

NEWSLETTER

Vol: 2 | Issue No. 1 | January 2021



EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION

PM Health Secretariat, Chak Shehzad, Islamabad. Tel: +92 51 9255101

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) @epipakistanofficial epi.gov.pk



PATRON:

DR. RANA MUHAMMAD SAFDAR

CONTRIBUTORS:

MR. OSAMA MEHMOOD (PUNJAB)

MR. SUNEEL RAJA (SINDH)

MR. ZOHEB MANDOKHAIL (BALUCHISTAN)

DR. KAMRAN QURESHI (KP)

DR. MIRRA TUL AZAZ (AJ&K)

MS. QURASHA SULTANA (GB)

MR. KASHIF MUNIR (ICT)

MR. MUHAMMAD KAMRAN (CDA)

MS. HUMA KHAWAR (FEDERAL)

WRITTEN & COMPILED BY:

MR. ZAHID WASIF

MS. ZARTASHA NIAZI

EDITORS:

DR. SOOFIA YUNUS

DR. ZAEEM UL HAQ

DR. M. SARBULAND KHAN

IN THIS ISSUE UPDATES FROM:

- FEDERAL EPI
- PUNJAB EPI
- SINDH EPI
- KP EPI
- BALUCHISTAN EPI
- AJ&K EPI
- GB EPI
- CDA EPI
- ICT EPI

DESIGN BY:

MR. REHAN SALEEM

CONTENT LIST

Page 3

Training of EPI Management Information System

An online training on EPI Management Information System for COVID-19 vaccine...

Page 5

Preparatory Meeting on TCV catch-up Campaign by Minister Health

Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Minister for Primary & Secondary Healthcare/Specialized Healthcare &...

Page 6

Monitoring of EPI Outreach and Communication Activities

During the month of January, the EPI Sindh team has been engaged in the monitoring of...

Page 7

Preparations to introduce COVID-19 Vaccine in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

KP health department has started preparation to introduce coronavirus vaccine in the...

Quarterly EPI Review Meeting of all districts

EPI Balochistan conducted four quarterly review meetings in the month of January. The quarterly...

Page 8

Meeting on COVID-19 Vaccine communication with Local Administration

The meeting on COVID-19 vaccine information management system was scheduled...

Round one of TOPV NID

In 2021, four years after the global switch to bOPV, the world is observing an increase...

FEDERAL

Training of EPI Management Information System

An online training on EPI Management Information System for COVID-19 vaccine was organized in Islamabad on January 4th, 2021. The training was intended to orient the participants on immunization supply chain management for COVID 19 vaccine and to effectively use the national immunization management system. During the training the training plan were also shared for the cascade trainings. Dr. Soofia Yunus, Deputy National Program Manager, gave the detailed orientation session on management information system. The participants included the doctors, medical assistants, LHVs, Nurses, paramedics and vaccinations across the Pakistan.



Dr. Soofia Yunus is interacting with participants during the training session

TPVIC (Third Party Verification of Immunization Coverage) Preliminary Results

A meeting on the preliminary finding of TPVIC was held at the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI). The representatives of The Aga Khan University (AKU) presented the preliminary findings. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Soofia Yunus, Deputy National Program Manager, and Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI). The preliminary finding portrayed a mixed picture of different provinces that includes the immunization coverage of Sindh, Punjab, ICT, AJK and GB. The KP and Balochistan findings are still in process. The AKU representative shared as they will present the finding of other two provinces in next meeting. According to the preliminary findings the immunization coverage of 12-23 months old children in Punjab is 90.9 percent and in Sindh is 80.7 percent and in AJK is 93.9, GB is 73.2 and ICT immunization coverage is 68.7 percent. Among the all other provinces the Punjab is leading in the immunization due to the improved infrastructure and enhanced accountability mechanisms. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of Unicef and WHO.



The representatives of Agha Khan University are sharing the preliminary results of TPVIC

ACSM Committee Meeting on TCV

The sub-committee meeting was organized at Federal EPI to discuss the action plan of TCV catch-up campaign in detail. The representative from the partner organizations (CHIP, Hashoo Foundation, PHC Global, Unicef and WHO) along with the representative of EPI and Polio communication team participated

in the meeting. All the aspects related to the planning, operational and administrative areas were discussed. It was decided that civil society organizations ensure unified approach while contacting the relevant department of the government and completely comply with the COVID-19 SOPs before and during the campaign. It was also discussed that the Federal EPI will coordinate with Punjab EPI to discuss the feasibility of helpline utilization for TCV campaign. In the end, it was decided that the representatives of CSO's will incorporate all the changes in the action plan and share back with the committee members for finalization.



