

# NEWSLETTER

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# FEDERAL DIRECTORATE OF IMMUNIZATION



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**THIS ISSUE INCLUDES UPDATES FROM:**

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

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**MESSAGE BY  
HONOURABLE FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTER, DR. 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.

Vaccines, as you know, are one of the most powerful innovations in the history of medicine. I am grateful to all colleagues of Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination, Federal Directorate of Immunization, Provincial/Area EPIs, WHO and UNICEF who worked tirelessly to ensure that each and every child of Pakistan from the mountains of Khunjab to the Karachi sea is vaccinated against 12 vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs). I convey my sincere appreciation to my all stakeholders specially the front line health care workers who remain committed in the entire process of routine immunization. These efforts will go a long way to prevent morbidity and mortality associated with vaccine preventable diseases.

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.



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**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. Also to mention, Alhamdulillah, Pakistan's successful COVID-19 response and vaccine roll out that has been commended globally. Under strategic guidance and oversight of MoNHSR&C and NCOC, FDI in collaboration with core partners WHO and UNICEF have played a vital role in formulating key strategies, development of guidelines and SOPs, effectively and efficiently managing the supply chain and carrying out COVID-19 Immunization Campaigns.

I would take this opportunity and on behalf of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination, and 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, Polio Eradication Initiative and specially the Parents and Health Care Workers for making Expanded Programme on Immunization a Success).



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**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 vaccines preventable disease inclusive of Childhood Tuberculosis, Polio, Diarrhea, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Meningitis, Pneumonia, Measles, Rubella and Typhoid.

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.



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### **MESSAGE BY DIRECTOR GENERAL, HEALTH, DR. SHABANA SALEEM**

Immunization is the most cost-effective public health intervention. Due to routine immunization worldwide, millions of children are saved from illness and death by vaccine-preventable diseases.

Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination through Federal Directorate of Immunization is working to reach out every child especially the most vulnerable all across Pakistan especially in hard to reach areas. GoP firmly believe, wherever children are not immunized, their lives and communities are at risk. That's why, we tailor new approaches to vaccinate every child 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, and Advocacy Communications and Social Mobilization.

I believe the reach of this newsletter nationwide hence I would like to thank parents and community leaders for continuously cooperating and facilitating for all the immunization related initiatives in the country. I am confident, together with our people, we can achieve the goals and objective of immunization across Pakistan. I want to express my profound gratitude to the thousands of community immunization champions that work tirelessly and provide the lifesaving vaccine to children and pregnant women of Pakistan for their healthy and prosperous lives.



## **NEW LEADERSHIP, FEDERAL DIRECTORATE OF IMMUNIZATION**

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi became Director General, Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) on 19th August. Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi brings to the role decades of experience in developing innovative policies that empowers underserved communities. He has extensive experience building, elevating and managing diverse workforces and mobilizing resources and political support for a broad range of initiatives. He took part in various inter country consultations on primary health care as key note speaker.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi has vast experience in public health while serving on key government and non-government executive positions at National and International levels inclusive of Directorate of Health Services, World Health Organization, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Pakistan Polio Programme, Institute of Skin Diseases, HIV AIDS Programme, Asian Bank Reproductive Health Project, National Malaria Control Programme, Medical Education, Public Health and Research, World Bank/ National Programme for Family Planning and Primary Health Care and Sindh Government Hospital.

Previously, Dr. Kazi was working as District Health Officer, South, Karachi.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi earned the degrees of Master of Community and Public Health from Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro.

Additionally, Dr. Kazi's academic portfolio encompasses a score of certifications on multi-sectoral health topics from international institutes like John Hopkins University, World Health Organization, United Nations System Staff College, United Nations Department of Safety & Security, European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control and EUROPOL, United Nations Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Centre of Competence, Human Resources Booster, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Pakistan Planning & Management Institute, Mahidol University, Secretariat Training Institute of Pakistan, National University of Singapore, Ayub Medical College, Health Services Academy and many others.

Dr. Kazi has authored many research publications bylined in different national and international journals and made various international presentations on his account.

