





# FEDERAL DIRECTORATE OF IMMUNIZATION



PM National Health Complex, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad. Tel: 051-9255101, 051-9255086

### **PATRON:**

DR. MUHAMMAD AHMAD KAZI Director General Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI)

DR. AIHTESHAM UL HAQ Director Health Services, EPI-Punjab

DR. IRSHAD MEMON Additional Director, EPI-Sindh

DR. MUHAMMAD ARIF Director, EPI-KP

DR. AKHTAR ALI BULEDI Project Coordinator, EPI-Balochistan

### **EDITORS:**

DR. ZAFAR IQBAL CHANNA, FDI DR. ZAREEF UDDIN KHAN, FDI DR. M. SARBULAND KHAN, FDI

DR. ABDUL SATTAR Provincial Program Manager, EPI -AJK

DR. IQBAL RASOOL Director, EPI-Gilgit

DR. MUHAMMAD FAYYAZ LODHI Director General Health Services, CDA-ISB

• GB EPI

CDA EPI

ICT EPI

DR. ZAEEM ZIA District Health Officer, ICT

### THIS ISSUE INCLUDES UPDATES FROM:

**PROFOUND CONTRIBUTORS:** 

- FEDERAL EPI
- KP EPI
- PUNJAB EPI
- BALOCHISTAN EPI
- SINDH EPI
- SINDH EPI
- AJ&K EPI

### WRITTEN & COMPILED BY:

ZAHID WASIF, FDI NUR UL AINNIE KAZI, FDI

# CONTENT LIST

### Page # 3 - FEDERAL

Message by Honourable Federal Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel It gives me immense pleasure to reiterate Ministry's

Mission Statement in FDI Newsletter. Ministry of ...

### Page # 13 - PUNJAB

WHO provides technical equipment assistance to Punjab for surveillance strengthening The World Health Organization (WHO) handed over ELIZA Reader-Washer and Vortex Mixers to King Edwar...

### Page # 16 - SINDH

### Debrief of Joint External Evaluation Team on Health Sector by MoNHSRC Islamabad

Honorable Minister for Health, Government of Sindh, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho on 4th Jan met health dignitaries...

#### Page # 18 - KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA EPI KP Annual Progress Review 2022

Annual Progress Review 2022 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 24-28 Jan was organized by EPI KP in collaboration with WHO...

### **DESIGN BY:**

REHAN SALEEM, FDI

### Page # 19 - BALOCHISTAN Mid-Level Managers Training (MLM) on EPI

**conducted for M&E Officers and DSVs** EPI Balochistan organized two batches of training on EPI-MLM for district-based EPI Mid-Level Managers...

### Page # 21 - AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

Activities at a Glance Provincial Task Force (PTF) for Polio Eradication Initiative...

Page # 22 - GILGIT BALTISTAN Activities at a Glance Dr. Iqbal Rasool Director EPI Gilgit-Baltistan on 19th Jan...

### Page # 23 - CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Activities at a Glance

Monthly Review meeting of Outreach vaccinators conven...

#### Page # 24 - ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY Activities at a Glance

Deputy Commissioner & District Health officer Islamaba...



### MESSAGE BY HONOURABLE FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTER, MR. ABDUL QADIR PATEL

It gives me immense pleasure to reiterate Ministry's Mission Statement in FDI Newsletter. Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination is committed to helping the people of Pakistan to maintain and improve their health and to make our population among the healthier in the region.

Our vision is the provision of a health system for our motherland Pakistan that:

- Provides efficient, equitable, accessible & affordable health services with the objective to support people and communities to improve their health status.
- National and International Coordination in the field of Public Health.
- Oversight for regulatory bodies in health sector.
- Population welfare coordination.
- Enforcement of Drugs Laws and Regulations.
- Coordination of all preventive programs, funded by GAVI/GFATM.

Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination stands affirm to fight against these diseases and I assure you of all possible support from Government of Pakistan to make each and every child a fully vaccinated child. We are Pakistan, There's nothing — not a single thing — we're unable to do if we do it together. So let's stay together and achieve our targets.





### MESSAGE BY WORTHY FEDERAL HEALTH SECRETARY, DR. MUHAMMAD FAKHRE ALAM

Vaccines are the world's safest method to protect children from life-threatening diseases. Immunization is a key component of primary health care and an indisputable human right. It's also one of the best health investments money can buy. That is why the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination takes great pride in Pakistan's efficacious Immunization Programme being implemented by Federal Directorate of Immunization and provincial/area Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPIs). The programme is working day and night to convert vaccines into vaccinations.

We have a score of publications and information literature, out of which the FDI Newsletter that is published and circulated monthly aims to reflect the monthly developments from all across Pakistan in the immunization domain fighting against 12 targeted vaccine preventable diseases.

I would like to congratulate the Federal Directorate of Immunization Team and EPI Programme Teams all across Pakistan for achieving immunization milestones as per national and international frameworks. This newsletter serves as a great carrier of news and updates of such interventions enabling the programme to connect with national and international stakeholders.

I would take this opportunity and on behalf of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination, I highly commend the role played by all stakeholders (namely Religious Leaders, Academia, Doctors, Medical Forums, Media Personal, NGOs/CBOs, Parliamentarians, FBOs, Partner & Donor Organizations (Gavi, WHO and UNICEF), Government Departments, Volunteers and specially the Parents and Health Care Workers for making Expanded Programme on Immunization a Success).





### **MESSAGE BY**

### SPECIAL SECRETARY HEALTH, MR. MIRZA NASIR UD DIN MASHHOOD AHMAD

Immunization is a global health and development success story, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines reduce risks of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defenses to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination is working against 12 vaccine preventable disease inclusive of Childhood Tuberculosis, Diarrhea, Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Measles, Meningitis, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Pneumonia, Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid and Rubella. FDI Newsletter ensures to highlight the equity based coverage of the programme and on the other hand bring in lime light the unsung heroes i.e. the Vaccinators and other front line health care workers of the Immunization Programme. The Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C) considers its 'human resource' as its biggest strength. Employee centered approach is embedded in the fundamentals of Ministry's working philosophy.

I would especially like to acknowledge and highlight the unwavering support of our national and provincial leadership, our communities, caregivers, parents and the EPI team/staff across Pakistan. With their support, we are working tirelessly to protect the children of Pakistan.



## MESSAGE BY DIRECTOR GENERAL, FDI, DR. MUHAMMAD AHMAD KAZI

Immunization is the most cost-effective, safest, and efficient public health intervention. Due to routine immunization, millions of children are saved in Pakistan from illness and death by vaccine-preventable diseases. Federal Directorate of Immunization under the guidance and direct supervision of Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination is working to reach out every child especially zero dose children in hard-to-reach areas of Pakistan. GoP firmly believe, wherever children are not immunized, their lives and communities are at risk. That's why, FDI tailor new approaches to vaccinate every child against the targeted 12 vaccine preventable diseases in every community, no matter how remote or challenging by mobilizing the community at levels.

Bringing innovation and building capacities lies at the core of the programme hence capacity building is an ongoing process in the thematic areas of Cold Chain Management, Vaccine Logistics, Vaccine Safety, Campaign Planning, Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation, Waste Management, Advocacy Communications and Social Mobilization.

Capitalizing on the nationwide reach of FDI Newsletter, on Behalf of the FDI, MoNHSR&C. I highly commend the role played by all stakeholders; Religious Leaders, Academia, Doctors, Medical Forums, Media Personal, NGOs/CBOs, Parliamentarians, FBOs, Partner & Donor Organizations, Government Departments, Volunteers specially the Parents and Health Care Workers for making Expanded Programme on Immunization a Success.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a gesture of gratitude to all donor and partner organizations inclusive of World Health Organization, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, JICA, USAID, Aga Khan Foundation, ACASUS, IRD, Red Cross Movement also many other national and international stakeholders.





