

# NEWSLETTER

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## EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION

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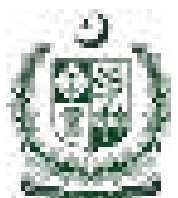
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## THIS ISSUE INCLUDES UPDATES FROM:

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- PUNJAB EPI
- SINDH EPI
- KP EPI
- BALOCHISTAN EPI
- AJ&K EPI
- GB EPI
- CDA EPI
- ICT EPI

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## FEDERAL

### Ceremony to receive Three Million doses of Moderna Vaccine

The ceremony to receive COVID-19 Moderna vaccine was held at Islamabad on July 29th. The United States donated 3 million doses of Moderna vaccine to Government of Pakistan. These vaccines were delivered in partnership with the COVAX facility and UNICEF. The special ceremony was organized by Federal Expanded Programme on Immunization and USAID. It was graced by Honorable Dr. Faisal Sultan Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health along with Ms. Angela Aggeler, Chargé d'affaires US Embassy. The ceremony was also attended by the DG Health and Technical leads of Federal EPI and PEI.



SAPM received the donation of Moderna Vaccine

During the ceremony, Dr. Faisal Sultan mentioned, "The valuable addition of 3 million doses of Moderna vaccine will contribute significantly in supporting us to vaccinate eligible population in Pakistan. He further added, "we are quite hopeful by the end of this year we shall be able to vaccinate 70 % of the target population. At the occasion, U.S. Embassy Chargé d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler said, "The arrival of these three million doses is in addition to the 2.5 million doses the United States donated earlier this month to the people of Pakistan. These vaccines, which come from our own domestic vaccine supply, are a clear demonstration of President Biden's promise – and our promises kept – to stand with the people of Pakistan in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic."

### Results Dissemination of Third Party Verification Immunization Coverage Survey (TPVICS)

The dissemination seminar on Third Party Verification Immunization Coverage Survey was organized on July 15, 2021. The TPVICS survey was conducted by the researchers from AKU in partnership with the World Health Organization, BMGF and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The survey was funded by the World Bank and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The survey has highlighted regional disparities in immunization with the following coverage levels: Punjab 89.9%, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 88.8%, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 68.4%, Sindh 61.1%, and Balochistan 37.6%. The survey provides a picture of progress reported by the provincial EPI against Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI 1.3 and 8) under the National Immunization Support Project (NISIP).

The dissemination event was graced by Dr. Faisal Sultan,

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health. During the occasion, Dr. Faisal Sultan expressed satisfaction over the survey findings and appreciated the EPI team and partners for completing it in record time. He further mentioned, "These findings will help in future planning to overcome existing gaps". The SAPM also appreciated the role of frontline workers who reached out to children in hard-to-reach areas in challenging weather conditions.



SAPM is applauding the survey findings during the seminar

### Training of Trainers on EPI Module

The National training of trainers was held on the newly developed EPI module from 7th to 17th July. The training was organized at Health Service Academy with the support of Federal EPI and UNICEF. The vaccinators from the AJK, GB, Punjab, ICT and CDA participated in the training and equipped with latest tools and resources. The last three days of the training were dedicated to Inter-Personal Communications where they learnt different techniques to better communicate with parents and caregivers. During the training a complete toolkit was also provided to the participants for future learning.



NPM is interacting with the participants during the training workshop

### Training of Trainers on Interpersonal Communication

The TOT on interpersonal communication skills based on global IPC toolkit was organized for the vaccinators of Islamabad, GB and AJK on July 13 to 15. The trainers participated in three days training workshop and strengthen their interpersonal communication skills to better interact with caregiver and parents. The trainers also learnt on new techniques of community engagement. The training was facilitated by ECI and organized by UNICEF.



The training is in process

## MR Catch-up Campaign - Training of Trainers on Microplanning

The Training of trainer on Microplanning of MR catch-up campaign was organized on July 7. The master trainers from all the provinces participated in the workshop. The training of master trainers is a key to develop quality micro plans required for a successful campaign. The training was organized to enhance the capacity of the master trainers. The master trainers further facilitate cascade micro-planning trainings at the provincial, district and UC levels. The training workshop covered the following areas that includes human resource, logistics forecast, vaccine cold chain assessment & requirements, AEFI Case Reporting and Management and Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM) plan.