### DG, FDI MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG FDI had comprehensive meetings and briefings engaging all direct and indirect stakeholders in order to understand the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and be apprised on the developments of different projects and components of the EPI Programme. Meetings are summarized as follow:-

An introduction meeting was held on 19th August with FDI staff, where Dr. Kazi ensured the staff of all possible support from the Govt. top level leadership and reiterated the resolve of Honorable Federal Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Islamabad for Universal Immunization of Pakistani Children against 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases.



Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI conducted a visit to Pakistan National Emergency Operation Centre on 22nd August and interacted with PEI staff members. Dr. Kazi emphasized on the significance of EPI PEI Synergy; working as One Team in order to make Pakistan a polio free country along with reduced prevalence of all 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases.



Later on newly appointed Director General FDI was invited on a briefing on polio eradication & PEI-EPI synergy at the National EOC on 29th August. The meeting was attended by Coordinator NEOC Dr. Shahzad Baig & team leads of partner & donor organizations among other officials.



Dr. Rana Muhammad Safdar, Lead Strategic Advisor, CDC and Dr. Mumtaz Ali Laghari, from NSTOP PEI called on Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI on 22nd August to congratulate him on taking the charge and to apprise on the programme developments.



High level Gavi mission members Ms. Carrie Gheen, Senior Country Manager and Mr. Mario Jimenez Ramirez, Programme Manager called on Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI on 23rd August to brief on the ongoing GAVI Full Portfolio Planning Initiative.



Dr. Aaliya Kashif, Senior Health Specialist, World Bank Pakistan visited FDI to meet Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI on 24th August. Dr. Aaliya briefed Dr. Kazi on World Bank Pakistan and FDI recently completed and ongoing joint initiatives. Dr. Kazi stated that World Bank is one of the very important stakeholders of GoP and FDI values all the support provided by the Bank for the children of Pakistan.



Dr. Huma Quershi, National Focal Person on Hepatitis in Pakistan and Dr. Hassan Mehmood, In-charge Hepatitis C, PDMU, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Islamabad visited Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI office today. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss areas of mutual interest and identify common grounds for joint future activities.



Syed Akbar Ali, Country Manager, Acasus along with team members had a meeting with Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI on the ongoing GAVI Full Portfolio Planning process and other developments.



Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI had important virtual meeting on 25th August, with Asian Development Bank represented by Mr. Hido, Team Lead and Mr. Umar Bin Zia, Senior Project Officer to discuss the partnership framework.



UNICEF Pakistan Immunization team members had an introductory meeting on 31st August, with Dr. Kazi, DG, FDI. Dr. Yasmine Challoub, Senior Manager Immunization, UNICEF Pakistan apprised DG, FDI on the role and mandate of UNICEF. Dr. Kazi stated that UNICEF support and contribution to the programme is of high significance and stated that let us continue to work together to save children of Pakistan.





### **GAVI MISSION DEBRIEFING TO SECRETARY HEALTH, MONHSR&C**

A high level GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance Mission carried out a week-long visit to Pakistan from 17th to 25th August. At the end of the visit, on 25th August, Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI along with the Mission Lead Ms. Carrie Gheen, Senior Country Manager held a debriefing session for worthy Secretary Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Islamabad on the national GAVI Full Portfolio planning process. Worthy Secretary appreciated the role of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance for equity based management of resources and commitments for the children of Pakistan and ensured all possible support from the GoP in this regard.

### **GAVI FULL PORTFOLIO FEDERAL LEVEL ACTIVITIES PLANNING MEETING**

A meeting to discuss, prioritize and finalize GAVI Full Portfolio Planning Federal level was organized on 24th August at FDI. Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI chaired the meeting and steered the brainstorming sessions on different programmatic areas. The participants worked under the guidance of Dr. Rana Muhammad Safdar, Lead Strategic Advisor, CDC, Ms. Carrie Gheen, Senior Country Manager, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Dr. Soofia Yunus, Director Technical, FDI and other health specialists from World Health Organization- Pakistan, UNICEF Pakistan, Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative, and ACASUS.



## LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF DIGITAL AUTOMATED YELLOW FEVER AND POLIO VACCINATION CARD

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI Islamabad participated as guest of honor on Launch of Digital Automated Yellow Fever and Polio Vaccination Card organized by Directorate of Central Health Establishment in collaboration with WHO.

The system has been launched under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Islamabad in association with

Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI). The system will replace the Polio and Yellow Fever vaccine paper based card with the Electronic/Digital Card for the international travelers.



## DG, FDI VISITED 1166 SEHAT TAHAFUZ HELPLINE

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI visited 1166 Sehat Tahafuz Helpline on 26th August. Established at the Expanded Programme on Immunization office, the state-of-the-art Call Centre responds to growing needs of health-related information on EPI Programme targeted 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases inclusive of Polio and also catering for COVID-19 as well. "Run by well-trained staff with local

language capacities; dedicated experts provide information and address queries of parents and caregivers. Dr. Kazi commended the team of 1166 helpline and stated that 'out of the box' thinking is the key to success.



## TCV CATCH- UP CAMPAIGN READINESS MEETING

As Pakistan gear up for Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) catch-up campaign that will be conducted from 3rd to 15th October, 2022 in urban UCs of KP, Balochistan, GB and AJK targeting 5.5 million children of 9 months to less than 15 years age group. FDI on 26th August organized a Readiness Meeting for EPI Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa attended by EPI and EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Team members along with reps from World Health Organization- Pakistan, UNICEF Pakistan and other partner organization.



### COVID-19 PAEDIATRIC CAMPAIGN READINESS MEETING

FDI organized a National Training on Trainers today on COVID-19 Pediatric vaccination Campaign scheduled from 19th to 24th September. Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG FDI in his opening remarks commended the efforts of EPI Teams from all across Pakistan. Dr. Kazi wished all participants a successful future campaign and ensured all possible technical support in this regard. Later on participants from FDI, PEI, EPI and partners from, Punjab, Sindh and Islamabad conducted a comprehensive TOT involving all aspects of the campaign.



## ORAL CHOLERA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

EPI Punjab in association with DHA Lahore conducted the 1st phase of Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) Campaign on the direction of the Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department in selected 17 HRUCs of Lahore across 9 towns from 10-15 August followed by two days of catch-up on 16-17 August.

The campaign was formally launched jointly by Director General Health Services Punjab, Dr. Haroon Jehangir Khan and WHO WR, Pakistan Dr. Palitha Mahipala in a Public School in UC 70. Present on the occasion were Director Health Services EPI Punjab Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Awan, EOC Coordinator, Syeda Ramla Ali, UNICEF Health Specialist, Dr. Tahir Manzoor, WHO Head of Office Punjab, Dr. Jamshaid Ahmed, ADCG Lahore, Shahid Kathia, Director CDC, Dr. Shahid Magsi, Director IRMNCH, Dr. Khalil Ahmed, CEO Health Lahore, Dr. Faisal, CEO Education, Parvaiz Ahmed and representatives from government and partner organization.

Oral Cholera Vaccine was administered to all population of one year and above in the selected UCs, where 96% of the set target was achieved.

## FPP PLANNING MEETING

Experts from the stipulated programmatic areas, EPI/PEI, vertical programmes i.e. CDC and IRMNCH, WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, Gavi, Acasus, and health education wings gathered on 11th August for a consultative process to finalize Gavi mandated activities for next five years with targets, timelines and resource allocation.



Director General Health Services Dr. Haroon Jehangir Khan chaired the session. He said urban immunization was the next big challenge. He also highlighted vaccine hesitancy as a barrier in vaccine uptake asking communication team to focus on this as foremost priority.

Director Health Services EPI Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Awan moderated the discussion across all strategic priority areas. He welcomed renewed focus on research, data analysis, data modelling and communication and said in a fast changing world, inter disciplinary and cross cutting approaches were emerging more successful. He emphasized a multi sectoral strategy involving a wide range of stake holders. With time, he added, the program needs to evolve and tailor itself to larger social and technological needs.