### **MESSAGE BY**

### MR. ABDULLAH A. FADIL, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN PAKISTAN

UNICEF takes pride in being a development partner to the Government of Pakistan, especially when it comes to promoting and safeguarding rights of children.

Investing in children is the best investment in a country's future. Protecting newborn children against vaccine preventable diseases through timely immunization, enables them to survive, thrive and reach their full potential in life.

Immunization remains a life-saving health intervention. As the world's biggest buyer and supplier of vaccines, UNICEF continues to play a pivotal role in supporting immunization efforts by governments around the world. In Pakistan, under the leadership of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination and its Federal Directorate of Immunization, UNICEF is playing its role in helping the country move towards the goal

of achieving universal vaccination for all children.

Let me reiterate that UNICEF is committed to supporting immunization efforts in Pakistan as an active and key member of the immunization team. We strive to reach the inaccessible, vulnerable, unvaccinated and under immunized children including zero dose as well as those who do not complete their immunization schedule on time.

Let us synergize and work hand in hand to present all newborn children the best gift in the form of a complete vaccination regime which protects them from childhood diseases and gives them the best start in life.

### PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN FORMAL INAUGURATION OF NATIONWIDE POLIO CAMPAIGN OF 2023

Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on 15th January administered polio vaccines to children to kickstart the first anti polio campaign of year 2023. Aiming to immunize more than 44 million children under the age of five years to protect them from the viral disease. PM stated the Government of Pakistan along with other stakeholders, including World Health



Organization - Pakistan, Gates Foundation and UNICEF Pakistan is effectively working to eradicate polio from Pakistan. The ceremony was held at the PM House, PM Shahbaz Sharif administered polio drops to children while distributed shields among frontline workers from each province. To mark a great heroic and valiant achievement against the battle of this crippling viral disease. Only concern is at northwestern province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but hopes to remain in the hearts of all hard-working healthcare workers to boldly prevent resurgence of polio disease. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said the government's resolve of polio eradication from Pakistan remains strong. Pakistan will be able to interrupt the transmission of the virus this year. He further added "I urge all parents and caregivers to open your door for our polio workers and bring your children forward to receive the two drops of vaccine," he said. "Children are the future of Pakistan. Their health and well-being depend on the decisions you take today. So, make the choice to protect them from polio".

Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam, Secretary Health, MoNHSR&C, Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI and Dr. Shabana Saleem, DG Health, MoNHSR&C along with other senior health dignitaries from EPI PEI Programmes were also present at the occasion. Pakistan to be officially recognized as polio-free, a country must show an absence of wild poliovirus transmission for at least three consecutive years, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Vaccines will work to prevent the circulation of the virus to ensure all children are safe from contracting the polio virus. Therefore, it is a shared not sole responsibility of all Pakistanis to confirm surety all children under the age of five are vaccinated against this life threatening disease in every door to door campaign.

Watch video file of the event on The Expanded Programme on Immunization - Pakistan official Youtube Page on the following link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vrZPN2ehAU

affected districts of the province.

### HEALTH MINISTER REITERATES COMMITMENT TO INTERRUPTING POLIO IN 2023

Honorable Federal Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel, presided over as the Chief Guest on the "Cheques Handing over Ceremony for the Relief of Flood Effected Polio Workers" on 2nd Jan 2023. The Minister handed over Cheques to the Coordinators of the Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) in Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. In Sindh, the process has been completed with frontline workers supported with financial assistance in 22



Mr. Patel stated that, 'I want to thank polio workers across the country for their services to the children of Pakistan and reiterate the Government's commitment to ending transmission of polio in 2023". Further exclaimed that "Polio workers, as always, have served Pakistan above and beyond their call of duty for the prevention of 12 vaccine preventable diseases and we must ensure that affected families receive this assistance as soon as possible." Senior representations from PEI and FDI were present in the event.

The Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative conducted a comprehensive assessment of the damages that polio workers suffered this summer when unprecedented rains and flooding affected 33 million people. The generous financial support is for workers whose homes wrecked and damaged. Nearly 12,500 polio health workers were affected by the floods, according to the programme's assessment.

### WHO/EMRO HIV, TB AND MALARIA (HTM) COORDINATION MISSION TO PAKISTAN

World Health Organization (Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office) HIV, TB, and Malaria (HTM) coordination mission visited FDI on 18th Jan hosted by Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI and technical team.

The objectives were to discuss:

- Review HTM updated national strategic plans.
- Contribute to RSSH assessment and identification of priory intervention for GF funding request;



• Support identification synergies, harmonization and linkages across HIV, TB, Malaria programmes and health systems also immunization work in development of HTM /RSSH country proposal development for the Global Fund;

• Facilitate stakeholder meeting for consensus on key priority areas for the HTM/RSSH funding request, including for cross programmatic, system strengthening; and

• Ensure that the Global Fund request and the Full Portfolio Planning (FPP) of GAVI for immunization programme can be integrated and have catalytical impact on the health system.

### VISIT OF USAID DELEGATION TO FDI

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) Delegation led by Ms. Ellyn W. Ogden on 11th Jan visited the office of Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI to have strategic discussions. Agenda on the table was to discuss the future planned 2nd phase of COVID-19 Pediatric Campaign, requirement of COVID-19 Adult vaccination dosage by the provinces and future strategic Polio Infrastructure roadmap. Dr.



Kazi appreciated the pivotal role played by USAID Pakistan in the Expanded Programme on Immunization and Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative. The delegation after a comprehensive discussion session visited FDI's Information Resource Centre, 1166 Sehat Tahaffuz Helpline and NEOC Information management Unit.

During Ms. Ellyn W. Ogden's visit to Sehat Tahaffuz 1166 helpline, Dr. Kazi briefed her on the role's of 1166 helpline as one of the most readily accessible platforms available for the public to obtain reliable medical information regarding polio and other vaccine preventable diseases. Dr. Kazi highlighted the transition and integration of 1166 Helpline from PEI to FDI which signals both programmes working in synergy with one another and is an example of how polio resources have helped create robust systems to strengthen immunization programme and health systems that can be used to combat other health emergencies as recently witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Ellyn W. Ogden commended the initiative of FDI that incorporates voices from the communities. She expressed keen interest in the contributions of 1166 helpline as an effective platform of community engagement, misinformation management and bilateral information sharing with the public. She interacted with first-line call agents and medical doctors stationed at the helpline to gain deeper understanding of the helpline operations, AEFI Surveillance and successful support to COVID-19 response. Ms. Ellyn W. Ogden appreciated the handling of public queries and AEFIs reported during the COVID-19 pediatric campaign.

# DISSEMINATION SEMINAR ON "IMPROVING OUTREACH AND EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTH KP"

A Dissemination Seminar was jointly organized on 20th Jan by FDI and PHC Global on "Improving Outreach and Effective Engagement in high-risk Communities" to achieve EPI Coverage Targets in South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

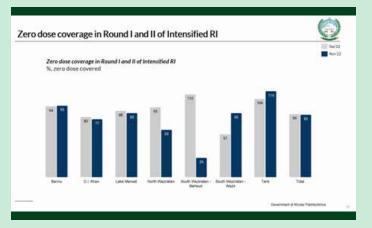
Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI presided over the event as Chief Guest whereas head table comprised Dr. Muhammad Arif, Director EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Shahzad Baig, NEOC



Coordinator and representatives from District Health Governments of Bannu and LakkiMarwat, PHCGlobal, WHO, UNICEF and other stakeholders

### EPI/PEI SYNERGY MEETING WITH A PRIME FOCUS ON SOUTH KP

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI chaired an important EPI/PEI Synergy meeting on 13th Jan, participated by top level management from EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss a tailored approach with redefined interventions focusing on South KP to enhance the immunization coverage of the targeted 12 VPDs. Dr. Muhammad Arif, Director EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



along with his technical team members shared the insights relating to the immunization scenario in South KP. Dr. Kazi leads the hard talk resulting in tangible way forward in order cater for the zero dose children.