## Measles Outbreak Response

The Measles Outbreak response campaign was held in different provinces that included Balochistan, Sindh, Islamabad, KP, GB and Punjab on July 5 to 10. In Sindh, the measles outbreak response campaign was started on July 5 and ended on July 17. The monitors from the Federal EPI monitored the campaign site in different provinces. The monitors were trained on the monitoring tools and they monitored fixed and outreach sites and submitted their findings to district, provincial and federal offices.



Vaccinator is vaccinating child during the measles outbreak response

## EPI / PEI Synergy Working Group Meeting

The EPI/PEI synergy working group meeting was held on July 27. The meeting was chaired by Deputy National Programme Manager, Federal EPI. During the meeting a detailed plan related to the "National EPI/PEI Synergy Framework Consultative Workshop" was discussed. The main objective of organizing the National EPI/PEI Synergy

Framework Consultative workshop was to cascade the Federal Level EPI/ PEI synergy best practices reflections at Provincial, District and UC Levels.



The meeting is in progress



Dr. Soofia is sharing the valuable inputs during the meeting

## ICT

### Measles Outbreak Response

The ICT team actively responded to the measles outbreak throughout the month. A maximum number of the children vaccinated against the measles. During the outbreak response, Dr. Zulfiqar and his team monitored the vaccination sessions both at fix and outreach sites and provided the feedback on site for further improvement.

### MR Catch-up Campaign - Training of Trainers on Microplanning

The ICT team participated in two day training workshop for master trainers on Microplanning workplan for upcoming measles rubella catch-up campaign. The training was organized by Federal EPI to enhance the capacity of the master trainers. The master trainers will further facilitate cascade micro-planning trainings at the UC levels. The training workshop covered the following areas that includes human resource, logistics forecast, vaccine cold chain assessment & requirements, AEFI Case Reporting and Management and Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM).

## CDA

### Measles Outbreak Response

The CDA team actively responded to the measles outbreak throughout the month. A maximum number of the children vaccinated during the outbreak response.

## PUNJAB

### EPI Steering Committee Meeting

The EPI Punjab organized the EPI Steering Committee meeting on July 19th. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Rana Suhail, Director Headquarters and participated by Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed (Director Health Services EPI), Dr. Omar (Deputy Secretary Vertical Programs (P&SH Department)), Dr. Shakeela Zaman (UHS), Dr. Junaid (Children Hospital), Dr. Pervaiz (CEO Lahore) Dr. Bashir Ahmed (DSC Lahore), Dr. Mudassar (MO EPI), along with the technical leads of WHO and Unicef. The forum reviewed surveillance data of vaccine preventable diseases, prepared responses and provided technical insight into the strategies to control diseases outbreaks and epidemics. The forum also discussed the approaches to improve the progress and performance of EPI Punjab. During the meeting WHO representative shared that Measles case response was conducted from 5th to 10th July 2021 in 44 UCs of the province Rawalpindi (35 UCs) and Lahore (9 UCs). He mentioned that a total of 269,784 children were vaccinated from a target of 284,260 children achieving 95% coverage.

### MR Catch-up Campaign - Training of Trainers on Microplanning

The first micro-planning workshop on the preparation of Measles Rubella catch-up campaign was held on July 26th. The workshop was organized for the following districts that includes Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Layyah, DG Khan, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar. The second microplanning TOT was organized on July 29 at Faisalabad. The workshop included the representatives from the following districts: Multan, Vehari, Khanewal, Lodhran, Attock, Rawalpindi, Chakwal and Jehlum. The third microplanning TOT was conducted on July 31 that included the representatives from Faisalabad, Jhang, TT Singh Chiniot, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib and Kasur.

The training were conducted for the technical staff on cascade training plans, human resource, logistics forecast, vaccine cold chain assessment and requirements, AEFI Case Reporting, Management and Investigation & line-listing. During the workshops, Director Health Services EPI Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said, "for successful implementation of a campaign of this scale, it is extremely important to impart quality training. He further mentioned that microplanning is backbone of MR campaign and the

focus on microplanning with a bottom up approach enables to improved MR campaign operational planning.