The representative of Hashoo Foundation is sharing the updates of action plan

Review of training manual for Vaccinators

A four day workshop was conducted to review the training manual of vaccinators at the Federal EPI. Participants included the representative of EPI, Unicef and WHO. Dr. Soofia Yunus, Deputy National Program Manager, chaired the meeting and shared the update on the training manual. Dr. Mazhar Quershhi presented the manuals of the vaccinators. The participants thoroughly reviewed the training manuals and suggested changes by keeping in mind the policy level implications.



Dr. Mazhar Quershhi is presenting the Training Manual for vaccinator at Federal EPI

Meeting with NDMA and Save the Children

A meeting of Federal EPI was held with Save the Children, facilitated by the focal point of NDMA. From the EPI, Dr. Soofia Yunus, Dr. Zaeem ul Haq and Zartasha Niazi participated in the meeting. The meeting explored the possible collaboration with Federal EPI on the COVID-19 communications. Dr. Soofia Yunus, Deputy National Program Manager mentioned the requirement of communication material to sensitize population at large for awareness on COVID-19 vaccine at around 582 vaccination point in the country. In the end it was agreed that Save the Children will finalize the partnership modalities with NDMA and Federal EPI for the future course of actions with regard to COVID vaccine communications.



Dr. Soofia Yunus is briefing the NDMA and SAVE the Children about the communication requirement for COVID -19 vaccine

ICT

Training of Trainers on Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine Campaign

A training of trainers was organized to better prepare the health officials for the catch-up campaign of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine. The training session was facilitated by the different zonal officers and attended by different participant including the social mobilisers, skilled persons and the team assistants.



ToT on Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine

Meeting on PEI Issues

A meeting was scheduled to discuss PEI Issues of Islamabad, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, ADHO, briefed the participants about issues of Polio SIA. The participants jointly discussed the different challenges and jotted down the possible solution and future strategies to tackle such hurdles appropriately in future.



The meeting is in progress

Meeting on the preparation of TCV catch-up campaign

The meeting was scheduled to discuss in details the preparation of the ACSM activities. The meeting was very well attended by the representatives of District Health office, World Health Organization and Hashoo Foundation. All the preparation was discussed in detail and the solution were suggested for different challenges.



The meeting is in progress

CDA

Meeting on the Preparation of TCV Campaign

The Director General Health Services, CDA Dr. Hassan Urooj met with the first level supervisors to discuss the preparation of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine catch-up campaign on January 2021. During the meeting the participants discussed the challenges and highlighted all the preparatory measures for the catch-up campaign at different levels.



Dr. Hassan Urooj is talking to the participants and taking the updates on preparations

Cascade Training of Focal person on Vaccine Management Information System Management

A detailed training for the focal persons was organized to train the participants on the COVID-19 vaccine management information system. The training was facilitated by Dr. Sara Aslam and Muhammad Kamran. The training material includes the discussion on the vaccine feature, supply chain management and key features of the management information system.



The training is in progress

Review Meeting of NID

The review meeting of NID has been scheduled in the month of January. During the meeting the team shared the detail result of LQAS. The Director General Health Services CDA ensured a strict action against poor performers. The Director General Health Services directed all participants to review their blocks and share back the report with all the possible measures taken to improve the performance.



The meeting is in progress



PUNJAB

Preparatory Meeting on TCV catch-up Campaign by Minister Health

Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Minister for Primary & Secondary Healthcare/Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education and Chief Secretary Punjab participated in a meeting to highlight the significance of TCV catch-up campaign and directed the Commissioners and DCs of 12 Districts of Punjab to take active part in the launch of TCV campaign. The meeting was intended to sensitize all the senior officers at the district level to contribute enthusiastically for the successful launch of campaign. Capt. (R) Muhammad Usman, Secretary PSHD, briefed the participants about the preparations and gave an overview of action plan of TCV campaign. The meeting was well attended by the representatives of other line department including the personnel of healthcare department, school education department, Awaqaf and the representatives of social welfare.



Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Minister for Primary & Secondary Healthcare/Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education along with Chief Secretary Punjab is addressing with participants

Advocacy Seminar on Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) for Education Department

The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department with the support of Unicef organized an advocacy seminar with School Education Department, Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education and Private School Association on January 25th, 2021 in Lahore. The participants included the Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Minister for Primary & Secondary Healthcare/Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education, Mr. Murad Rass, Minister for School Education, President Private School Association and Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare Capt.(R) Muhammad Usman Younis, Director General Health Services, Dr. Haroon Jahangir, and Director EPI, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Siddiqui also attended the session. During the seminar the Minister Health and Minister Education completely assured maximum support from their departments for successful launch and rollout of the typhoid vaccine.