### HEALTH SERVICES ACADEMY AND FDI MEETING TO PLAN FUTURE JOINT INITIATIVES

A team from Health Services Academy visited FDI on 17th Jan to have a meeting with Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI to discuss future joint initiatives concerning "Need Assessment of Health Human Resource for Driving Innovation and Achieving SDG 2030" project. The project intends to collect data from HF of different public and private sector from all over Pakistan under this project which would be used in creating database

of human health resource for the Government of Pakistan.



### AGA KHAN DELEGATION BRIEFING TO DG, FDI ON 'DIGITAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTRE'

On 26th of Jan, a delegation from Aga Khan University 'Digital Health Resource Centre' visited FDI, to have a meeting with Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG FDI for briefing on use of potential digital technical solutions for the Immunization Programme of Pakistan.



# WHO PROVIDES TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE TO PUNJAB FOR SURVEILLANCE STRENGTHENING

The World Health Organization (WHO) handed over ELIZA Reader-Washer and Vortex Mixers to King Edward Medical University, Mayo Hospital and University of Child Health Sciences on Jan 5-6, to strengthen VPD surveillance at these facilities. Vice Chancellor KEMU Prof. Mehmood Ayaz, Medical Superintendent Mayo Hospital Dr. Munir Ahmed, Head of Pediatrics Department Prof. Haroon Hamid and Additional Director EPI Dr. Wasim Ali were



present on the occasion. The VC KEMU thanked and appreciated the support of EPI program Punjab and WHO.

### PUNJAB INTENSIFIES FIXED EPI CENTERS MONITORING

Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Ilyas Gondal and Director Health Services EPI Punjab Dr. Ahtishamul Haq conducted extensive monitoring visits of EPI fixed centers throughout the month. The Director General Health Services visited EPI centres in District Sheikhupura in the first week of Jan. He emphasized need to strengthen routine immunization and educate people to get their children vaccinated.



Director Health Services (EPI) Punjab Dr. Ahtishamul Haq visited BHUs and secondary level facilities in Kasur, Attock and Rawalpindi. The DHS EPI shared his findings in meetings that the refresher training of frontline staff on vaccine administration, injection safety, waste management and AEFI management need to be conducted on regular basis.

### INTEGRATED IMMUNIZATION SERVICES IN CHOLISTAN DESERT

EPI program Punjab with WHO support set up an integrated Medical Camp with special focus on EPI services in Cholostan area. District Health Authority Bahawalpur with Rangers came forward in setting up the camp at Channan Peer areas. Mobile vans, fully equipped with EPI vaccines and necessary medicines, provided services to communities scattered across the desert area of Cholistan. CEO Bahawalpur acknowledged the WHO team for their support.



### EPI IN SPOTLIGHT IN MONTHLY CEOS CONFERENCE

Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Government of Punjab Dr. Akhtar Malik chaired and Secretary P&SHD Dr. Irshad Ahmad Co-chaired 8th CEOs/MS Conference on 11th Jan in Lahore and reviewed the performance of all districts of Punjab. The review focused on major primary healthcare indicators, EPI schedule, vaccine stock status, Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination campaign and



other indicators. The chair evaluated performance of the Expanded Programme on Immunization, inquired about vaccinator attendance, weak districts and weak UCs and the status of immunization in flood affected areas. Detailed review of complaints pendency was conducted, Dr Akhtar Malik directed all districts to resolve pending complaints relating to health department registered on Toll free number 1033 within 24 hours and submit a compliance report.