Micro-planning TOT workshop on Measles Rubella Catch-up Campaign



Group photo of the participants

### Pakistan Pediatric Association Coordination Session on MR Catch-up Campaign

The EPI Punjab in collaboration with Pakistan Pediatric Association organized a session on MR catch-up campaign. The session was attended by Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, DHS-EPI Punjab, Lead Pediatricians and stakeholders of PPA lead by Dr. Idris Mazhar, President PPA, Dr. Imran Qureshi, Technical Officer EPI WHO Punjab, Dr. Naeem Majeed, Technical Focal Person BMGF, Mr. Osama Mahmood, Com-UNICEF, EPI staff. The discussion revolved around the preparation of MR campaign and the current outbreak of measles in Punjab. During the meeting a roadmap of the MR campaign was presented after which the PPA assured full support for the MR campaign.



Group photo of the participants



Micro-planning TOT workshop on Measles Rubella Catch-up Campaign



# SINDH

## Introduction of EPI Rehnuma Application

The EPI Rehnuma application is making easier for vaccinators to access information and enhance their knowledge. The application was introduced to vaccinators in an orientation session. The feedback being received from vaccinators during the orientation sessions for the application. According to the feedback the vaccinators are finding the app useful and applicable for their routine work.

A vaccinator from Naushero Feroze commented that “We really like the application because we had attended training long ago but this application has refreshed our knowledge.”

In Shaheed Benazirabad, a vaccinator said that “I have almost finished 50% of the game. It (the app) is really good initiative. Vaccinators who will utilize the opportunity properly will enjoy it and also gain lot of knowledge”.

Some vaccinators have also appreciated the app as they mentioned, this is a constructive way to use their free time and also refresh the basic concept.



## Improving coverage of defaulters

EPI Sindh along with its partners started monitoring union council (UC) wise coverage of defaulter children in October 2020. This groundbreaking intervention is the first of its kind in Pakistan and serves 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 children, and only 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. The defaulter tracking system aims to ensure that any child which has received any dose of vaccine by a vaccinator completes his or her routine immunization schedule.

This innovative system of tracking defaulters using granular data aims to help districts identify union councils with high defaulters more effectively. Through this sophisticated mechanism, defaulters are tracked from the data entered on Zindagi Mehfooz (ZM) by vaccinators across Sindh.

## Pregnant Women and Birth Registry

To eliminate zero-dose children and develop a coordinated immunization tracking mechanism that strengthens routine immunization, EPI Sindh with the support of IRD Global took the initiative and leveraged existing technologies: in particular, an electronic “Pregnant Women and Birth Registry” feature, has been rolled out at 15 birthing facilities serving 8 SHRUCs in Karachi, Sindh. The PW&BR enrolls all pregnant women attending the facilities for delivery, antenatal care, or vaccination appointments. It sends out SMS reminders for the next ANC visit to achieve better pregnancy outcomes.

The Registry registers and provides all newborn children with a digital EPI identity, connected to a centralized database, Sindh’s Electronic Immunization Registry - Zindagi Mehfooz (Safe Life). This also creates a link between the pregnant women and children’s data with the birthing facilities and catchment area vaccinators, resulting in a coordinated immunization tracking mechanism that helps in eliminating zero-dose children and strengthens routine childhood immunization programme in the long term.

PW&BR has registered 20,000+ pregnant women along with 7000+ newborns and vaccinated them with BCG and OPV0 within 24hrs of delivery. This has led to higher coverage of OPV0 vaccinations and improved the timeliness of both BCG and OPV0 vaccinations.



## Cold Chain Monitoring

EPI Sindh has successfully set up a surveillance system for cold chain equipment monitoring (CCM) in selected locations of Karachi and Tharparkar. The Cold chain equipment monitoring is central to ensure vaccines are stored at optimal temperature to guarantee vaccine potency. When vaccines are stored outside the recommended temperature due to a poor functioning cold chain system, they cease to work resulting in an ineffective immunization program. With CCM, through its active surveillance system, any alarms registered during the reporting period are further investigated, the ILR and its components are inspected thoroughly to conduct a root cause of failure analysis. This system allows for evaluation of variation in performance of the ILRs across months, location, manufacturer and model, required power source for the ILR (solar or electric), and other indicators.

