



Expanded Program on Immunization
Government of Pakistan



PAKISTAN
POLIO
ERADICATION
PROGRAMME



Ministry of National Health Services
Regulations & Coordination
Government of Pakistan

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE EPI/PEI SYNERGY WORKSHOP

Expanded Program on Immunization and Polio Eradication Program
August 12th, 2021

Post Event Report

Expanded Program on Immunization
Government of Pakistan

Ministry of National Health Services
Regulations & Coordination
Government of Pakistan

National Consultative Synergy Workshop

Expanded Programme on Immunization
and Polio Eradication Initiative

12th August, 2021 Islamabad



Report Outline

Contents

Background

Objectives

Challenges

Recommendations

Findings and Action Points

Conclusion

Introduction

A national EPI/PEI synergy consultative workshop was held on 12th August 2021 to develop common understanding and to identify areas of cooperation between the two programmes in various domains such as service delivery, integrated reporting, monitoring, campaigns and communication. The workshop helped to address existing gaps and the challenges that programmes are facing in way to jointly implement activities. The workshop was attended by senior leadership of EPI and PEI from all the provinces. The main aim of the workshop was to develop and finalize an action plan outlining the roles and responsibilities of both programmes with agreed timelines for implementation.

44
participants
participated
in the
workshop
from across
Pakistan



Objectives of the workshop

The EPI and PEI synergy means collaboration of both the departments at all levels and to use PEI resource to strengthen routine EPI with an aim to increase Routine Immunization coverage up-to 95% and to bridge the immunity against Polio in low performing/HR Union Councils.

sharing of "Zero dose data e.g. SIAs and AFP Zero dose data for 0-23m children" collected by PEI after each (S)NIDs with EPI at district level and referral of Zero dose children by PEI Staff e.g. Community Based Vaccination (CBVs) for vaccination by EPI

Joint planning and implementation of routine immunization outreach Activities in low performing/high-risk UCs

Joint planning & implementation of EPI major campaigns (Measles, MR and other VPD campaigns)

Joint monitoring and supervision and reporting on on number and percentage of <2-year old children as well as defaulters and Zero dose children (SIAs & AFP surveillance) vaccinated through joint efforts.

Methodolgy

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Shahzad Baig. He stressed on significance of synergy of both the programs to strengthened routine immunization at all levels. Later the facilitators presented proposals on six possible areas (listed below) for future collaboration to strengthen routine immunization. After each session the provincial leaders highlighted the challenges and suggested some recommendations. The workshop ended with the key note speech of Special Assistant of Prime Minister and by sharing the key action points for future course of action.

- 1** EPI/PEI Joint Framework on Service Delivery
- 2** EPI/PEI Joint Framework on Monitoring
- 3** EPI/PEI Joint Framework on Data Sharing
- 4** EPI/PEI Joint Framework on Communications
- 5** Referral Mechanism
- 6** Collaboration on MR Campaign

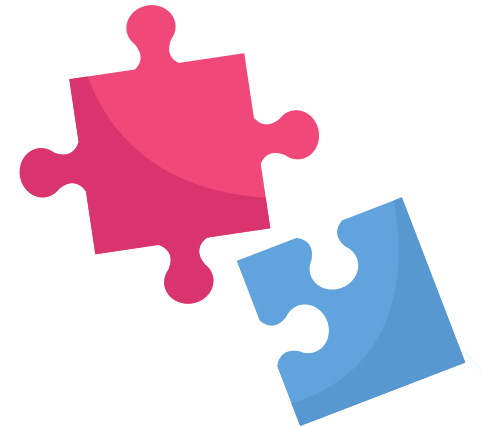
Challenges Faced by the Provinces

Punjab

- *Unable to attract more caregivers and parents to fixed sites due to suboptimal of social mobilization.*
- *More than 116 Union Council in Punjab are without a health facility*
- *Rate of EPI vaccination has been dramatically dropped due to the COVID-19 vaccination in past few months*
- *No capacity of polio vaccinators on the vaccination for other antigens*
- *Missing community linkages to reach out to defaulters*

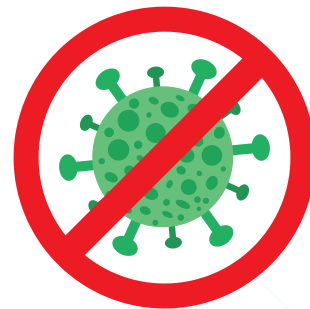
Balochistan

- *Issue and challenges both on supply and demand side*
- *Community reluctance for EPI vaccination due to low demand generation activities*
- *Deficiency of vaccinators*
- *Absence of monitoring and evaluation framework both for PEI and EPI*