Advocacy seminar on TCV for Education Department

Advocacy Seminar on Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) for Professional Medical Associations (PMA, PPA and AFPP)

The seminar with PPA, PMA and AFPP was organized on January 29th, 2021 by EPI Punjab with the support of Unicef to better sensitize parents and caregivers on TCV campaign. Secretary PSHD Capt. (R) Muhammad Usman, Director General Health Services, Dr. Haroon Jahangir, President PPA Punjab, President AFPP, General Secretary PMA, member from UNICEF, WHO, BMGF and GPs from private sector participated in the discussion.

All the stakeholders committed to work jointly for successful implementation of TCV catch-up campaign and to raise awareness in community to ensure the immunization of every single child.



Advocacy seminar for professional medical associations

Advocacy Seminar on Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) for Media

The Expanded Program on Immunization with support of UNICEF scheduled advocacy seminar for media in four largest cities including Faisalabad, Multan, Gujranwala and Islamabad. The activity was intended to provide orientation to health beat reporters and journalists on TCV catch-up campaign. The seminar was well attended by many dignitaries including Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Secretary Health and Population Welfare South Punjab, Director General Health Services, Director EPI, and the Deputy Commissioners of the concerned districts. During the seminar the Additional Secretary Technical and Director EPI briefed the participants about the Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine action plan.



Advocacy seminar on Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine

Launch of TCV campaign by Chief Minister Punjab

The TCV catch-up campaign was launched by Sardar Usman Buzdar, Chief Minister Punjab on January 27th, 2021. The launch of the Typhoid Conjugate vaccine catch-up campaign was organized by Unicef Pakistan. During the launch the Chief Minister Punjab appreciated the role of UNICEF, WHO, BMGF and Gavi for providing the vaccine and technical support for the campaign. The Chief Minister Punjab also appreciated the efforts of health department and EPI Punjab for the preparation and the smooth execution. The launch was well attended by the Ministers of Health and Education, along with the representatives of WHO and Unicef.



Sardar Usman Buzdar, Chief Minister Punjab is addressing to the launch ceremony

SINDH

Monitoring of EPI Outreach and Communication Activities

During the month of January, the EPI Sindh team has been engaged in the monitoring of immunization activities in different districts and UCs. During the monitoring the high risk UCs were the prime focus. The partner organizations provide complete support in monitoring the various activities that include micro-planning, outreach plans, list of zero dose, defaulters, communication activities and monitoring by district and town.



Monitoring activities are in progress

Awareness Session at Ziauddin Hospital, Karachi

EPI team organized one-day orientation session for doctors, paramedic and for the vaccination staff at Ziauddin Hospital Karachi. The participants from the Ziauddin campus joined the participatory sessions while complying the SOPs of COVID-19. The session covered the topics on basic Immunizations, vaccine safety, communication with caregivers/parents, IPC skills, community surveillance, of doctors, paramedic and vaccination staff. The session was conducted by the Dr. Shireen, MS of Ziauddin, Ms. Aneela, Dr. Greece Kumar Additional PD EPI, Dr. Tariq Masood from JSI, Mr. Suneel Raja, Communication Specialist among the others.



Awareness session at Ziauddin University

Virtual Training Session on Video Development by GAVI

The routine immunization services have been effected globally due to the COVID -19. In this regard a training was organized for the targeted audience on the communication tool to better communicate the effectiveness of vaccination. In the training it was discussed that the human interest plays a crucial to grab the people attention. The human interest stories can be communicated in the form of blogs, articles, social media posts etc. The workshop was attended by the 30 health workers (Polio, EPI, LHWs and LHS) to learn about the various tools to communicate the stories including the short videos etc.



An online training on capturing the human interest stories

Partnership with Seelani Welfare Trust – Outreach Vaccination Activities

EPI Sindh team met with senior management of Seelani Welfare Trust for future partnership to enhance the outreach vaccination activities in the area. During the meeting it was decided that Seelani team will schedule community awareness session on the significance of immunization specifically in those centers where people are visiting in large numbers. EPI team will nominate vaccinator for each center to conduct the community awareness sessions. Moreover, the Seelani Welfare team will engage vaccinator for mobile health camps in the different areas of the Karachi.



The meetings are in progress

EPI OUTREACH IN SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK

NEW LIKES:
1,536

REACH:
66,611

IMPRESSIONS:
107,565

TWITTER

JANUARY 2021 SUMMARY

Tweets	Tweet impressions
29	29.7K
Profile visits	Mentions
1,427	58
New followers	
85	

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Preparations to introduce COVID-19 Vaccine in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)

KP health department has started preparation to introduce coronavirus vaccine in the province. For proper execution and orientation, a number of coordination mechanisms have been developed at the provincial and district level. The health administration has identified 280 Adult Vaccination Counters (AVC) and registered more than 66,000 health workers for the vaccine. The province has conducted mock exercises and prepared the cold chain equipment for the vaccine storage.

Training on RED (Reaching Every District) and REC (Reaching Every Community)

A training on the strategy of RED and REC was organized by the provincial health department with the support of WHO in six batches and reached out to almost 110 participants. The Reaching Every District (RED)/Reaching Every Community (REC) strategy is used to improve the immunization in those areas where the coverage is very low. The strategy has five key aspects and includes improving the operational procedure, enhancing the supportive supervision, strengthening the monitoring and evaluation and improving the management of the resources. The RED/REC strategy aims to ensure equitable immunization coverage within communities by identifying the underserved populations. It also helps to understand the barriers related to the immunization access and to review the micro plan at the district and community level.



Group Photo of the participants

Integrated Health Services (ISD) in Peshawar

The integrated health services are going on in super high-risk union councils of Peshawar. The UNICEF mission led by Dr. Yasmine Challoub; monitored the ISD services in UC SMT 1 & HazarKhawani-2. A number of coordination meetings were scheduled for the delegation with senior provincial and district leadership. The meetings mainly focused on addressing the key challenges to strengthen the ISD approach and to reach the unreachable community. Moreover, an emphasis was given on building strong community networks by using the referral system. During the meeting the participants stressed to build strong community networks by using the referral system.



Dr. Yasmine Challoub along with other mission member is monitoring the ISD services

BALUCHISTAN

Quarterly EPI Review Meeting of all Districts

EPI Balochistan conducted four quarterly review meetings in the month of January. The quarterly review meetings provide an opportunity for districts to better address the challenges and find the possible solution for future course of action. During the meetings the district team review the performance of last quarter and discussed the updates of enhanced outreach activities.



The meeting is in progress.

Diversion of EPI Responsibilities to Deputy DHO

Routine Immunization is an important component of health department which require a dedicated manager that must be responsible for all the aspects of Routine immunization. District Health Officer who is mostly responsible of all health interventions at district level was not completely available for EPI. For the first time Government of Balochistan, Department of Health and Provincial EPI has diverted EPI program responsibilities to Deputy DHOs instead of DHOs in the Districts. DDHOs would be fully responsible for the coverage and implementation of EPI program in their respective districts. All the District EPI assets including DDO codes for the budgets are shifted to DDHOs responsible for the District level activities.

UPCOMING NEXT

LAUNCH OF TYPHOID CONJUGATE VACCINE

**1ST - 15TH
FEBRUARY**

IN THE SELECTED AREAS OF
PUNJAB & ISLAMABAD

GILGIT BALTISTAN

Meeting on COVID-19 Vaccine communication with Local Administration

The meeting on COVID-19 vaccine information management system was scheduled with district administration. A number of strategies were discussed to communicate with community about the vaccine at the different level. The meeting was well attended by the representatives of local administration.



Meeting on COVID 19 vaccine communication

Meeting on EPI Issues

The monthly meeting on EPI issues was organized on January 22, 2021. During the meeting the participant discussed in detail the different issues and explored the possible solutions jointly. The meeting was well attended by the representative of EPI.



Group photo of the participants

Meeting with Agha Khan Rural Support Program on Effective Immunization

A meeting with Agha Khan Rural Support Program was conducted on January 15, 2021. The meeting mainly focused on the effective immunization communication. During the meeting a number of strategies were discussed to improve the communication on immunization.



Meeting in progress as participants are discussing effective strategies

AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

Round one of TOPV NID

In 2021, four years after the global switch to bOPV, the world is observing an increase in CVDPV2 outbreaks in different parts of Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. TOPV is made available to Pakistan for CVDPV2 outbreak response in subnational areas where there is co-circulation or high risk of circulation of CVDPV2 or WPV. As an outbreak response tool, it ensures that children are protected from both wild and vaccine derived polio virus of all types. In this regard the TOPV NID round one campaign started in AJK. The campaign was launched in all districts by the respected District Health Officers. Dr. Bushra Shams, PPM, EPI AJK, launched the TOPV round one in district Jhelum along with Dr. Nouman Manzoor Butt, District Health Officer.



Group photo of the participants

Provincial Advisory Committee (COVID 19)

A meeting was organized at PPM EPI AJK office on January 12, 2021 for the formation of Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) in which 15 participants from different line departments participated. The meeting was intended to provide strategic guidance and policy inputs to AJK Government to respond the spread of pandemic (COVID19) and to facilitate heads of line departments to roll out mitigation and prevention, SOPs both at departmental and community level.



The meeting is in progress.

**Thank you
for
reading...**



**Expanded Program
on Immunization**
Government of Pakistan

