

NEWSLETTER

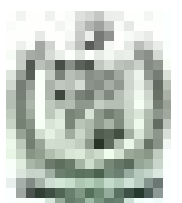
Vol: 2 | Issue No. 4 | April 2021



EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION

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

   @epipakistanofficial  epi.gov.pk



PATRON:

DR. RANA MUHAMMAD SAFDAR
DR. MUHAMMAD AKRAM SHAH

PROFOUND CONTRIBUTORS:

DR. SOHIAL RANA
Director Health Services, EPI-Punjab

DR. JUMAN BAHOUTU
Project Director, EPI-Sindh

DR. MUHAMMAD ARIF
Director, EPI-KP

DR. MUHAMMAD ISHAQUE PANEZAI
Project Coordinator, EPI-Balochistan

DR. BUSHRA SHAMS
Provincial Program Manager, EPI -AJK

DR. MUHAMMAD IQBAL
Provincial Program Manager, EPI-Gilgit

DR. ZAEEM ZIA
District Health Officer, ICT

DR. HASAN OROOJ
Director General Health Services, CDA-ISB

EDITORS:

DR. SOOFIA YUNUS
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

WRITTEN & COMPILED BY:

MR. ZAHID WASIF
MS. ZARTASHA NIAZI

DESIGN BY:

REHAN SALEEM

CONTENT LIST

Page 3

Celebration of World Immunization Week

The world Immunization week was commemorated in the last week of April by the Federal EPI...

Page 5

Postponement of TCV Campaign Phase II

EPI Punjab has postponed 2nd phase of TCV catch up campaign that has been scheduled...

Page 6

Celebration of World Immunization Week

The provincial office commemorated World Immunization Week very extensively by engaging the community...

Page 8

Joining of Dr Muhammad Arif as new Director EPI-KP

Dr. Muhammad Arif has joined as new Director EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has worked at senior...

Provincial ToT on Parenting Packages for SHRUCs of Balochistan

The Health Department, Government of Balochistan, organized two days provincial Training of...

Page 10

Vaccine Champions Award Ceremony

During the national launch of the World Immunization Week, a special ceremony organized to...

Progress Review Meeting

The meeting of the first quarter was held at Muzaffarabad, AJK on April 27th to 28th. It was chaired by...

FEDERAL

Celebration of World Immunization Week

The world Immunization week was commemorated in the last week of April by the Federal EPI in close coordination with Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination with the theme “Vaccines bring us closer”. The inauguration ceremony was scheduled on April 24th and it was chaired by the Dr. Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Health participated by Dr. Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala, WR of WHO, Ms. Aida Girma, Country Representative to Unicef, Rana Muhammad Safdar, Director General Health, Dr. Muhammad Akram Shah, National Programme Manager, Dr. Shahzad Asif Baig, NEOC Coordinator along with other official of government institutions, provincial EPI manager partner organizations and representatives of the CSO's.

During the ceremony, Dr. Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health underscored the significance of vaccination in Pakistan. He added, the world immunization week reminds all of us of our responsibility in taking action to bring the benefits of immunization to all. In this regard, he urged all parents to get their children vaccinated.

The Director General Health, Dr. Rana Muhammad Safdar said, Immunizing children with vaccines can avert childhood mortality in Pakistan and thus help contribute towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – 3, on reducing child morbidity and mortality. He added, diseases with higher transmissibility like measles and polio pose a much higher risk to hit back strongly. “Associated morbidity and mortality from these can further intensify the burden on our health system. In this regard, he urge parents to ensure essential immunization of their children. In the end all provinces & Federating areas awarded shields to front line workers who worked day & night to improve vaccination coverage Mr. Farooq from FGH received his shield for DGH.



Launch of World Immunization Week at Federal EPI

Webinar; as a Closing Ceremony of World Immunization Week

The closing ceremony was scheduled on April 30th by the Federal EPI on the last day of World Immunization Week. The webinar gathered all the provincial managers of EPI who shared the updates on the state of immunization from their respective provinces. During the virtual webinar session all the provincial managers shared the statistics of the immunization coverage of current and past years. They also shared different strategies that they are adopting

to improve the immunization coverage in their respective provinces. Lastly the updates related to the commemoration of World Immunization Week were shared that included different activities such as awareness walks, seminars, webinar session, live talk shows, dissemination of IEC material etc.

The webinar session was also attended by the representative of the partner's organization and the civil society organizations. A detailed question and answer session was conducted after the presentations of provincial managers. During the question answers session the participant also stressed to highlight the role of CSO in commemorating the WIW. The participants also appreciated the organizers for the successful and significant webinar session.



Virtual session on the closure of World Immunization Week

Consultative meeting on IPC Module

The meeting on the finalization of the interpersonal communication module was scheduled on April 3rd. The module has been compiled to improve the interpersonal communication skills of the vaccinators. The meeting was attended by National Programme Manager and technical experts of Federal EPI once approved. The IPC module will strengthen interpersonal communication skills of the vaccinators and equip them with a skill set to better communicate with caregivers and parents to improve immunization of the children.