Continued

- *Community reluctance and lack of awareness is the main issue in Balochistan*
- *30 and 40 % UCs do not have a fixed site*
- *Absenteeism of vaccinators on fix and outreach sites*
- *No one share the zero dose list at UC level.*
- *Non cooperation among PEI and EPI staff for developing joint micro plan at district level*



Sindh

- *Poor capacity of DSVs on monitoring*
- *No mechanism for the joint monitoring of EPI and EOC*
- *1300 vaccinators appointment was cancelled. Vaccinators recruitment remained a challenge*

KP

- *Shortfall of the vaccinators*
- *Requested 1000 vaccinators to strengthen urban immunization*

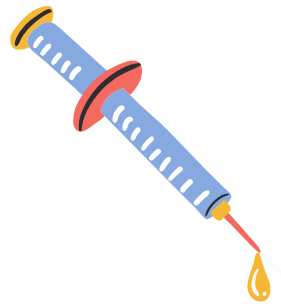


Continued

- *No tracking mechanism of EOA in KP*
- *The biggest challenge is to track the activities of synergy both at PEI and EPI to see the prospect in the future .*
- *No joint monitoring plan of synergy activities*

Opportunities

- *Punjab is recruiting 2000 more vaccinators to share the workload of the vaccinators in huge districts*
- *Sindh is planning to monitor the mobility of vaccinators with different tools for better performance*