All programmatic areas came under discussion with budget allocation. Nearly a 100 indicators with barriers, activity plan and priority points were marked for implementation over the next five years.

## PREPARATIONS FOR PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN FIVE DISTRICTS

Punjab rolled off preparations for Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign in five districts with provincial TOT on 31st August for the teams of these districts.

Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Haroon Jehangir Khan was chief guest in the one day event where Master Trainers were imparted training on campaign implementation, supervision, vaccine handling, storage &



transportation, NIMS reporting, R&R tools, Microplanning, AEFI Management, referral and ACSM activities.

The six-day vaccination campaign will be conducted in Bahawalpur, Lahore, Multan, Okara and Rawalpindi. Children of 5 years to less than 12 years of age will be administered first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Present on the occasion were Director Health Services EPI Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Awan, WHO Head of Office Punjab Dr. Jamshaid Ahmed, Additional Director EPI Dr. Samra Khurram, Dr. Abdul Jabbar, Dr. Wasim Ali, UNICEF Representative Dr. Mushtaq Shad, JSI team lead by Dr. Babar, Provincial EPI team, UNICEF team and WHO team including Divisional EPI Officers from these districts.

## **WR WHO PAKISTAN MEETS DG HEALTH PUNJAB**

The WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr. Palitha Mahipala visited DG Health Office and met Dr. Haroon Jehangir Khan, DGHS with EPI team to discuss issues and challenges as well as way forward for EPI Punjab on 10th August. The DGHS discussed findings of the recent TPVICS survey and the declining immunization coverage in Lahore with special focus on emerging challenges of mega urban cities. DGHS



acknowledged WHO support in key programmatic areas specifically focusing on VPD surveillance, data collection, consolidation, analysis and communication.

## **WEEKLY TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETINGS**

EPI Punjab Team under the provincial top level health department leadership organized weekly Review Meetings respectively on 23rd, 27th and 30th August to discuss and plan various routine immunization and campaign mode programme modalities.







### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON COVID-19 PEDIATRIC CAMPAIGN**

A Steering Committee meeting headed by Sindh Health Minister honorable Dr. Azra Pechuho, was held on 29th August to discuss upcoming COVID-19 vaccination campaign. It was attended by Secretary Health Zulfiqar Shah, Parliamentary Secretary Health Qasim Siraj Soomro, Programme Director, EPI, Dr Irshad Ahmed Memon and representatives from partner organizations. It was discussed that COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in the 5-11 year cohort had been identified in eight high prevalence districts, monitored from March 2020 to August 2022. Health Minister directed all concerned to gear up for a coordinated COVID-19 Pediatric campaign scheduled from 19th to 24th September, 2022.

### **QUARTERLY REVIEW MEETING OF THE CHOTI KHUSHI IMMUNIZATION INCENTIVE SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

The first Quarterly Review Meeting of EPI Sindh Choti Khushi Immunization Incentive Support Programme was held at EPI Sindh on August 11. The purpose of the session was to showcase the programme implementation status in the 7 low immunization districts of Sindh, discuss feedback and insights from district-level teams and highlight the key next steps. The meeting was chaired by the PD EPI Sindh, Dr. Irshad Ahmed



Memon. Key members in attendance were Senior Advisor Health IRD, Dr. Akram Sultan, Provincial Coordinator, Dr. Vijay Kumar and Site Project Director, Dr. Misbah Munir. The DHOs and ADHOs of District Karachi East, Central and West, Hyderabad, Qamber Shahdadkot, Jacobabad and Sujawal were also present along with the DIOs and DFCs IRD.

The Choti Khushi Immunization Incentive Support Programme aims to improve immunization coverage, timeliness and equity through the provision of small mobile-based conditional cash transfers to caregivers of children under 2 years of age. These small yet effective cash transfers aim to increase immunization coverage across the province, by promoting positive behavioral change for immunizations.