Participants are attending the consultative meeting on IPC manual

Talk show on “Impact of Immunization on Child Health and overall Family Well-being”

A special talk show was scheduled on FM 97 to discuss in detail the impact of immunization on children and overall family well-being. The guest speakers included Dr. Kashif Hussain Deputy Director M&E Federal EPI and Dr. Maqbool Hussain (PIMS). The discussion revolved around the different aspects of routine immunization. It was discussed that the parents and caregivers should not

neglect routine immunization of their children. The Government of Pakistan is providing free of cost vaccines for the children aged between 0-15 months. It is obligatory for parents to children vaccinate their child in a timely manner.



Talk show impact of immunization at children and overall family well-being

Consultative meeting on World Immunization Week

A consultative meeting on the preparation of World Immunization Week was scheduled on April 15. The meeting was planned to discuss the preparation of World Immunization Week. The partner organizations including Unicef and WHO shared the action plan that included several activities for commemorating world immunization week at different level. It was also decided that a launching ceremony will be conducted at Federal level.

Progress Review Meeting of HSS-II

The progress review meeting related to the ACSM component was conducted on April 15th. The representative of Unicef shared completed updates of the ACSM component. It was decided that the activity reports of all components will be developed and submitted to Federal EPI on regular basis. The meeting was chaired by National Programme Manager and participated by EPI officials along with representatives of Unicef.



Progress review meeting of HSS-II

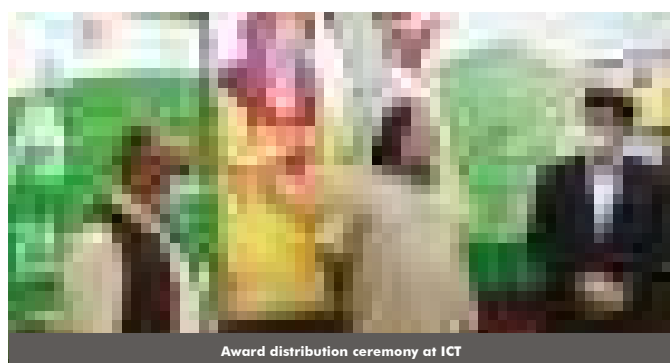
Introduction of IPV second dose in Routine Immunization

The landmark initiative has been taken by the Federal and Provincial EPI as by introducing the second dose of IPV into the routine immunization. This is biggest step to attain the objective of polio eradication strategy. The Federal EPI has directed all the provinces to include the second dose of IPV in routine immunization from April 1st. IPV was introduced in August 2015 and the switch from tOPV to bOPV also took place in 2016. The initial introduction of one dose of IPV provided an immunity base against poliovirus types 1, 2 and 3 (i.e. seroconversion and priming). The addition of a second dose of IPV will increase protection against all polioviruses.

ICT

Award distribution ceremony to commemorate World Immunization Week

A consultative meeting on the preparation of World Immunization Week was scheduled on April 15. The meeting was planned to discuss the preparation of World Immunization Week. The partner organizations including Unicef and WHO shared the action plan that included several activities for commemorating world immunization week at different level. It was also decided that a launching ceremony will be conducted at Federal level.

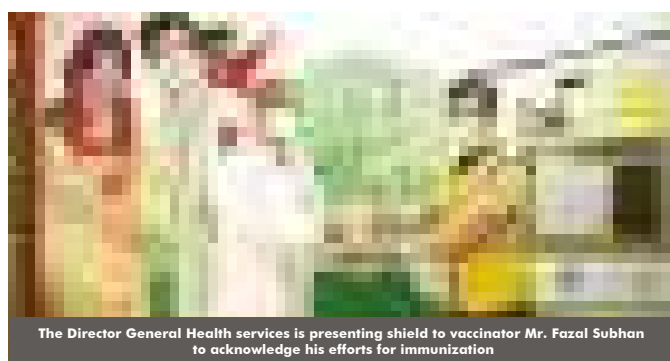


Award distribution ceremony at ICT

CDA

Award distribution ceremony to commemorate World Immunization Week

The award distribution ceremony was held at CDA to acknowledge the outstanding performance of the vaccinator. The ceremony held at CDA office where Director General Health Services, Dr. Hassan Orooj presented an award to Mr. Fazal -e-Subhan who has been serving Health Department for last 10 years. The award distribution ceremony was the main activity of the launching event of World Immunization Week. The whole purpose of the activity was to appreciate and acknowledge the efforts of the vaccinators who are working tirelessly to immunize the children at all levels.