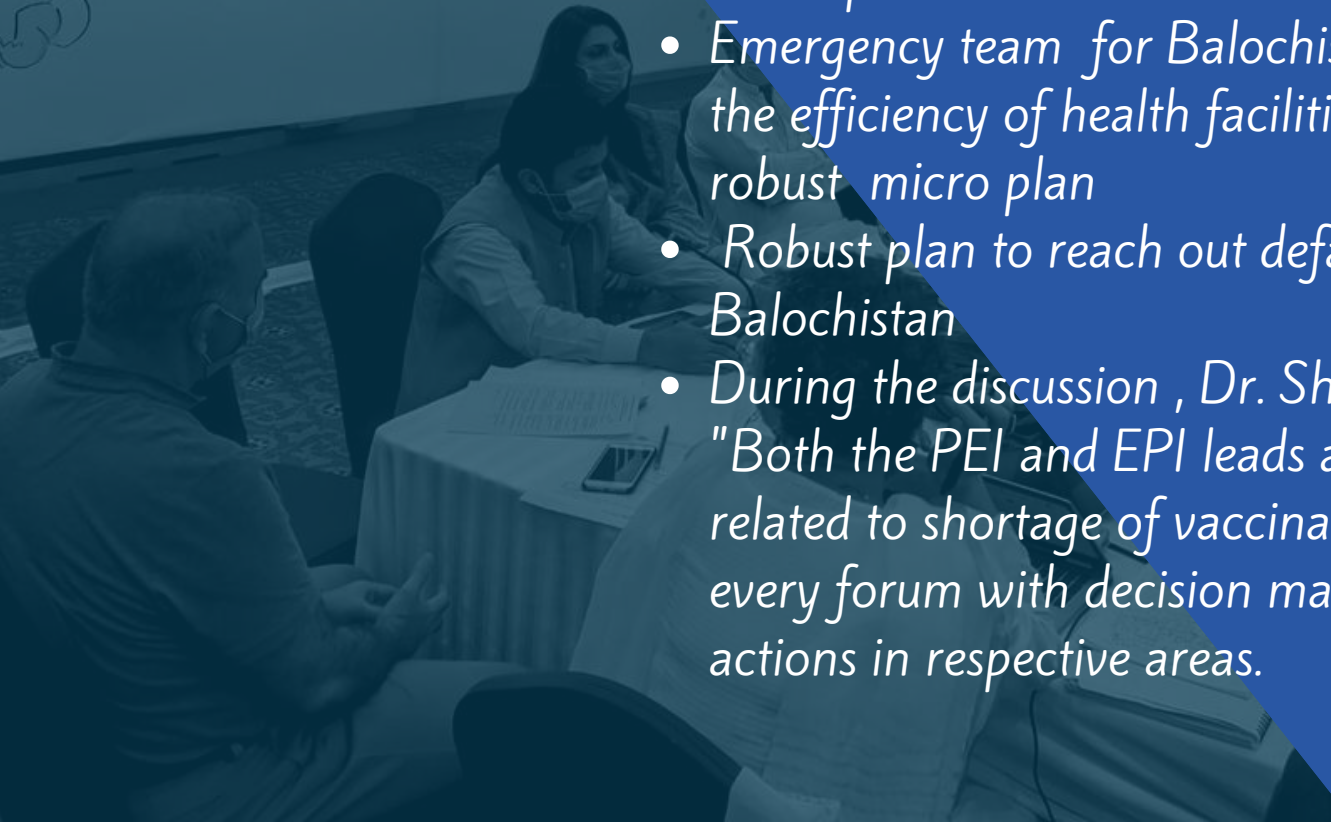


Recommendations

- Support required from PEI team for social mobilization component during the EOA
- Standardization and unification of reporting tools to record the zero dose children
- Capacity building of PEI and EPI field teams in recording and reporting of zero dose children
- Line listing of recorded and recovered zero dose children to the provincial and national levels is missing.
- Emergency team for Balochistan sit at NEOC to improve the efficiency of health facilities and to come up with robust micro plan
- Robust plan to reach out defaulters especially in Balochistan
- During the discussion , Dr. Shahzad Baig mentioned that "Both the PEI and EPI leads are advocating the issues related to shortage of vaccinators and health facilities at every forum with decision makers to take the necessary actions in respective areas.

National Consultation
Expanded Programme
and Polio Eradication

12th August, 2021 Islamabad



Recommendations

- *PEI must share the defaulters and missed children list with EPI in Balochistan*
- *Need of comprehensive plan for Balochistan both at EPI and PEI to allocate the proper resources*
- *Vaccinators must report to EPI Manager in Balochistan or DHO at the district level*
- *Need to brainstorm of synergy issue in Balochistan at district level*
- *Refresher trainings for vaccinators about the EPI antigen in Balochistan*
- *Need to strengthen facility based micro planning at Balochistan*
- *EOA is the only solution for Balochistan*
- *Accountability at the district level can change the scenario in Balochistan*
- *Institutionalization of EOA is must to strengthen immunization*

Recommendations

- *Incorporation of EPI and PEI component in Sindh MIS system. Need to review the tools of EPI and PEI at district level*
- *Development of annual plan for both EPI and PEI for national and provincial level and the draft will be shared with provincial teams for implementation*
- *There is need to develop synergy in the NID in September and MR campaign in November so we can see better results*
- *Addition of indicators in routine immunization data sharing between PEI and EPI apart from Zero RI dose.*
- *Development of TORs for UCMO and EPI Technician and other staff under the NEAP*

Recommendations

- *Uniform database or dashboard for EPI at the National and Provincial level*
- *Development of EPI-MIS and to orient all the provinces in December to resolve the issue related to data at all levels*
- *Sharing of low performing areas between PEI & EPI to improve coverage*
- *Requirement of community based communication strategy*
- *Involvement of IRMNCH in communication strategies*
- *Need to define one terminology for routine immunization as there are two terminologies we use "Essential Immunization and "Routine Immunization"*
- *Need to develop strategy on vaccine hesitancy*

Recommendations

- *Need to develop the accountability framework for both the program*
- *Capacity building of front line staff and uniformity of messages at community level*
- *Concrete ideas from provinces for social mobilization and community engagement*
- *Provincial Task-force to synergize for EPI activities as well as PEI activities especially during MR campaign*
- *Support required for MR micro-planning training, social mobilization and communication activities for smooth run of campaign*

Action Points & Findings

- ✓ Form an emergency team in Balochistan to improve routine immunization in the province
- ✓ Prepare a comprehensive plan to improve routine immunization for Q3 2021 and Q4 2021
- ✓ Develop a joint framework to provide the guidelines to provinces and then it customized according to their needs
- ✓ Training of synergy staff at district and UC level

Action Points & Findings



Conduct EPI and PEI meeting on weekly basis at the provincial and district level to address roadblocks and report progress



Ensure that granular coverage data at the UC level is shared between PEI & EPI to improve coverage



Engage parliamentarians at the provincial level to strengthen advocacy



Plan and conduct refresher trainings for EPI vaccinators in Balochistan

Conclusion

The workshop was concluded by chalking out key findings for future course of action to build the synergy among both the programs at all levels. Under the leadership of NEOC coordinator and EPI Manager, the event featured presentations identifying areas where cooperation can be extended and immediate results obtained to not only create demand for routine immunization but also sustain the gains made by the polio programme.

In closing remarks , Dr. Faisal Sultan, appreciated leadership of both PEI and EPI for conducting this joint exercise and agreeing on the main course of action for joint set of activities to enhance immunization in Pakistan. He further added that such collaborative efforts will help us to reach out to every child and leave no one behind in our mission to immunize children of Pakistan .



EPI and PEI to synergize for strengthening immunization

Thank You