



2020



# FEDERAL EPI

---

## UPDATES

# JANUARY 2020





**Federal Expanded Program on Immunization**  
**EPI Building,**  
**National Institute of Health,**  
**Chak Shehzad, Islamabad**  
**+92 51 9255101**  
**[www.epi.gov.pk](http://www.epi.gov.pk)**



EPIPakistanOfficial



[epi.gov.pk](http://epi.gov.pk)



+92 51 9255101



# Content

01	NITAG recommends introduction of MR vaccine and replacement of TT with Td	05
02	Mission of Global Health Development (GHD) visits Pakistan (December 23-24, 2019)	06
03	Series of National and Provincial Consultative meetings to finalise cMYP	06
04	National Vitamin-A Task Force Meeting	06
05	Activities undertaken across Pakistan	07
	- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts	07
	- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	08
	- Punjab	09
	- Balochistan	10
	- Azad Jammu & Kashmir	11





*“Achieving Universal Immunization coverage will be the most effective way of improving health outcomes in Pakistan”*

**Honourable Dr. Zafar Mirza**  
**Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health**



*“The New Year brings new hope and enthusiasm to work together in a bid to protect our children against deadly diseases and disabilities. We should ensure that the vaccines reach every child. As a society we should play our role in building trust of communities on the RI services. Universal Immunization coverage is a key to build immunity against vaccine preventable diseases.”*

**Honourable Dr. Nausheen Hamid, MNA**  
**Parliamentary Secretary on**  
**Ministry of Health and Population**



*“The year 2020 starts with a renewed commitment and a clear roadmap to work for a collective goal of achieving Universal Immunization Coverage in the country. EPI program is also expanding its ambit to include Measles Rubella (MR) vaccine to create extra protection in children against fatal diseases. We are determined to put all our efforts and energies to strengthen the EPI program across the country and inculcate for a positive and enabling environment where RI services are availed as a mandatory norm”.*

**Dr. Arshad Karim Chandio**  
**National Program Manager, Federal EPI**



## NITAG recommends introduction of MR vaccine and replacement of TT with Td

A meeting of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) was held on December 17, 2019 to discuss and recommend policy interventions in the EPI program. NITAG recommended the introduction of MR vaccine in campaign and routine immunization schedule by replacing both the doses of measles with MR and advised EPI programme to start preparations for submitting MR application to Gavi, availing the January 2020 window.

NPM also presented the proposal on the Replacement of TT with Td Vaccine in Pakistan. The meeting was apprised that 133 countries have already replaced TT with Td in their routine immunization program. As the route of administration, packaging size, targets and schedule are the same as for TT, replacement with Td requires no enhancement in cold chain storage capacity or logistics' requirements. These vaccines have been used for decades and there is no evidence of adverse pregnancy outcomes or risk to the fetus during pregnancy. The tetanus and diphtheria components of Td vaccine serve as booster doses for both the vaccines, thus prolonging the duration of protection. The Td vaccine is WHO pre-qualified with number of suppliers available for Pakistan.

### Following Action Points emanated out of the NITAG meeting

- NITAG meetings to be conducted regularly. Next meeting will be held in March 2020.
- Renotify NITAG membership to include members from planning commission, public health, health economics, virologist/microbiology and infectious disease
- Federal EPI would proceed to submit MR Vaccine application in January 2020 window to GAVI for an MR campaign (and RI) in October 2020.
- NITAG reiterated its previous recommendation of switching PCV 10 to PCV 13
- NITAG also recommended replacement of TT with Td.

The chair proposed further discussion around introduction of Hepatitis B birth dose and evidence around rabies vaccine during the next meeting.

## **Mission of Global Health Development (GHD) visits Pakistan (December 23-24, 2019)**

A mission of Global Health Development lead by Polio& Immunization Team Lead visited Pakistan to discuss potential partnership, its modalities, joint implementation plans to strengthen sustainable public health capacity for polio eradication and Routine Immunization activities in Pakistan.

The visit was of critical importance to Pakistan in terms of support in micro-planning process including improving access and demand creation for Immunization services.