The Director General Health services is presenting shield to vaccinator Mr. Fazal Subhan to acknowledge his efforts for immunization

PUNJAB

Postponement of TCV Campaign Phase II

EPI Punjab has postponed 2nd phase of TCV catch up campaign that has been scheduled earlier on May 18th due to the lockdown, closure of schools and engagement of district management in COVID-19 related activities. The new dates proposed for the campaign are June 14th -26th. The second phase of the campaign covers the remaining 24 districts of Punjab, by targeting 6.5 million children from 9 months to 15 years in urban UCs. In this regard, the TOTs at provincial and district level and microplanning at district level have already been conducted.

Introduction of TCV in Routine Immunization

Keeping in view the COVID-19 situation in the country, a well-planned virtual session was conducted on April 3rd on the "Introduction of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) in Routine Immunization" for the orientation of DHMTs, EPI Supervisors and partners as master trainer. Later on, the master trainers conducted trickle down training of all the vaccination staff (Vaccinators, LHVs) and EPI Supervisors in small batches under standard COVID-19 precautionary measure, using TCV RI Module and imparting practical training on introduction of new vaccine, its administration, cold chain, logistics, recording and reporting.

VPD & AEFI Surveillance Review

The VPD & AEFI Surveillance review meeting was conducted on April 22nd via Zoom where all important aspects including update on measles case based surveillance indicators, measles outbreak & ORI, measles risk assessment, MRI & Lab confirmed measles cases vaccination status verification, MR Campaign November 2021, VPDs & AEFI classification based on standard VPD surveillance guidelines, VPD surveillance & response system and new credentials system, casualty assessment forms, DDSRUs & role of DSCs, AEFI & COVID-19 Vaccination, CBS, and weekly VPD Surveillance Reports & DLI-5 were discussed in detail. The session was attended by DHO-PS, DSCs, DSVs, EPI FPs, Partners (EPI & PEI) and PITB staff.

Training of Frontline Workers for TCV Catch-up Campaign Phase-2

The 2nd phase of TCV Catch-up campaign is planned from June 14th -26th in the remaining 24 districts of Punjab. In this regard, several capacity building sessions were conducted for the frontline workers (Skilled, Team Assistants and Social Mobilizers). The frontline workers were trained in small batches under strict COVID-19 precautionary measures at the district, tehsil, and UC level. These sessions were facilitated by 1st and 2nd level supervisors and monitored by EPI and WHO Divisional EPI Officers using KoboCollect.



Training of frontline workers on TCV

Immunization Champion Award Distribution Ceremony

To acknowledge the contribution of the vaccinators, the immunization champion award distribution ceremony held across Pakistan. The EPI Punjab has also organized immunization champion award distribution ceremony to fully acknowledge the efforts and contribution of the vaccinators. Director EPI, Dr. Bashir Ahmed, WHO team lead Punjab Dr. Jamshaid Ahmed, Consultant UNICEF Dr. Sajid Ali Tirmazi and Osama Mehmood, Dr. Naeem Majeed, TFP EPI, Dr. Numan Khan, Dr. Imran Qureshi, Mr. Sajjad Hafeez from WHO participated in the ceremony.

Dr. Bashir Ahmed awarded shields to best performing health workers that includes Dr. Mudassar Saeed MO EPI, CEO DG Khan Dr. Muhammad Khalil Ahmed, Dr. Sofia Bilal DHO Gujranwala, Dr. Syed Ali Mehdi DHO Mutan, Dr. Ehsan Ghani DHO Rawalpindi, Mr. Abaid Data Manager EPI, Ms. Rafia Naheed EPI focal person MB Din, Khalil Ahmed DSV RY Khan, Ch. Khawar Nadeem ASV Gujrat, Muhammad Altaf ASV Rajanpur, Muhammad Irfan Vaccinator Kasur, Irfan Shamser Vaccinator Sargodha, Tariq Mehmood Vaccinator Bahawalpur and Tahir Butt Vaccinator Lahore.



Glimpses of World Immunization Week 2021

EPI Punjab celebrated World Immunization Week in close coordination with federal EPI and development partners by focusing on this year theme "Vaccines bring us closer". A number of the activities were scheduled in Punjab from April 24th -30th.

Director EPI Punjab, Dr. Bashir Ahmed inaugurated the WIW with awareness walk at provincial EPI Cell. More than 150 awareness Walks, 40 webinars and seminars, 7,054 community sessions in all tehsils and districts of Punjab were held during this week. Similarly, 43,000 LHVs, 4,500 vaccinators, CSOs and NGOs were engaged to mobilize the community. A robust social media campaign was launched at the provincial level. The digital, print and electronic media was fully engaged to disseminate the awareness message. The private sector in collaboration with EPI Punjab also conducted webinars and awareness activities to celebrate this week.

