannu	Battagram	Buner	Charsadda	Chitral	DI Khan	Dir lower	Dir Upper	Hangu	Haripur	Karak	Kohat	Kohistan	Lakki	Malakand	Mansehra	Mardan	Nowshera	Peshawar	Shangla	Swabi	Swat	Tank	Torghar
Target	291	2650	1863	218	567	186	503	459	1082	332	252	2974	2224	631	4396	151	982	597	2517	11724	1509	154	916	1658	276
Vaccinated	255	1880	1687	316	399	365	1290	606	890	486	575	2201	1882	505	2489	142	998	783	1503	5198	1794	213	970	1744	270

## Tetanus Toxoid coverage

Another milestone of EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is to eliminate tetanus toxoid by 2019. The extensive outreach (EOR) activity has proven to be effective in covering 45,631 (87%) out of 52,551 women who were not vaccinated.

### District-wise TT Coverage EOR, KP (Dec 31,2018-Jan 12, 2019)



District	Abbottabad	Bannu	Battagram	Buner	Charsadda	Chitral	DI Khan	Dir lower	Dir Upper	Hangu	Haripur	Karak	Kohat	Kohistan	Lakki	Malakand	Mansehra	Mardan	Nowshera	Peshawar	Shangla	Swabi	Swat	Tank	Torghar
Target	1078	877	2873	1454	2819	1721	2777	1809	2676	226	1038	2172	432	627	1845	2073	940	2693	3364	1409	2896	105	12536	2001	110
Vaccinated	787	800	1443	556	2725	1179	2720	2763	2172	269	1242	1992	1417	522	1666	1873	2132	2376	2060	3355	2258	397	7717	1126	66



# STORIES FROM THE PROVINCES

## Balochistan

### Immunization (Health) Counseling Units (HCU)– Balochistan

By Zoheb Mandokhail

The– Government of Balochistan, Department of Health and UNICEF in Balochistan have a history of effective collaboration for improvement of child health in the province. This initiative is an example of the successful partnership between the two entities.

UNICEF, in coordination with the DoH, established Health Counseling Units (HCUs) in three tertiary care hospitals of Quetta, in light of the Quality of Care (QoC) model and to promote 'Health Education' in the hospitals. The hospitals were:

1. Sandeman Provincial (Civil) Hospital
2. Bolan Medical Complex Hospital
3. Mohtarma Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Hospital



## OBJECTIVES

- Counsel the parents/ caregivers who visit the Gynecology/ Obstetrics and Pediatric OPDs on importance of Routine Immunization (RI), Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, Health and Hygiene, Maternal and Child Health, newborn care, infection prevention, and other important health topics/areas for changing their behaviors
- Act as a bridge between the hospitals and the health units through counseling of parents visiting these hospitals/units and the subsequent provision of children's data to health units in the communities to ensure that their vaccination and other important health services are not missed
- Develop linkages between these HCUs and the Center of Excellence established at Sandeman Provincial Hospital
- Develop linkages with the community-based structures (LHWs/CMWs) for strengthening the referral mechanism



## SUCCESS OF SUCH COUNSELING UNITS IN BALOCHISTAN

- The unit staff (CMWs) has been supporting the Gynae, OPD, & Paed's ward in terms of counselling mothers and caregivers on key health and nutrition related issues. These tasks were additional burden on the doctors and was therefore never carried out
- The doctors/in-charge of these units in the hospitals have appreciated the initiative and claimed that it will support improvement in the mother and child related health indicators
- The number of mothers/caregivers being counselled has increased every month since the establishment of the units



# STORIES FROM THE PROVINCES

## *Punjab*

### District EPI Review of Punjab

By Sajjad Hafeez

The District EPI Review Punjab, chaired by Zahid Akhter Zaman, Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare (PSH), was organized to evaluate the districts' performance on EPI Indicators.

The Director General Health Services (DGHS) Punjab - Dr. Munir Ahmed, EDOs (H) of all districts, Chief Minister Roadmap team, and representatives of PITB, Policy and Strategic Planning Unit, UNICEF, WHO, and Program Managers also participated in the Quarterly EPI Review.

The Secretary PSH directed the CEOs to personally monitor EPI performance as well as polio campaign in 2019 and ensure compliance with indicators of National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication. He directed that districts must ensure that all vaccinators are using cellular phones for E-Vaccs.

The DGHS presented district performance on immunization indicators and shared that E-vaccs compliance had gone up to 96% in December 2018. However, seven districts needed improvement on E-vaccs attendance, especially Rajanpur, Bahawalnagar, and Bhakkar. The CEOs of these districts explained their respective issues and assured remedial measures.



The Secretary PSH directed the CEOs to personally monitor EPI performance as well as polio campaign in January 2019 and ensure compliance with indicators of National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication.

In case of problems with E-Vaccs, the vaccinators were encouraged to report the issues to PITB to avoid data loss.

The Secretary PSH took note of districts not conducting EPI review meetings. He directed the CEOs to personally visit the low performing union councils and meet the staff there.

He stressed that the positive environmental samples from Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Faisalabad were a cause of concern and require further dedicated efforts in the upcoming polio campaigns.

Dr. Munir Ahmed said that due to positive environmental sample Lahore and Faisalabad will be specifically focused in upcoming polio campaign. He also highlighted the indicators requiring immediate attention. He further said Punjab was focusing on rural and urban disparity in immunization coverage and urban immunization was top priority of the provincial EPI Program.

Secretary, Mr. Zahid Akhter Zaman stated that preventive healthcare was under special focus and based on study of successful models in the region and the world, new initiatives were being introduced in 2019.

The Secretary PSH also directed penalties and other disciplinary measures on staff not complying with biometric attendance, and instructed to submit a report highlighting the sites where scanners are not functioning. The status of BHUs and health facilities, and resources needed for improvement were also reviewed during the meeting.

The Chief Minister Roadmap team also presented an analysis of Key Performance Indicators including vaccinators' performance. It was decided that Punjab will further refine its immunization program by analysis of child level data, the status of safe deliveries, and other indicators.



Zahid Akhter Zaman stated that preventive healthcare was under special focus and based on study of successful models in the region and the world, new initiatives were being introduced by the start of 2019.





## Expanded Program on Immunization

Government of Pakistan

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