### **UNICEF NATIONAL EPI REVIEW**

UNICEF conducted a two-day consultative meeting of its EPI team in Lahore from Jan 31st to Feb 1st to review progress on the organization's support for nationwide EPI programmes. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Yasmine Challoub, Senior Manager Immunization Unicef, and was attended by senior UNICEF health officials and representatives from provincial EPI teams.

On the first day, the provincial EPI leads presented



an overview of their teams' performance over the past year, with each presentation followed by Q&A session. On the second day, the teams held consultative sessions to formalize their plans of action for 2023 and later presented their plans to the national audience, with each plan discussed in detail during a Q&A session. The meeting was concluded by Dr. Tahir Manzoor, Health Specialist UNICEF Punjab, who thanked the participants and emphasized the importance of UNICEF's supportive role in achieving a healthy Pakistan.

### **EPI TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETINGS**

The EPI Programme continued its weekly technical review meetings all through the month. Director Health Services EPI Dr. Ahtishamul Haq monitored the indicators and reviewed the events. The emerging issues like Plan of Action workshops for 2023, lessons learnt from 2022, EPI MIS and EMR were thoroughly assessed. EPI Punjab preparations for the second phase of Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination campaign in remaining districts of the province were also reviewed.



New initiatives like Labour Room Birth Vaccination Counters, Evening Shift vaccination, Public Private Partnerships, refurbishment of EPI centers, SES data of weak districts and UCs, data analysis and data accuracy were thoroughly reviewed.

# DEBRIEF OF JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION TEAM ON HEALTH SECTOR BY MONHSRC ISLAMABAD

Honorable Minister for Health, Government of Sindh, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho on 4th Jan met health dignitaries of Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination, led by Director General Health, to discuss Joint External Evaluation. The Joint External Evaluation Team focal person presented areas of support & improvement in the Health Sector. Minister Health, Dr. Azra Pechuho said that there needs to



be an internal provincial implementation checklist to evaluate the standards and delivery of health services and assured comprehensive inputs from Sindh province. The meeting was also attended by Secretary Health, Mr. Zulfiqar Shah, DG Health, Sindh, Dr. Juman Bahoto, PD, EPI Dr. Irshad Memon, WHO Representative, and others. This checklist needs to be drawn up and should be updated monthly for Universal Health Coverage. Dr. Azra said that the Centre of Disease Control in the province needs to be strengthened in terms of human resources as well.

EPI Sindh and UNICEF team Dr. Muhammad Amjad Ansari, Immunization Specialist presented shield to Mr. Eshioramhe Kelobo. International Consultant Unicef on behalf of Sindh as token of appreciation on services and support he provided during his serving period in the country.



EPI Sindh along with partner organization IRD ensured provincial immunization interventions are reflected on media. In this regard in addition to many channels were capitalized on to showcase digitalization of child wise immunization registry.



#### NEWSLETTER VOL: 4 - ISSUE NO. 01 JANUARY 2023

Capacity building training on the effective use of Zensis platform for immunization and data triangulation in Sindh organized by EPI Sindh and Zensis team on 4th Jan.



ISD activity through Mobile Van with support of UNICEF continued throughout the month of Jan in Hyderabad. Immunization vans conducting daily multiple session in remote and distanced areas where a majority of unimmunized children are reported.

Tameer-e-Khalaq foundation (TKF) initiated TPMF with the main objective to strengthening routine immunization activities and ultimate goal is to improve routine immunization coverage in 8 SHRUCs of Karachi during November 2022 and the TPFM activities were expanded to 27 High risk UCs of Karachi from Jan 2023. Remaining 08 High Risk UCs will be included in program during March 2023.