PUNJAB



Awareness activities to commemorate WIW 2021 in 36 districts of Punjab



Community awareness session on World Immunization Week

Immunization Coverage: challenges and way forward

The EPI Punjab has organized a webinar on eve of World Immunization Week 2021 with a title "Immunization Coverage: challenges and way forward" on April 29th. The Director EPI Punjab has chaired the webinar and appreciated the contribution of all districts in commemorating the World Immunization Week. The President Pakistan Pediatric Association Dr. Idrees Mazher, Prof. Dr. Haroon Hamid, Dr. Tahir Manzoor Health specialist UNICEF, Dr. Qurrat ul ain Immunization Officer UNICEF, Dr. Numan Khan, Technical officer WHO, Dr. Imran Qureshi WHO, Consultants, from UNICEF and WHO, CEOs and DHOs from all districts, and field staff participated in this webinar. The discussion focused on the different strategies to improve the immunization coverage across province.

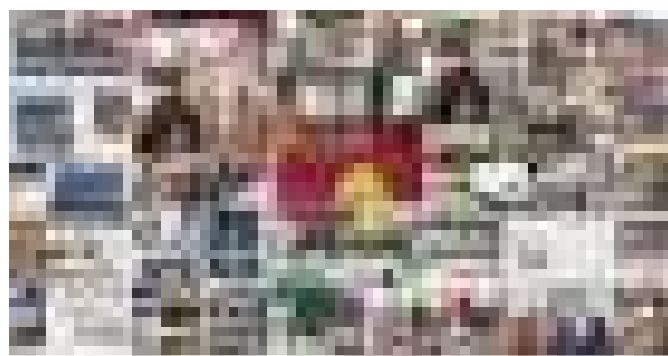
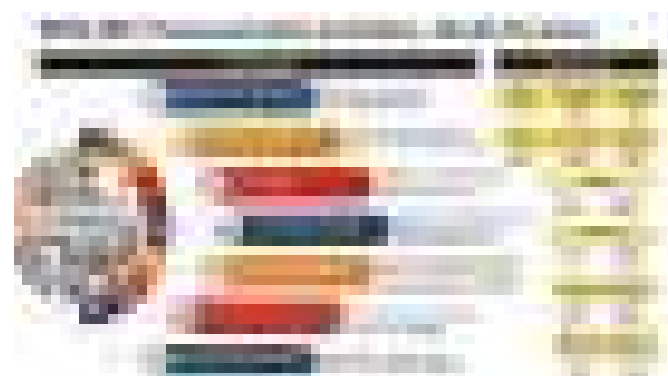


Webinar on the eve of World Immunization Week

SINDH

Celebration of World Immunization Week

The provincial office commemorated World Immunization Week very extensively by engaging the community at all levels. The activities included massive campaign on social, electronic and print along with sessions at the university levels. Furthermore a number of walks and several awareness session were organized to better educate the community on the significance of the week and the immunization. The activities were mainly led by Honorable Minister Health Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Secretary Health Dr. Kazim Jaoti, Director General Health Dr. Irshad Ahmed Memon, EOC Coordinator Mr. Fayaz Hussain Abbasi and PD EPI Dr Muhammad Juman Bahoto. A detailed infographic of the several activities is given below.



Training on the effective use of the Sindh Sehat Analytics Platform

The provincial office has organized a full day training for their staff on April 12th on the Advanced Query Tooling of the Zenysis Platform. The purpose of this capacity building initiative was to train users to effectively navigate through multiple complex datasets on a single platform. The unique functionality of data interoperability and cross programmatic analysis is only offered by the Sindh Sehat Analytics Platform (SSAP) powered by Zenysis Technologies.

Zenysis Technologies has, till date, integrated 22 unique data systems across the Polio, EPI and COVID-19 programs. This provides the SSAP's users a variety of analytical options - including maps, bar charts, epi-curves - through the 'Advanced Query Tooling' feature. The AQT function enables users to high-powered visualizations by selecting one or more indicators from the data systems to analyse for monitoring, surveillance or decision making

SINDH

purposes.

During the training session, users were also introduced to the official dashboards on the SSAP which have been developed by the Zenysis team and offer the most accurate and granular level picture of the on-ground situation. The participants were also trained on creating their user-specific dashboards for monitoring and surveillance purposes. This offers users the ability to 'mix and match' datasets as per the user's requirements.

The presence of a diverse participant mix - including the VPD Surveillance Team, Urban Immunization Focal Persons and Data Managers provided an opportunity to create multiple different queries assessing the pre-existing immunization challenges in Sindh.

The training was also attended by the EPI Sindh leadership which affirmed the need for additional capacity building sessions and for inter-agency synergy to ensure the best immunization outcomes for Sindh.