## SINDH



Evaluation of the ILR's performance in Karachi

### Maternal Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Campaign

Pakistan is one of the 8 high burden countries which account for 73% of neonatal tetanus deaths. A significant number of women die due to maternal tetanus every year. However, this could be eliminated through vaccinating a woman of reproductive age for 5 times with a specified interval. Despite efforts are continued, Sindh is still reporting maternal neonatal tetanus cases each year. The Provincial EPI programme conducted special supplementary immunization activities for 3 doses of MNTE in 12 high risk districts of Sindh where 3 million women of reproductive age were vaccinated in 6 days for each dose campaign in year 2016.

This campaign supported in reduction of neonatal cases in the province. Following multiple initiatives and data showing problem of tetanus cases in few districts, EPI Sindh started another round of vaccination for 2 dose MNTE (maternal neonatal tetanus elimination) campaign in three high districts of Sindh which included district Kambar, Kashmore and Sujawal with a target of 0.77 million women age from 15 years to 49 years.

To make a successful campaign and achieve desired results, a social mobilization and community engagement campaign was launched where community engagement activities were made. Key messages and announcements were made through local mosque to inform community about vaccination campaign started in their areas. 1,174 team were trained to vaccinate the estimated target women and 2,348 supporting staff were also trained to support vaccination process.



Monitoring activity during the campaign

## KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

### Preparation of Measles Rubella Campaign

Pakistan is planning for the nationwide measles rubella catch-up campaign in November 2021. The campaign eventually introduces Measles Rubella vaccine in the country's routine immunization program. In this regard, the provincial EPI office has constituted different committees that includes steering, technical, AEFI and communication committees. The initial meetings of the committees were conducted to discuss the preparation of the largest campaign. In KP, the campaign target is to vaccinate more than 14 million children.



Provincial TOT of MR Campaign

### Mobile Vaccination to Access Hard to Reach Areas

In KP the vaccinators were facing many problems in reaching out to hard areas. In this regard provincial EPI seek support to JICA for mobile vaccination to better immunize the children in hard to reach areas. The JICA supported the provincial EPI and vaccinated 1,000 plus children through that activity.



Mobile Team in UC Kaghan for Seasonal Migrants - Manshera



## BALUCHISTAN

### Provincial ToT on Interpersonal Communication Skills of Vaccinators

The Federal EPI, has conducted Three (3) days provincial Training of Trainers on **"Interpersonal Communication Skills of Vaccinators"** based on global IPC toolkit in Quetta on July 27 to 29. The aim of the training was to improve the IPC skills of vaccinators so they would be better able to interact with families and caregivers. The training helped the vaccinators to enhance their skills to better engage and mobilize caregiver/communities for routine immunization. The training was facilitated by UNICEF.

The Director General Health Services (DGHS) Balochistan Dr. Nasir Bugti chaired the training and appreciated EPI for organizing the workshop on such an important area. The participants received the certificates from DGHS Balochistan.



Participants are very attentive during ToT

### Training on Coverage Survey on Childhood Immunization in Quetta

The training on coverage survey was organized in Quetta, Balochistan. It was designed to enhance knowledge and skills of District Health Officers (DHO) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in designing, conducting and analysing coverage survey as per technical standards of World Health Organization (WHO).

The training was attended by the 30 participants that included DHOs, civil society representatives and the EPI team members who enhanced their knowledge and skills with regards to coverage survey with an aim to achieve more than 90% coverage across Balochistan in the years to come. The National Programme Manager of Federal EPI and the Provincial Manager of EPI graced the occasion and expressed their views related to the significance of training. They mentioned that such training help to strengthen health system in the long run and reduce dependency on the support of technical partners for coverage surveys.



Participants are participating in discussion

### Orientation of 24/7 Birth Dose Vaccinators of Quetta

The District Health Officer Quetta in collaboration with EPI Balochistan initiated 24/7 birth dose vaccination within the labor room of government and private tertiary health care hospitals. To better orient vaccinators related to 24/7 birth dose initiative a detailed session was organised in Quetta by the provincial EPI. The session was facilitated by the DHMT. During the session the vaccinators were briefed on protocols of EPI, vaccination techniques, safe injection practice, AEFI, waste management, improving interpersonal skills with parents and caregivers.