A training/orientation session for the deputed field monitors was held in EPI Sindh conference hall. The session started with welcome and opening remarks of PD EPI Dr. Irshad Memon and BMGF Lead Dr. Eren. In this training the field monitors were trained. Discussions were held in the areas of Monitoring and Supportive Supervision, Planning Effective Monitoring and Supportive Supervision, EPI Basics, Digital







Monitoring reporting system, Acasus Application, TKF Dashboard and Issue Tracking Application.

#### NEWSLETTER VOL: 4 - ISSUE NO. 01 JANUARY 2023

### **EPI KP ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEW 2022**

Annual Progress Review 2022 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 24-28 Jan was organized by EPI KP in collaboration with WHO. EPI Provincial Officers, Coordinators from Peshawar, Khyber, Bannu, Tank, Lakki Marwat and North Waziristan, WHO, UNICEF and partner organizations representatives attended the meeting. On last day of the review, EPI KP invited senior health officials from KP Health Departments and



conducted a detailed program review for the year 2022 in which all the EPI indicators, issues, their solutions, and further improvements were discussed in detail. Director EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan gave a detailed briefing regarding all the indicators of EPI. Provincial Director Health Services Central Dr. Muhammad Ikram Shah, District Health Officers, EPI Coordinators, Provincial EPI Officers, representatives of WHO, UNICEF, BMGF and other partner organizations were present on this occasion.

### **TETANUS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN KP**

Under the supervision of Director EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan, a vaccination campaign against tetanus disease has started in various districts of the province, in which all women 15-49 years of age have been vaccinated against tetanus.

Director EPI has directed all district health officers to deploy their teams in union council and ensure daily evening meeting at district level to review the daily performance of the campaign.

#### NEWSLETTER VOL: 4 - ISSUE NO. 01 JANUARY 2023

### MID-LEVEL MANAGERS TRAINING (MLM) ON EPI CONDUCTED FOR M&E OFFICERS AND DSVS

EPI Balochistan organized two batches of training on EPI- MLM for district-based EPI Mid-Level Managers i.e., Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and District Superintendents Vaccination (DSVs). The first batch of training was held from 2-7 Jan whereas the 2nd batch was conducted from 23-28 Jan.

The training methodology was designed in such a manner as to make the sessions interactive and



focused were given to group work. The seven EPI components were part of the training contents and special focus was given to effective micro-planning to identify zero-dose children. The facilitators covered each topic in detail and prepared a plan of action by distributing participants in groups. Honorable Health Minister, Government of Balochistan, Sayed Ahsan Shah graced the occasion with his presence in the opening and closing ceremonies. In addition, the head table presence comprised Special Secretary Health GoB, Mr. Dawood Khan Bazai, Director General Health Services, GoB, Dr. Noor Qazi, Provincial Coordinator, EPI Balochistan, Dr. Akhtar Ali Buledi and Provincial Coordinator Vertical Programmes Health GoB, Dr. Amir Raisani. Technical sessions were facilitated by EPI partner staff representatives from WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, and ACASUS.

### **EPI QUARTERLY REVIEW MEETING**

Provincial EPI program conducted the review meeting of last quarter of 2022 on 30-31 Jan at Gwadar under the chairmanship of Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan, Dr. Akhtar Ali Buledi. The review was facilitated by Provincial colleagues of WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, and ACASUS. The participants of the meeting were District Health Officers, Deputy DHOs, and, M&E Officers from all over districts of Balochistan. The



agenda of the provincial review was last quarter's progress, and a brief overview of the previous year's overall achievements as well as challenges faced by the districts and provincial team. The forum critically reviewed the progress of each district and analytical figures were shared with the districts team.

# TCV VACCINE INTRODUCTION TRAINING FOR VACCINATORS IN NON- CAMPAIGN UNION COUNCILS OF BALOCHISTAN

EPI program Balochistan organized a series of training for vaccinators of Balochistan in all thirty-four districts from 20-30 Jan. EPI program Balochistan and WHO jointly monitored the initiative with primary inputs from provincial monitors. Prior to conducting district level cascades training , a Provincial ToT was held in EPI program HQ Balochistan. There were 80 batches of cascade trainings conducted at district



level to train 1,395 government vaccinators (including skilled LHWs), 447 PPHI supported vaccinators and 126 other vaccinators supported by partner organizations i.e. TVI and PRCS.