Training on the effective use of Sindh Sehat Analytics

Improving coverage of defaulters in Sindh

EPI Sindh along with its partners Acasus and IRD (Zindagi Mehfooz) has begun the monitoring of union council (UC) coverage of defaulter children in October 2020. This was one of the ground breaking intervention and its serve as a vital step in improving the status of routine immunization in Sindh. According to the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS 2018), only 49% of children in Sindh are fully immunized, and 4% have received no vaccines at all. This means that most children have been contacted by a vaccinator at least once during their first two years of life. Through defaulter tracking EPI Sindh aims to ensure that any child which has received any dose of vaccine by a vaccinator completes his or her routine immunization schedule. Through this sophisticated mechanism, defaulters are tracked from the data entered on Zindagi Mehfooz (ZM) by vaccinators across Sindh. Acasus analyzes this data to divide union councils in one of four categories:

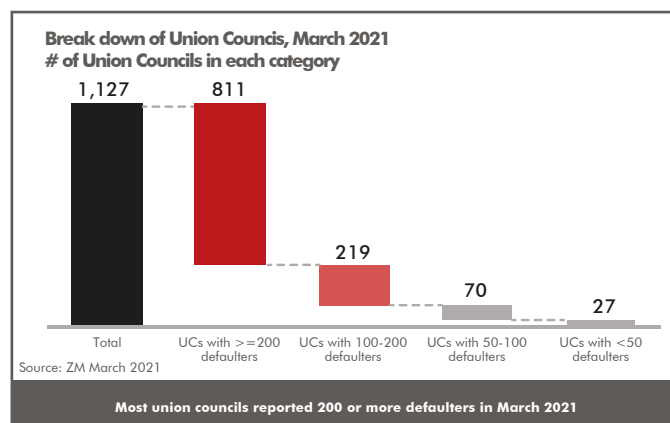
1. UCs with <50 defaulters,
2. UCs with 50 - 100 defaulters,
3. UCs with 100 - 200 defaulters and
4. UCs with >=200 defaulters

Based on this categorization, EPI shares this information with DHOs to identify low performing and high performing UCs. To further improve performance, district wise datapacks (exhibit 1) are shared with districts on a monthly basis. These district levels datapacks can be

utilized to:

- Identify UCs with a high number of defaulters
- Encourage DHOs to focus on UCs with high uncovered defaulters
- Improve performance management of vaccinators in low performing UCs

During March and April 2021, vaccinator strikes in districts across Sindh severely impacted vaccination activity. The data has revealed that more than 70% union councils had 200 or more defaulters (exhibit 2). However, now that the strikes have been discontinued and vaccinators are on field again, through this innovative system of tracking defaulters using granular data, districts will be able to identify and target union councils with high defaulters more effectively. In Quarter 2 this year, EPI Sindh will continue to regularly monitor performance and aim to ensure that DHOs use the shared data to improve defaulter coverage in low performing UCs.



Kambar District

Defaulters on ZM UC Wise Performance

The table below gives a summary of UC wise performance on covering defaulters in the last month. Districts are now required to ensure that vaccinator covers all defaulters in the next month. Any discrepancies in data should be reported to: noor.fatima@acasus

Total UCs with defaulters in the district 40
Defaulters

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 1. # of UCs with >=200 defaulters | 6 |
| 2. # of UCs with 100-200 defaulters | 27 |
| 3. # of UCs with 50-100 defaulters | 5 |
| 4. # of UCs with <50 defaulters | 2 |

UCs with greater than 200 defaulters

The table below shows the UCs which have greater than or equal to 200 defaulters in the past month. These are low performing UCs.

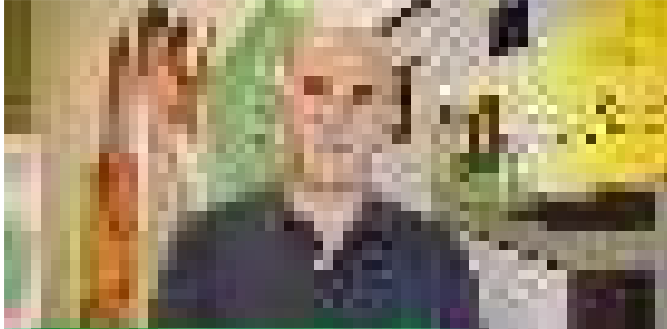
UC Name	# of defaulters
Mirokhan	249
Karira	243
Bahram	212
Qambae-3	203
Shahdadkot-2	202
Qambar-1	200



KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Joining of Dr Muhammad Arif as new Director EPI-KP

Dr. Muhammad Arif has joined as new Director EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has worked at senior managerial positions in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. His experience will be extremely valuable in achieving the goals for essential immunization in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Dr. Muhammad Arif, Director EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Commemoration of World Immunization Week (WIW)

World Immunization Week-celebrated every year in the last week of April with an aim to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. The provincial office of EPI commemorated the WIW by strictly following the SOPs of COVID-19. The department organized various activities that included campaign on social media, community engagement sessions, awareness walk, press briefings, TV talk shows and the webinar was scheduled with the support of Pakistan Pediatric Association.



Awareness Campaigns were carried out in KP for the WIW

EPI-PEI Synergy Meetings

The coordination mechanism between EOC Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Provincial EPI has been revitalized. The joint coordination meetings have been started to develop the synergy of the both departments in an effective way. In April, a total of 4 meetings have been conducted in which different strategies have been discussed to ensure the enhanced immunization coverages in the province.