The workshop is in progress

### Supervisory visit for CCEOP Phase 3

The Provincial EPI Balochistan with the support of Federal EPI started providing cold chain equipment as per district requirement. To supervise the smooth distribution/installation process, Mr. Kelobo along with EVM Coordinator EPI Balochistan Ayaz Ahmed visited many sites where installation has taken place, further the team cross checked installed equipment and end user training level to analyze their capacity regarding cold chain and vaccine management.



Mr. E. Kelobo visited many sites to Check CCEOP phase 3 deployment and installation

### Vaccine wastage workshop by IQVIA

A vaccine wastage study workshop was conducted at PEPI in which two provincial representatives along with two district and four SDP staff were trained. The workshop was facilitated by EVM coordinator, Ayaz Ahmed. During the workshop the discussion focused on factors which involves by any means of vaccine wastage on ground level.



## GILGIT BALTISTAN

### Routine Immunization

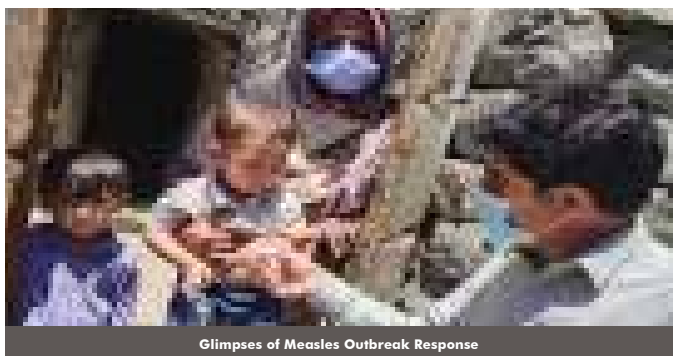
During the month of July, 2021, The EPI Gilgit-Baltistan keeping its pace, vaccinated eligible children and CBAs and reach out to the population through outreach vaccination sessions. The Enhanced Outreach Activities (EOA) were continued throughout GB. During EOAs, EPI frontline health workers reached out to every single child by encompassing their designated catchment areas to provide vaccination services.



The vaccinators are reaching out to the children for immunization in hard to reach areas

### Measles Outbreak Response

The six days measles outbreak response was successfully completed in GB. The campaign was organized with the support of WHO. During the campaign 98% children get vaccinated at fixed and outreach sites.



Glimpses of Measles Outbreak Response

### Refurbishment of EPI Center

The refurbishment process of EPI centers in GB is under way. A total of 57 EPI centers were refurbished in District Gilgit, Diamer & Skardu.



Refurbishment of EPI centers in GB

### COVID-19 Vaccination in GB

EPI GB organized vaccination sessions against COVID19 for the head of departments, ulema and notable personnel with the help of district administration department. Such initiative was highly needed to boost the vaccination process against COVID-19.

## AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

### EPI 2nd Quarter Review Meeting

The 2nd quarter EPI review meeting was convened at Muzaffarabad, AJK on 27th to 28th July. The meeting was chaired by Secretary Health Maj Gen. Ahsan Altaf Satti along with Director General Health Dr. Aftab Hussain and Provincial Programme Manager EPI, Dr. Bushra Shams. During the comprehensive review, the districts shared their progress of 2nd 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 were discussed at length. The discussion mainly revolved around COVID-19 and routine immunization. The meeting action points includes issues related to the data and backlog of COVID-19 vaccination, promotion of random testing and contact tracing and to increase the COVID-19 vaccination drive.



Group Photo of the participants

### MR Catch-up Campaign - Training of Trainers on Microplanning

Nationwide Measles-Rubella catchup campaign is planned to conduct in AJK in November. Since, Measles is one of the leading causes of death among young children globally, despite the availability of safe and effective vaccine, followed by rubella vaccine to be added in the routine immunization. Training of master trainers is a key to develop quality micro plans required for a successful campaign. The training was organized to enhance the capacity of the master trainers. The master trainers further facilitate cascade micro-planning trainings at the district and tehsil levels. The training workshop covered the following areas human resource, logistics forecast, vaccine cold chain assessment & requirements, AEFI Case Reporting and Management and Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM). The training was chaired by Worthy PPM EPI AJK Dr. Bushra Shams. Participants from all the districts were present and participated efficiently in the training.



Micro-planning workshop on Measles Rubella catch-up campaign



**Expanded Program  
on Immunization**  
Government of Pakistan