## **Series of National and Provincial Consultative meetings to finalise cMYP**

The cMYP is a strategic document to strengthen national, provincial and federating areas planning, identifying future needs and budgeting for the immunization program. . In order to develop and finalise the next cMYP (2020-2024), a series of consultative workshops were held with the following objective:

1. To brief the respective decision makers, technical teams and partners on the importance, need and process of developing cMYPs.
2. To discuss and update the cMYP content that includes the situation analysis, goals, objectives, targets, strategies, activities and implementation plan.

The workshops for Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and CDA/ICT were conducted at the National level in the Federal EPI.

## **National Vitamin-A Task Force Meeting**

National Vitamin-A Task Force Meeting was conducted in Islamabad on December 5, 2019 to discuss nutritional issues of children with special emphasis on Vitamin-A intake. The National Nutritional Survey (NNS) 2018 highlighted severe Vitamin-A deficiency among the children of Pakistan. High Vitamin-A coverage during Polio NIDs and increased public awareness were strategized.





# ACTIVITIES

Undertaken  
across Pakistan for  
EPI

## KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA TRIBAL DISTRICTS

By Mr. Asad Zia

### Desk Validation of Micro-plan

In pursuance of the cascade trainings of Vaccinators on Equity based microplanning approach, all vaccinators developed microplans in accordance with the guidelines. Provincial EPI conducted the Validation session of Micro-plans for all merged districts. The purpose of the activity was to improve the quality of the micro-plans.

### Notification of VPD sites and Focal Person

VPD Surveillance remains a dire need of program to strengthen and improve the immunization system in the merged areas. In this regard, a notification of the nominated focal persons and VPD surveillance sites was issued. The objective of notifying the surveillance sites and focal person was to improve compliance on zero dose reporting as well as detection, investigation and response to any outbreak.

### Stock validation and verification of provincial store of merged areas

Effective Vaccine management is core component of the EPI Program. Provincial EPI team visited the provincial stores of merged areas to validate and complete data entry in stock register and vLMIS.

### EOA Phase-V and Monitoring

During phase-V of Extensive Outreach Activity (EOA) drive from December 23 to January 4, 2020, EPI, Directorate of Health Services Merged Areas in collaboration with WHO, vaccinated children as per below coverage data

- **Zero dose** - 6729,
- **Penta-I** - 9458,
- **Penta-III** - 7679,
- **IPV** - 8785 and
- **Measles** - 9168

The main objective of EOA was to increase routine immunization coverage and control the spread of vaccine preventable diseases in the merged districts. The activity was supervised by EPI Programme Manager Dr Osama Shabeer while 08 provincial monitors closely monitored the EOA activity, in which the defaulters and zero dose children were covered.





# KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

By Dr. Kamran Qureshi

## Workshop on Development of Costed Action Plan for Peshawar

Under Urban Health Initiative a two days' workshop on development of Peshawar Action Plan was conducted in Peshawar in December. Director EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, chaired the workshop. DHO Peshawar, Provincial EPI team, District Peshawar Team including supervisors, LHS, LHW's & PEI staff and UNICEF, WHO, BMGF and CHIP representatives participated in the meeting. The participants actively participated in drafting the town wise plans.

## Strengthening Cold Chain for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ILR's Installation under CCEOP

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform Phase II, **501** Ice lined Refrigerators will be deployed and Installed across the Province.

At the end of the year 2019, **95 ILRs** have been installed and rest will be installed until mid of 2020.

**19 %** of the work has been completed in the first month of the deployment, out of the total count of installed Ice lined Refrigerators, **38** are Solar Direct Drive and **57** are Electricity powered ILRs.

## Pictorial Journey of Extended Outreach Immunization Sessions in KP/KPTD





# PUNJAB

By Dr. Imran Qureshi

## Punjab bids farewell to Dr. Saeed Akhtar on his retirement

Provincial EPI department, Punjab presented a befitting tribute to Dr. Saeed Akhtar Ghumman on his retirement during his farewell on December 31, 2019. Dr. Saeed Akhtar joined EPI program earlier this year and contributed a lot in its success and achievements.

## Enhanced Outreach Activity Training Workshop

Provincial Planning Workshop for Enhanced Outreach Activity (EOA) for 8 selected districts of Punjab was held on 9th December 2019. District Health Officer and District Supervisor Vaccination participated in the workshop. The session was chaired by Dr. Abdul Jabbar and facilitated by Dr. Muhammad Mazhar Qureshi National Programme Officer - EPI and Dr. Muhammad Imran Qureshi Technical Officer EPI WHO Punjab. All standard RI Microplanning tools were used in the training workshop. Special session on Direct Disbursement Mechanism was conducted by Mr. Rana Sarfraz WHO PEI Punjab.