KP EPI-PEI Synergy Meeting in Progress

BALUCHISTAN

Provincial ToT on Parenting Packages for SHRUCs of Balochistan

The Health Department, Government of Balochistan, organized two days provincial Training of Trainers (ToT) on parenting packages in Quetta on April 9th to 10th. The main objective of the training was to provide the support to the health department to implement the integrated service delivery plan in 14 SHRUCs of Balochistan.

The training was attended by 40 participants. The participants were mainly from EPI Program, LHWs program, Provincial Nutrition Directorate, Polio Program and Planning & Development PPIU Government of Balochistan. The participants were fully equipped with the knowledge and principles of parenting packages. The participants were also provided with the training materials for its further utilization at different level.

The Director General Health Services (DGHS) Balochistan has highlighted the significance of the activity as it has provided the great opportunity to the government officials to enhance the knowledge on ISD plan. He added, there is a need to replicate such plan throughout the Balochistan other than SHRUCs. He has also distributed the certificates among the participants.



Participants performing role play during training while facilitators are observing them

Quarterly Provincial Review Meeting

The first quarterly provincial review meeting was scheduled on April 23rd and 24th. The meeting was chaired by Director General Health Services (DGHS) Balochistan and co- chaired by Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panazai, Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan.

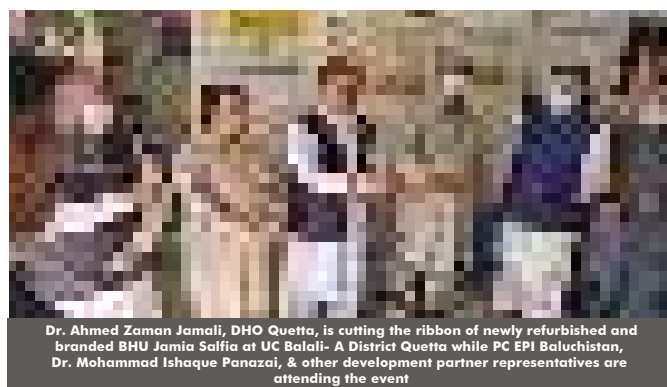
The District Health Officers and Deputy District Health Officers of all districts of Balochistan along with the representatives of EPI development partners have attended the meeting. The district representative have presented the progress of their respective districts.

The Provincial Coordinator, EPI Balochistan Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panazai also shared the provincial overview. The technical partners including the WHO and UNICEF have suggested some valuable points to further enhance the performance at the district level.

Dr. Ali Nasir Bugti, DGHS Balochistan underlined the significance of EPI programme in his closing remarks. He stressed that EPI is crucial vertical programme of the health department, because it's focusing on children's health and the children are the future of this nation. We shall not tolerate any negligence on our part related to immunization. He added, it is our duty to ensure that every child is fully immunized.



DGHS Balochistan, Dr. Ali Nasir Bugti, Chairing the 1st Quarter QRM EPI Balochistan and seating beside him, Dr. Muhammad Ishaque Panazai, PC EPI, Baluchistan, CFO UNICEF Baluchistan, Dr. Gerida Birkula, Dr. Auranzeb Kamal, Immunization Officer, UNICEF Baluchistan and National Technical Officer EPI, WHO, Dr. Rehmatullah Kakar



Dr. Ahmed Zaman Jamali, DHO Quetta, is cutting the ribbon of newly refurbished and branded BHU Jamia Salfia at UC Balali- A District Quetta while PC EPI Baluchistan, Dr. Mohammad Ishaque Panazai, & other development partner representatives are attending the event

EPI- MLM Training for Monitoring and Evaluation Staff

The EPI Balochistan has successfully conducted six days MLM training for M&E staff of Balochistan on April 26th- May 1st. The training facilitators imparted different sessions to build their capacity on vaccines & diseases, vaccination techniques, immunization safety, Cold Chain, RED/REC microplanning, monitoring, supportive supervision and effective communication skills etc. During the training session the technical support was provided by WHO, UNICEF and other partners.

The Provincial Coordinator EPI- Balochistan Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panizai has mentioned that all the M&E Officer will be evaluated against his/her pre-defined key performance indicators (KPIs) as directed by secretary health Government of Balochistan. . He further added that no negligence will be borne by the provincial authorities as it is matter of saving lives of children of under 5 years by providing them the routine vaccines on time. In the closing session the participants received certificates.



PC EPI Balochistan, Dr. Muhammad Ishaque Panazai, and Dr. Rehmatullah Kakar, NTO EPI WHO, are observing the training

Rebranding and refurbishment of EPI sites in Balochistan

The Provincial EPI Balochistan has refurbished and rebranded 17 health facilities in Balochistan to strengthen the routine Immunization. Opening ceremony of two newly refurbished and rebranded health facilities was held on the eve of World Immunization Week. The health facilities included the Basic Health Unit Jamia Salfia at UC Baleli A and EPI Site at FJGC Hospital of Quetta. On the occasion, Project Coordinator EPI Dr. Ishaque Panezai and DHO Quetta Dr. Ahmed Zaman Jamali were present.