• Provincial Task Force (PTF) for Polio Eradication Initiative, meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary General ACS (G) Fayyaz Ali Abbasi held on 11th Jan. Dr. Sattar presented details about EPI AJK to all stake holders of PTF regarding upcoming Polio Campaign.

• Provincial Programme Manager EPI AJK, Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan appeared on Media and talked about the 12 vaccine preventable diseases on 15th Jan.

• Provincial EPI program conducted the annual review meeting on from 25-26 Jan at Islamabad . The meeting was chaired by Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, PPM, and attended by District Health Officers, Deputy DHOs, and, M&E Officers from all districts . The objective of the meeting was to review the progress, and achievements as well as challenges faced by the districts and provincial team. The forum critically reviewed the progress of each district and analytical figures were shared with the districts team.



• Dr. Iqbal Rasool Director EPI Gilgit-Baltistan on 19th Jan attended the National Training of Trainers (ToT) on Pediatric Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign planned in future. EPI Manager, GB was accompanied with technical representatives from WHO, UNICEF and Provincial EPI staff at Provincial Data Center, Gilgit.

• Special Assistant to CM GB Sabir Hussain on 13th Jan inaugurated the first nationwide polio campaign of 2023 on Friday at the Provincial EPI Directorate GB. Ceremony was attended by DG Health, Directors Health Services and other government and partner organization's stakeholders. Dr. Iqbal Rasool, Director EPI briefed the participants on the importance of Polio vaccination and other EPI vaccine preventable diseases.

• Provincial Task Force meeting for Polio Eradication Initiative convened on 13 Jan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan. Meeting was attended by relevant provincial Heads of Departments and Commissioners of all three regions of GB. Previous Polio campaigns data was reviewed, concurrently current status of Jan polio campaign was discussed.

• Evening meetings during NIDs were regularly organized by DHO of respective districts of GB to share progress on polio eradication campaign.

• A picture from field portrays harsh weather conditions cannot hinder the front-line workers in GB. All rise to the challenge to ensure maximum coverage of polio vaccination during this NIDs in Jan 2023.



• Monthly Review meeting of Outreach vaccinators convened at Directorate of Health Services MCI on 7th Jan. Opening remarks was given by Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz Lodhi, Director General Health Services, MCI. Draft EPI Micro-plans for the year 2023 was submitted and discussed in the meeting. Vaccinators were directed to finalize the village wise targets vs coverage for the year 2022 for up gradation of EPI MIS.

• NIDs was conducted from 16-22 Jan. Mr. Irfan Memon, Deputy Commissioner ICT Islamabad inaugurated the polio campaign at Health Care Center Golra Sharif. DHO Islamabad and core team of ICPR were also present at inauguration.

• Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz Lodhi, Director General Health Services MCI monitored the polio campaign in various UCs in the field during SIAs. As per the directives of Dr. Lodhi following initiatives were implemented: -

- Special Transit Points are being established by Islamabad teams at Motorway Toll Plaza (M-1 & M-2) during every polio SIAs in Islamabad.
- Border verification is a regular activity in the UCs where rapid development is going on. For this purpose, CDA has conducted the boundary verification activity on Saturday, 21st Jan where UC R-2, R-5, R-7, R-9, R-10 & G-13 were verified by DSV and decisions are being made at the spot.

• Polio Camp is established by Directorate of Health Services on 29th Jan at Trail-3 on a splendid occasion of Marathon Race for activeness and awareness of general public about polio eradication.



• Deputy Commissioner & District Health officer Islamabad Inaugurated Polio NID on 13th Jan.

• Throughout the Polio NID Deputy Commissioner Islamabad chaired evening review meetings on daily basis.