## cMYP consultative workshop

cMYP consultative workshop was conducted at EPI Punjab on December 11-12, 2019. The session was facilitated by Dr. Riaz Solangi and attended by all stakeholders from EPI, WHO, UNICEF, M&E representatives. Director General Health Services, Dr. Haroon Jahangir and Director EPI Dr. Muhammad Saeed presided over the concluding session of the consultative workshop.

## Training of VPD/AEFI Surveillance

A Three-day training session was conducted on VPD/AEFI Surveillance on December 1-3, 2019 in Lahore. District Surveillance Coordinators from all districts were trained on WHO's latest VPD Surveillance guidelines. Director EPI Dr Muhammad Saeed Akhtar, EOC coordinator Mr. Salman Ghani, WHO Polio team lead Dr. Abedi Nasir and Dr Tanwir from UNICEF attended the inaugural session. Dr Mazhar Qureshi National Program Officer-EPI WHO Punjab and Dr Imran Qureshi Technical Officer EPI WHO Punjab facilitated the session.





## District Annual Review 2019 and POA 2020

Comprehensive EPI Review Punjab was conducted on December 23 – 29, 2019 based on more than 50 KPI's. The review period was between January to November 2019. Review was conducted in 4 batches with 9 districts in each batch. CEO's, District Health Officer - Preventive Services, DSC's and DSV's participated in the review. EPI Cell Punjab, WHO, UNICEF, PITB and ACASUS team participated from the provincial office. Districts performance was ranked on the basis of scoring and grading as weighted by performance indicators. Major challenges and way forward strategies were discussed in detail.

Director EPI Dr. Muhammad Saeed Akhter chaired the session and briefed the district managers on their performance and directed them to improve coverage in low performing districts.



## BALOCHSITAN

### Maternal & Neonatal Elimination Campaign, December 9 - 14, 2019

Mr. Zohaib Mandokhel

The second round of MNTE campaign was conducted from December 9-14, 2019. The communication activities were conducted (both at provincial as well as district level) for the campaign to raise awareness. The activities included:

- Media Orientations & Briefings
- Orientations in Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Orientations for religious and community elders
- Live programs on TV and Radio in Urdu and local languages (Pashto, Brahvi and Balochi)
- Display of Billboards, Banners, Posters and Steamers
- Advertisements in Newspapers, Cable TV and Radio
- Mobile Screen and Display of campaign banners on public transport







## Consultative Workshop on Comprehensive Multi Year Plan (cMYP) December 18 - 19, 2019

A consultative workshop for the development of the new cMYP was organized by Provincial EPI with the support of WHO and UNICEF. Provincial EPI, representatives from various vertical health programs, provincial level hospitals and partners attended the workshop.

# AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Recapping year 2019 EPI

**Mr. Waqas Mughal**

The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) AJK, continued its robust progress for Routine immunization across AJK. The working relationship between the Program Management team at the Provincial (State) level and the District Health Management was strengthened and ties became more positive and productive year for the program.

The training activities included Mid-level Manager's training for DHOs and refreshers, RED/REC micro planning tools, development of micro-plans at every EPI center, Inter-personal Communication skills, vaccination standard procedures and techniques, Cold-chain management, Health Education and multi-stakeholder community partnering were conducted regularly. Specialized trainings for Effective Vaccine Management were also conducted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019. Quarterly Progress review meetings were convened at the office of the Provincial Program Manager EPI AJK.

Regular visits of EPI coordinators for supportive supervision and monitoring to rural and hard to reach areas was a priority throughout the year 2019, which has shown an improvement in performance, record keeping and reporting.

There has been continuous Cross-border tension between India and Pakistan in various areas/districts of AJK, located near the Line of Control, especially District Neelum, Jehlum Valley and Poonch. The difficult terrain of AJK also witnessed harsh weather conditions but the activities were executed as per schedule. The dedicated EPI workers of all cadres, showed undaunted spirit and dedication in execution of the Polio campaign across the AJK.

EPI AJK aspires for Healthy and Immunized children in AJK and has an affirmed resolve of continuing to serve every community and every child in year 2020.