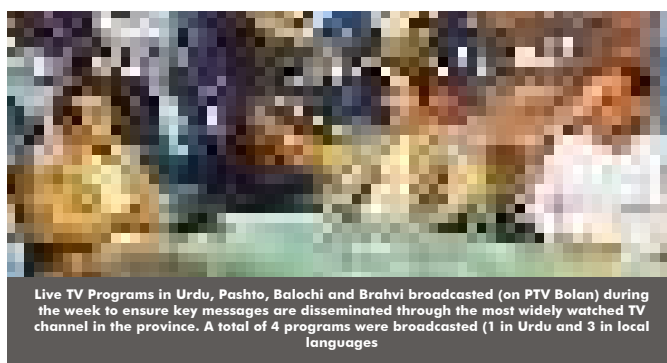
Highlights of World Immunization Week

The World Immunization Week (WIW) was commemorated across Pakistan. The National and Provincial EPI offices have celebrated the week in different ways. The Provincial EPI Program Balochistan marked the WIW by organizing numerous activities that included launching ceremonies, TV & radio talk shows, media briefings, distribution of IEC material, outreach sessions, awareness raising walks etc. The launching ceremony and press briefings were organized both at the provincial and district level. In media briefings, the health officials did not only highlighted the importance of vaccines but also emphasized on connived utilization of vaccines during COVID-19 pandemic.

The vaccinators' were also encouraged at different forums during WIW 2021. A grand ceremony was organized at Provincial EPI Head Quarters Quetta where Project Coordinator EPI Balochistan, Dr. Muhammad Ishaque Panezai awarded shields to vaccinators to acknowledge their contribution to EPI Programme.



Press Briefing Conducted by Dr. Ali Nasir Bugti, DGHS Balochistan, Dr. Muhammad Ishaque Panezai, PC EPI Balochistan and Dr. Auranzaib Kamal, Immunization Officer Balochistan, UNICEF at Quetta Press Club to mark the event



Live TV Programs in Urdu, Pashto, Balochi and Brahvi broadcasted (on PTV Bolan) during the week to ensure key messages are disseminated through the most widely watched TV channel in the province. A total of 4 programs were broadcasted (1 in Urdu and 3 in local languages)

GILGIT BALTISTAN

Vaccine Champions Award Ceremony

During the national launch of the World Immunization Week, a special ceremony organized to acknowledge the efforts of vaccinators by distributing the honorary shields to them. From Gilgit Baltistan, Mr. Mir Badshah was selected as vaccine champion for his outstanding performance. Mr. Mir Badshah received the shield from Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Director EPI, GB.



Dr. Muhammad Iqbal is presenting shield to outstanding vaccinators

Awareness walk to commemorate the World Immunization Week, 2021

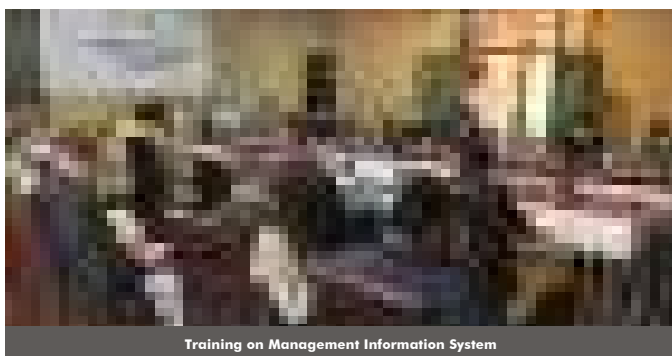
The EPI team of Gilgit Baltistan organized awareness walk to commemorate the World Immunization Week, 2021 in all the districts of GB. A significant number of the participants participated in the walk.



Awareness walk in GB to commemorate World Immunization Week

MIS training for DSVs and Data Managers

The EPI-GB organized the training on Management Information System (MIS) for the DSVs and data managers in Ghizer on April 28th- 30th. The workshop enhanced their knowledge to organize, manage, and analyze data on EPI ongoing operations.



Training on Management Information System

AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

Progress Review Meeting

The meeting of the first quarter was held at Muzaffarabad, AJK on April 27th to 28th. It was chaired by Director General Health, Dr. Aftab Hussain along with the Provincial Program Manager EPI, Dr. Bushra Shams. During the comprehensive review, the districts representatives shared their progress of first quarter and highlighted the key achievements and challenges in their respective districts. Different aspects of better coordination, record keeping and reporting, capacity of vaccination staff and prioritization of action areas were discussed at length. The data quality and management issues were also highlighted. The discussion mainly revolved around COVID-19 and its impact on routine immunization.