### EPI SINDH PAKISTAN’S MOBILE IMMUNIZATION VAN PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO DELIVER

EPI Sindh and IRD Pakistan’s Mobile Immunization Van programme is contributing to enhancing immunization activities, making routine immunization more accessible to underprivileged and nomadic communities. Despite the poor weather conditions and monsoon downpours, the Mobile Vans actively carried out their field activities within outreach areas in collaboration with the Sindh Government. With 5 Mobile vans currently active, children were immunized along with the internally displaced persons (IDPs) to prevent them from infectious diseases. During the outreach activity, the Mobile Vans identified IDPs and immunized vulnerable children within Seeta Nagar at Government Boy’s Primary School, Government Degree College Ghazi Goth, Government Girls Degree College in District East, and in sector 4 Suranjani District West.



Since 2019, Mobile vans have immunized over 55,000 children along with more than 3,500 women, and have administered 200,000 doses of vaccines as of August.

### REFLECTION OF IMMUNIZATION SERVICES IN SINDH DESPITE FLOODING SITUATION





### ONE DAY PROVINCIAL TOT FOR FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS ORGANIZED

EPI, KP organized one day Provincial Level Training of Trainers on enhancing COVID-19 vaccination gender base equity coverage health through involvement of Faith Based Organizations (FBOs)/Religious Leaders in South KP on 17th August.

FBOs and Religious Leaders from all districts of South KP participated in this activity; while they ensured full support for the creation of awareness among the people of South KP and Merged Districts. The project aims towards Enhancing COVID-19 vaccination gender based equity coverage through capacity building and involvement of Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Religious Leaders and Female Health Care Workers in 12 districts of South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project is being implemented by EPI, KP in association with FDI and financial assistance from US CDC.

### GAVI FPP CONSULTATIVE SESSION FOR EPI KP

EPI KP organized brainstorming meeting with participants from EPI KP, FDI, GAVI and all partners to discuss the Full Portfolio Planning Activities for strengthening EPI over coming five years discussed in detail. The session was chaired by Dr. Muhammad Arif, EPI Manager and each one of activity was discussed in detail along with its priority and financial modalities.





## SUCCESSFUL COME BACK FROM FLOODS

The Provincial EPI under the leadership of Dr. Akhtar Ali Buledi Project Coordinator, EPI Balochistan rehabilitated the district cold room washed out in Lasbela due to flooding.

Balochistan is in a flood situation and all the districts have flood water due to heavy rain in the country. During the first spell of heavy rain on 25th July two districts, Lasbela and Jhal Magsi suffered badly. The Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan Dr. Akhtar Buledi immediately took action and the cold chain technical team was deputed with the support of the UNICEF field office to rectify the faults and make possible to functionalization of ILRs for vaccine storage and EPI services in the district.

Mr. Akhtar Ali Khoso Provincial EVM Consultant was sent to supervise the rehabilitation services for the cold chain system. During the visit, it was observed that too much water inundates the DHO office and destroyed all the infrastructure of the DHO office including the EPI system and cold chain devices.

The provincial technical team made a functional District Cold Room and repaired 8 ILRs which were also damaged due to heavy rain floods. Thanks to the immediate and timely response of the provincial office the EPI system functionalized within one week of the damage reported.

During the rehabilitation work in Lasbela UNICEF Chief of Field Office Balochistan, Dr. Gerida Berikula also paid a visit to verify the exact condition of the cold room in District Lasbela and appreciated the DHMT for asking timely assistance and the EPI Team for promptly responding to uninterrupted service delivery to children of District Lasbela.

## WEEKLY CORE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EPI Balochistan notified a core team consisted of PC EPI Balochistan, TFP EPI, UNICEF Immunization officer, NPO EPI WHO and representative of ACASUS for the recording and documenting the meeting minutes. The Purpose of core committee to plan promptly activities, design capacity building initiatives for district-based staff, keep seven components of EPI on the track and tracking progress of provincial and district teams as well as provide feedback for improvement.