Progress Review Meeting of AJK

Inauguration of the mass vaccination center at AJK University

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider Khan, inaugurated the mass vaccination center of COVID-19 in city campus of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UJK) established by the provincial EPI. The vice chancellor of UJK Dr. Kaleem Abbasi, Director General Health- Dr. Aftab Hussain, Provincial Program Manager EPI-Dr. Bushra Shams, District Health Officer- Dr. Saeed Awan and other officials accompanied the Prime Minister in the ceremony. The center has been equipped with all the facilities including emergency unit, waiting area, registration and vaccination desk to facilitate the people for vaccination.



Inauguration of mass vaccination center

Commemoration of World Immunization Week

The launching ceremony of the World Immunization Week (WIW) was chaired by Minister Education, Barrister Ifikhar Gillani, Provincial Program Manager EPI, Dr. Bushra Shams and well participated by the district health officers of all the districts. The vaccinators including, LHWS, LHSs, and EPI participated during the launching ceremony. The untiring efforts of vaccinators were very well acknowledged as they were presented with the shields during the launch of WIW.

Civil Society Organizations Contribution in Commemorating World Immunization Week

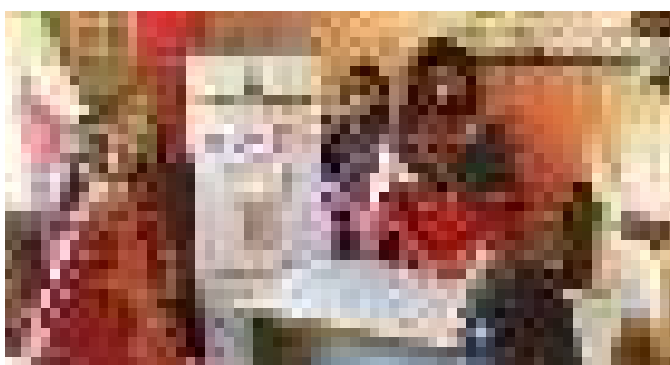
Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme (CHIP)

Celebrated World Immunization Week 2021 in its intervention areas with its field teams and partners organizations in Karachi, Quetta, Lakki Marwat, Bannu, Peshawar, Layyah, Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Chip has arranged 30 mother's sessions, mobile miking in 1,436 houses, 7 information desks, 12 seminars and rallies, 7 baby shows, 24 vaccination camps.



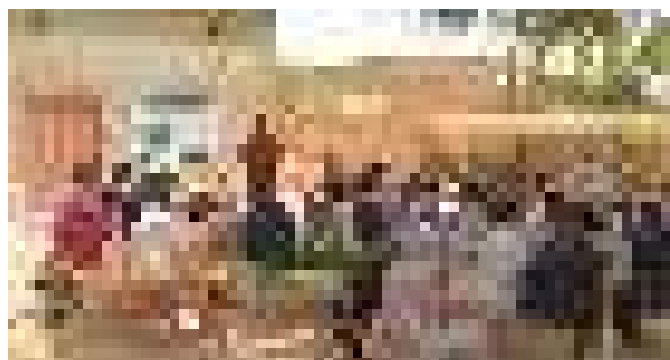
Health, Education & Literacy Programme (HELP)

Celebrated World Immunization Week 2021 in local communities from Khuda ki Basti (District: Karachi-West), Neelum Colony (District: Karachi-South) and Pipri (District: Malir, Karachi) with immense enthusiasm. Many interactive sessions were organized in peri-urban squatter settlements of Karachi, with mothers, fathers & household care takers of children, to increase awareness and demand for vaccination.



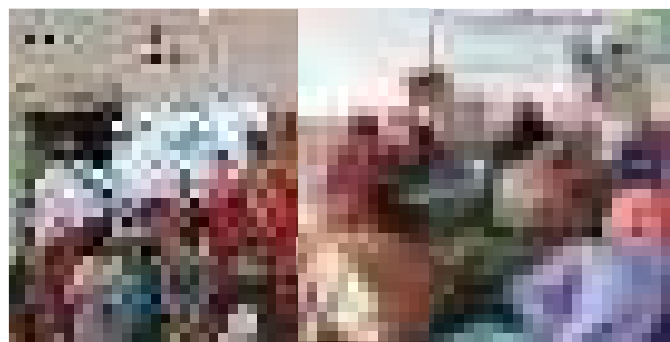
Rural Education & Economic Development Society (REEDS)

Organized interactive health and immunization sessions separately for male and female farmers, arranged quiz competition among adolescent girls and advocacy meetings with local influencers and religious leaders in 69 villages from Ghotki (Sindh) and Rahim Yar Khan (Punjab). REEDS reached to 11,636 parents, adolescent girls and religious leaders. 430 children were supported for vaccination during the immunization campaign.



Association for Gender Awareness and Human Empowerment (AGAHE)

celebrated World Immunization Week 2021 in various communities in Lahore. Total 171 participants were reached through awareness seminars in which importance of completing the vaccination course was discussed.





**Expanded Program
on Immunization**
Government of Pakistan