In the month of August, the Provincial EPI Core Committee meetings held under the chairmanship of Dr. Buledi and discuss the action points of previous meetings. Core team further assigned task on each Monday for weekly meetings.

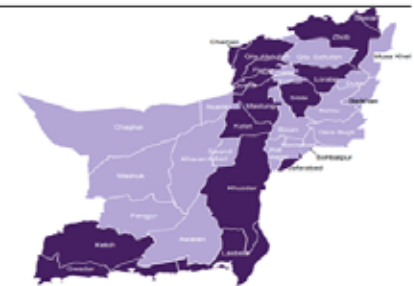
## IMPROVED MONITORING MECHANISM AT DISTRICT LEVEL

EPI Balochistan envisioned to have a proper tracking mechanism of regular monitoring visits conducted at District Health Management Teams, purpose the Provincial Coordinator and EPI Core team assigned the task to ACASUS team to design a Monitoring application and, provide the link to EPI for further implementing it at District level. The Monitoring Application designed by the ACASUS team as per the guidance of EPI Provincial Coordinator and Core Committee members. The monitoring application is being implemented by all thirty-four districts of Balochistan and 15 EPI priority Districts are being closely monitored by Provincial Monitoring Cell and, timely feedback is being provided to district teams as per their monitoring reports.

### Provincial EPI utilizes the supervisory app across the province with a focus on 15 Priority districts

#### 15 Priority Districts

1. Quetta
2. Pishin
3. Killa Abdullah
4. Chaman
5. Mastung
6. Kalat
7. Khuzdar
8. Lasbela
9. Sibi
10. Jaffarabad
11. Zhab
12. Sherani
13. Loralai
14. Kech
15. Gwadar



Selection of these districts are based on Registration density, Community Outreach and Active Program Management indicators (MCH) Low Coverage Indicator, Service Delivery Indicator, Mortality of the Data collected.

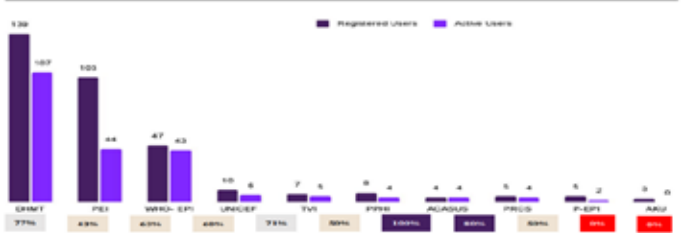
### Number of supervision visits has increased in 15 PDs since the roll out of the supervisory application

15 priority districts have 533 EPI sites



### Provincial EPI has taken the partners onboard to support in improving the functionality of fixed and outreach sites

Active users against the registered users



## HEALTH CHIEF UNICEF VISIT TO DISTRICT GWADAR IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The Provincial Health Chief UNICEF Dr. Muhammed Humayun Amiri and Immunization Officer, Dr. Aurangzeb Kamal visited District Gwadar on 2-4 August. The mission met with District Administration, Member of Provincial Assembly from District Gwadar Mir Hammal Kalmati and, District Health Management Team. The team discussed the UNICEF supported activities at District Gwadar especially routine



immunization services kept in main agenda of the meetings. Visiting officials from partner organization paid visit at District Cold Room at DHO Office and, visited new installed WCR. The DHO appreciated the support of UNICEF for provision of WCR and expressed his gratitude that now district vaccine storage capacity is increased. The EPI Gwadar was also capacitated by Provincial EPI through UNICEF support for keeping vaccines at minus temperature as district is provided with Ultra Cold Chain System. The mission also visited the EPI Centers at DHQ Hospital and one of the Basic Health Unit at Gwadar city. After completing the visit DHMT were appreciated for their good work and improvement points shared in detail.

## ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- **TCV catch-up campaign Preparations:** Sub Committees of (Vaccine, Logistics and Waste Management, Technical and AEFI Management and ACSM & Crises Management) meetings were held on 2nd August.
- **Head of Nutrition WFP, Dr. Deborah Wilson** called on worthy PPM EPI AJK, Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan on 11th August in his office. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Naseem Hasrat, Dr. Bushra Shams, Javed Akbar, Nadeem Baig, All the vertical programmes and their importance and role in nutrition remained under discussion. Dr. Wilson highlighted the role of EPI and appreciated its performance.
- **UCMOs and Area Incharge Training** was organized on 15th August at Provincial EPI office Muzaffarabad chaired by PPM EPI Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan.
- **PEI Team, AJK** including Dr. Shazia AC WHO, Dr. Murtaza Gillani COVID-19 AEFI Focal Person, Dr. Sarwat DSO Muzaffarabad called on PPM EPI AJK, Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan on 16th August. Discussion points were forthcoming NID and TCV catch-up campaigns.
- **Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan**, PPM EPI AJK gave a detailed presentation in the Task Force Meeting under the chair of worthy Secretary Health AJK on 19th August.
- **A one-day training workshop for Data Managers** for the upcoming TCV catch-up campaign was held on 17th August, at the conference hall of PPM Office EPI under the chair of Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, PPM EPI AJK. All the Data Managers of AJK participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by Mr. Ayaz Nazir Abbasi and Mr. Natik Kazmi.



## ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- **Awareness session in PHQ Hospital Gilgit:** Director EPI GB, Dr. Abdul Mubeen with the support of MS PHQ Hospital, Divisional Officer WHO and RED/ REC coordinator on 13th August organized an awareness session with Doctors and paramedic staff of PHQ Hospital Gilgit during the occasion of newly established EPI center at Gynae Ward. All the new born children will be immunized with OPV and BCG vaccines at the time of birth to protect them from child tuberculosis and poliomyelitis two major communicable and dangerous diseases. According to Dr. Mubeen, this initiative will bring about positive change in terms of reduction in child mortality and morbidity.
- **Inauguration Ceremony of NIDs** was organized on 22nd August to kick off polio campaign. Honorable Haji Sana Ullah, Secretary Health Gilgit Baltistan inaugurated the NIDs at provincial level along with Dr. Salim Uddin DG Health GB, Dr. Abdul Mubeen Director EPI GB and many other senior officers from health department.
- **Director EPI GB, Dr. Abdul Mubeen participated** in DPEC Meeting on 16th August under the chairmanship of worthy Deputy Commissioner along with District Health Management Teams (DHMTs) of respective districts.
- **Immunization Activities** continued throughout the month of August.





### ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

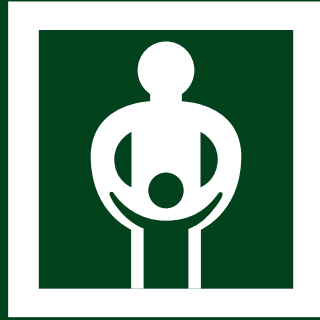
- Polio virus environmental samples of both sites of CDA i.e. Sabzi Mandi and I-9 sewage treatment plant became negative as recorded in the month of August.
- Monthly review meeting with EPI vaccinators was convened at Directorate of Health Services MCI on 29th August.
- EPI, Zindagi Mehfooz (ZM) initiative from the month of August has been stated at various public private health facilities of CDA Islamabad.
- Directorate of Health Services MCI conducted Polio NID from 22nd to 28th August within the municipal limits of Islamabad. It was a successful SIAs which achieve more than 100% coverage with around only 1% of still missed children.



### ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Dr. Zaeem Zia, DHO Islamabad chaired a meeting on 29th August with field staff regarding EOA preparation.
- Training of UCMOs regarding COVID-19 Pediatric campaign organized on 30th August.
- Routine Immunization activities carried out in HRMP on 15th August.
- Mr. Irfan Nawaz Memon, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad chaired a Polio Review meeting on 23rd August.
- Mr. Irfan Nawaz Memon, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad visited Polio teams in field on 24th August to monitor the field activities.
- Dr. Zaeem Zia, DHO Islamabad visited Polio teams and vaccinating the child on 24th August.





**FEDERAL DIRECTORATE  
OF IMMUNIZATION**  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN