



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, 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.

This is the last edition of 2022, I would like to congratulate the Federal Directorate of Immunization Team and EPI Programme Teams all across Pakistan for achieving various milestones in the year 2022 inclusive of conducting successful campaigns like TCV Campaign, COVID-19 Paediatric Campaign and specially tailored immunization interventions for the flood effected communities. This newsletter serves as a great carrier of news and updates of such interventions.

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 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, and 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 and 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 and many other national and international stakeholders.

NATIONAL EPI/PEI TECHNICAL SYNERGY MEETING

Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) and Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) under the technical oversight of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination organized an EPI and Polio Programmed Synergy Meeting on 14th December. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI chaired the meeting whereas Dr. Shahzad Baig, NEOC Coordinator graced the meeting with his presence as the



Guest of Honor. The discussions focused on Zero-Dose children with comparative analysis and strategic discussions to detect then refer reaching out all defaulter children of eligible population with each antigen in catchment area. The target is to increase coverage and equity while enhancing the potential of fully immunized children of Pakistan. Provincial Managers from all provinces and areas participated whereas Dr. Muhammad Arif from EPI KP shared a detailed overview on the developments in KP. Participants from NEOC, WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, ACASUS and other partner organizations attended the meeting.

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION SUPPORT PROJECT LESSON LEARNT WORKSHOP

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI chaired the “Lessons Learned from Pakistan’s National Immunization Support Project (NISP) and Future of Routine Immunization” workshop held on 15th-16th December. Dr. Kazi commended representatives from World Bank Pakistan and other project stakeholders stating NISP has achieved transformational improvements in the Immunization Programme of Pakistan. He further



stated that NISP successes were not achieved in a day. They are a result of continuous and amicable efforts by the Government of Pakistan World Bank also other partners that have built a results-focused partnership aimed at achieving a fundamental universal health goal also primary healthcare. This established capacities, relationships, and mutual trust that not only contributed to routine immunization however also provided a platform for immediate action to COVID-19 Pakistan Response.

MID-LEVEL MANAGERS TRAININGS FOR FDI STAFF

FDI in association with WHO, PEI and NSTOP organized an expertise "Mid-Level Managers" MLM training from 13th to 16th December. The purpose of the training being to develop managerial skills. In particular including areas of management logistics, cold chain, vaccines. Furthermore, component of organization National Immunization Days (NIDs), disease surveillance, advocacy, communication, social mobilization and monitoring, supervision, and evaluation of immunization services.



The training was facilitated by Dr. Imran Qureshi, WHO Punjab and Dr. Riaz Nasrullah, WHO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI interacted with the participants and congratulated the newly inducted FDI staff and all other participants. He also presented certificates to the facilitators.

BRIEFING ON INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR)

Dr. Urooj Aqeel, International Health Regulations (IHR) Coordinator, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination visited FDI on 21st December to present an overview on the National Action Plan for Health Security.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI along with team and partner organization representatives were present at this important meeting on International Health Regulation – GHSA. Discussions revolved



around the JEE-2023 tool while presenting action plan in the following sequential manner: -

- Nomination of technical focal person and team for the completion of tool at Federal level
- Nomination of the Provincial EPI FP for the JEE at provincial/area level.
- Online/in person JEE meetings nationwide for orientation of JEE and its tools.
- Support for collection of Repository from Provincial EPI departments.
- Support in finalizing and completion of National and Provincial JEE tool. (online or in person meetings will conducted with support from FDI)
- Final meeting at FDI after getting all provincial tool are completed for scoring
- Debriefing of the final results from national and provincial tool to DG FDI for his final comments.
- JEE- Immunization WhatsApp group including FDI team and Provincial EPI FP for JEE for better coordination.
- Report writing after internal assessment conducted in February 2023.

TRAINING OF COLD CHAIN TECHNICIANS

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI presided over the training of cold chain Technicians as Chief Guest on 23rd December. The capacity building initiative was led by FDI in collaboration with EPI Punjab and UNICEF Pakistan to enhance the capacity of 60 cold chain Engineers and Technicians nominated by all provincial/area EPI. Dr. Kazi highlighted the significance of this remarkable initiative as this capacity building



intervention will enable these technical focal persons to solidly maintain preventative and curative maintenance of the cold chain equipment. To contain optimum potency and efficacy of vaccines.

Dr. Ahtesham ul Haq, Director Health Services EPI- Punjab also joined the event as the Guest of Honour. Along with, Mr. Naeem Asghar, Immunization Specialist Vaccine Management, UNICEF Pakistan facilitated the technical training sessions.

ORIENTATION SESSION FOR FDI PREP WORLD BANK STAFF

An Orientation Session for FDI World Bank Pakistan PREP Staff was organized on 26th December. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI welcomed the staff and during his opening remarks said that this is a great knowledge management initiative to orient all newly hired staff on the EPI Programme with a prime focus on the Environmental and Social Management Plan. Dr. Kazi added that 'the session will equip the



participants with vital information in various waste management thematic areas'. Dr. Kazi concluded by stating that the programme Look forward to benefit from the experience of the participants. Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Mughal, ESMP Federal Coordinator facilitated the technical sessions.

VISIT OF JICA DELEGATION TO FDI

A JICA Pakistan Delegation called on Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI on 28th December. The visiting team briefed DG, FDI on the upcoming project, scheduled to commence from December 2022 and continue till November 2026 "titled as Strengthening Continuum of Care for Maternal, New-born and Child Health in Primary Health Care Setting." Dr. Kazi appreciated the role of JICA in the Immunization Programme of



Pakistan. As mothers and newborns are in urgent need of attention hence are dying in appalling numbers. Thus, it is to ensure health promotion that every child thrives and survives provided with life-saving interventions quality health care services such as essential care for newborns. All babies and mothers have a right to affordable, high-quality health care before, during and after pregnancy. For the encouragement of mothers and families of Pakistan to be able to have a risk-free family planning.

BRIEFING BY PHC GLOBAL

PHC Global Team organized a briefing session for Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI on 28th December to apprise on the projects and discuss their work for increasing immunization coverage in KP.



FDI'S VLMIS ORIENTATION AT PEI-EPI TRAINING

FDI and PEI organized a 2 days training session on 6th and 7th December on polio, cold chain management and supply chain management of vaccines for concern staff from all the provinces and regions. USAID GHSC-PSM Project supported two days training on modules of cold chain management and inventory management of vLMIS provided to all relevant participants of all provinces/regions for better system usage and



information systems implementation from federal level to UC/HF level for supply chain of vaccines.

OPERATIONALIZATION OF vLMIS OPERATION ROOM

As per the vision of Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG FDI, during meeting held on Sep 13, between FDI and USAID GHSC-PSM project and Cheemonics International, it was agreed that the USG supported vLMIS Operation Room would be functioning to ensure Pakistan vaccine live updates, COVID-19/routine immunization data analytics, data visibility and improved HR capacity. In this regard, operationalization of



vLMIS was performed in December with full capacity after renovation by USAID GHSC-PSM Project support and now fully functioning as data hub in FDI for Data Systems. USAID GHSC-PSM Project MIS consultant's team now be located in vLMIS operation room for support to FDI.

FDI COVID-19 INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

FDI/USAID GHSC-PSM Project team at FDI supported uploading of COVID-19 vaccine data loggers of Pfizer adult vaccine of 0.5 million doses data loggers are uploaded on given link by Pfizer. The team ensured proper uploading of data loggers recently received shipment of Pfizer. And it is prerequisite for reverse logistic of Pfizer empty thermal boxes. It is entered into COVID MIS after physical verification and ready for further distribution in the country.

TRAINING SESSION FOR 1166 ON "COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN FEDERAL WAREHOUSE"

Dr. Arooj Iftikhar, Technical Officer WHO 1166 Helpline in coordination with the Operations team of FDI organized a training session on "Cold Chain Management in Federal Warehouse" for the team of medical doctors stationed at the Sehat Tahaffuz Helpline (1166), that answers technical questions from callers calling from all over Pakistan.

Dr. Ashraf Younis, Assistant Director of

Operations FDI gave a detailed briefing on different levels of cold chain management during the transportation, storage, and distribution of vaccines to enable the medical doctors to answer technical queries related to vaccine storage and transport. Dr. Ashraf Younis also demonstrated important equipment like vaccine carriers, cold boxes, refrigerated transport trucks, safety boxes, reconstitution syringes, and auto-disposable syringes. The concept of reverse logistics of thermal boxes and data loggers of mRNA vaccines (Pfizer) to avoid vaccine misuse and the environmental hazard was also explained to the doctor's team.

Mr. Faisal Ali, COVID-19 Vaccines Manager at FDI briefed the doctor's team about cold rooms, ultra-cold rooms, and a newly added dry storage warehouse followed by a detailed question and answer session.

Mr. Fida Muhammad Khan, Sub Engineer Mechanical showed several temperature indicators and monitoring devices such as vaccine vial monitors, and remote temperature monitoring devices with a briefing on temperature monitoring checks and processes.

The 1166 doctors team answers medical and technical queries about vaccine-preventable diseases, routine immunizations, supplementary immunization activities, and enhanced outreach activities. The 1166 doctors team is also responsible for answering any calls related to any adverse events following immunization (AEFI). Tasks are to carry out clinical assessment, documentation, and reporting. Technical questions regarding vaccine manufacturers, ingredients, dosage, and storage temperatures are also fielded by the doctor's team. Any technical calls beyond the expertise of first-line call agents are transferred to medical doctors to enable the callers to make informed vaccine decisions to prevent life-threatening infectious diseases in young children and to promote confidence in immunization.



DIRECTOR GENERAL FDI SENT MULTIPLE TEAMS TO EPIS ALL ACROSS PAKISTAN FOR SUPPORTIVE SUPERVISIONST

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI in response to needs and gaps identified by provincial authorities developed teams and sent them to provinces to work with provincial teams shoulder to shoulder and assist them. Following are the details of team visits: -

A team consisting members from Federal and Provincial EPIs carried out assessments nationwide in terms of physical verification and reconciliation of vaccine stocks. Following are glimpses from EPI Sindh where Dr. Inam Bhatti, DD Operations, FDI from Sindh province.



Another team from FDI to conduct a visit to Balochistan from 19th to 23rd December to assess the immunization situation. The team comprising Mr. Aqib Shafi and Ms. Huma Nayab visited low performing districts to identify the challenges and develop an action plan in coordination with EPI Balochistan to improve the immunization situation. The visits encompassed interviews of front-line-workers, communities, and experts to get a deeper understanding of the situation and adapt the solutions accordingly going forward. Meeting was also conducted with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to sensitize them to cover zero-dose children and evaluate their performance.



A team comprising technical members from FDI, and UNICEF is conducting a Comprehensive EPI Review of AJK from 19th to 23rd, Dec, in 4 Districts Muzaffarad, Bagh, Haveli, Bhimber. Following were the observations data acquired by the Review Teams.



COMPREHENSIVE EPI REVIEW

EPI Punjab conducted Comprehensive EPI Review for 36 districts in three batches. The review for first two batches of Central and North Punjab was conducted on 19th and 20th December. The Review for South Punjab districts was conducted on 22nd December. The review was conducted with technical and financial support of the WHO. Provincial high ups, district managers and technical experts arrived from across the province. Held vital discussion about progress and performance during Comprehensive EPI Review.

Director Health Services, EPI, Dr. Ahtesham ul Haq, Head of Office, WHO Sub-Office Punjab Dr. Jamshaid Ahmed, NPO WHO Dr. Imran Qureshi, Immunization Officer UNICEF Dr. Qurat ul Ain and district officials were present. DHO-PS, DSCs, DSVs and EPI Focal Persons from districts attended the review.

EPI PUNJAB STARTS LABOUR ROOM BIRTH VACCINATION COUNTERS AT SELECTED HOSPITALS

EPI Punjab has formally started round-the-clock vaccination services at labour rooms of selected primary and tertiary care hospitals of the province to ensure vaccination of newborn children. EPI Punjab with WHO support has set up Labour Room Birth Vaccination Counters at Ganga Ram Hospital Lahore, Jinnah Hospital Lahore DHQ Teaching Hospital DG Khan and DHQ Rajanpur currently.

The formal inauguration was performed on 29th

December jointly by Vice chancellor Fatima Jinnah Medical University Lahore Professor Khalid Masood Gondal, WHO Representative, Head of Mission Pakistan, Dr. Palitha Mahipala and Director Health Services, EPI Dr. Ahteshamul Haq at Mother and Child Block, Fatima Jinnah Medical University/Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. WHO Head of Sub Office Punjab Dr. Jamshaid Ahmed, NPO WHO Dr. Imran Qureshi, MS Ganga Ram Hospital Dr. Athar Yousaf and technical team from WHO and EPI were present on the occasion.

WHO Representative, Head of Mission Pakistan, Dr. Palitha Mahipala appreciated the decision and said, "This is a very useful initiative. It provides a great opportunity to parents to get their children vaccinated immediately after birth."

Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Medical University Professor Khalid Masood Gondal said, "The Mother and Child Block of Fatima Jinnah Medical University provides services for mothers and children under one roof. Newborn children are most vulnerable to diseases and timely vaccination can save many lives. This counter will ensure valid vaccination for desired outcome. This will not only ensure timely birth registration of newborn children, it will also enable us to cover identified missed opportunity." The EPI Punjab with WHO support has recently provided intensive trainings to over 1,000 skilled immunization staff in many hospitals on vaccines, EPI services, cold chain, and recording & reporting tools.

The EPI Punjab has started many new canters in partnership with private sector as well and has scaled up its outreach services to ensure vaccination of every child.



TOT ON RED-REC MICROPLANNING

EPI Punjab organized the Training of Trainers on RED-REC Routine Immunization Microplanning and Plan of Action 2023 on 6th – 7th December with WHO support in Lahore.

Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Ilyas Gondal was Chief Guest on day one. Director Health Services, EPI Dr. Ahteshamul Haq, Additional Director EPI Dr. Samra Khurram, Additional Director Surveillance Dr. Abdul Jabbar,

Additional Director V&L Dr. Wasim Ali, WHO and UNICEF experts attended. NPO WHO Dr. Imran Qureshi led technical sessions on RED-REC strategy, strategic priority areas of the programme, cMYP and IA 2030. District-wise Plan of Action for 2023 was discussed and guidelines were presented.



WHO WR KEEN TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILD HEALTH SCIENCES

WHO Representative in Pakistan, Dr. Palitha Mahipala visited the University of Child Health Sciences and shared that the UCHS is one-of-a-kind initiative in the region and there is a great need to strengthen research on pediatric diseases. The WHO WR met Vice Chancellor UCHS Professor Masood Sadiq and discussed WHO supported initiatives. Dr. Palitha Mahipala mentioned that WHO will team up with University of Child Health



Sciences Lahore for the establishment of a state-of-the-art Collaboration Center. The WHO is providing support for sentinel surveillance for Invasive Bacterial Diseases: pneumonia and meningitis; Rota Virus Diarrhea; Global Pediatric Diarrheal Surveillance; Congenital Rubella Syndrome; also, typhoid. Dr. Palitha shared that surveillance data lays basis for evidence-based decision making. He shared that research data can be key to monitoring of disease burden data and support introduction of appropriate vaccines.

IPCI CASCADE TRAININGS IN 6 DISTRICTS OF PUNJAB

UNICEF supported Inter-Personal Communication for Immunization (IPCI) trainings' second phase was completed in 6 districts of Punjab including Kasur, Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yar Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajan Pur and Muzaffar Garh. These trainings are being conducted by a third party ECI and total 1,086 vaccinators including 956 male and 130 female vaccinators.



PEI-EPI SYNERGY MEETING OF DHO (PS)

Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Muhammad Ilyas presided a meeting of District Health Officers (Preventive Services) from across the province. Director Health Services, EPI Dr. Ahtisham Ul Haq, along with senior EPI officials including ADHS Dr. Samra Khurran, ADHS EPI, Dr Waseem Ali and Dr. Abdul Jabbar, Immunization Officer UNICEF Dr. Qurat Ul Ain Ahmed, Provincial Urban Health Consultant UNICEF Dr.

Mushtaq Ahmed Shad, PEI-EPI Synergy Dr. Mehroz Saleem, SMO EPI Dr. Mudassir Saeed and C4D Consultant UNICEF Mr. Aqeel Sarfraz.

The following was the agenda of this meeting:

- PEI-EPI Synergy Overview
- Weak UCs Evaluation Review
- Accountability & Feedback in the light of Evaluation
- Way Forward to improve EPI under PEI-EPI Synergy Platform

The DGHS Punjab emphasized need to synergize activities from EPI and PEI for maximum improvement of EPI services. DHS EPI Punjab welcomed the participants and said that it was the first meeting focusing the EPI-PEI synergy. He appreciated the EOC Coordinator to take this initiative and said the meeting of DHOs-PS of Punjab should be a regular feature on monthly basis. It will be helpful to strengthen the RI and UI in achieving the targets and goals of the EPI Punjab with the support of Partners and PEI-EPI synergy.



CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES OF FRONT LINE HEALTH CARE WORKERS

EPI Punjab conducted training of Skilled Immunization Staff on EPI service delivery in teaching hospitals of Punjab throughout the month of December. The activity is underway across Punjab with WHO support. The EPI envisions starting vaccination services at teaching hospitals, District Headquarters Hospitals, Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Rural Health Centers and 24/7 Basic Health Units in evening shift. The

non-availability of immunization services after office hours has been identified as a key barrier with significant impact on immunization coverage across province. The training was necessary as Punjab started evening shift vaccination and 24/7 Birth Vaccination Counters rendering round the clock delivery services.



PROVINCIAL TOT ON DEVELOPMENT OF EPI POA 2023

EPI Sindh organized a series of Provincial TOTs on development of EPI POA 2023 & Union Council RI Micro plan at Divisional level throughout the month of December. 163 Master trainers such as DFP-EPI, DSVs, ACs, N STOPS, and DMs were trained on development of EPI Plan of Action and EPI Comprehensive Micro plan at Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur Division. Training of frontline workers about the importance of methodology on EPI Plan of action including all components of Micro plan.



CASCADE TRAINING OF MICROPLANNING AT DISTRICT LEVEL

Cascade training of Microplanning at District level were organized in the month of December where a total number of 6,099 Supervisors i.e. DHMT, DEOC, THMT and front line workers, Medical In charge Officers, Vaccinators and Lady Health Supervisors were trained at District level. These FLHCWs were trained about significance of methodology of EPI Plan of Action 2023. All components including RI Microplanning, immunization safety, EPI calculation, recording reporting tools, and communications.



EXPANSION OF ZERO-DOSE MICROPLANNING INITIATIVE ALONG WITH TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES FOR PROVINCIAL EPI

EPI Sindh in collaboration with Zenysis Technologies, EOC and other partners (including UNICEF, WHO, IRD) has been issuing child wise zero-dose micro plans in the SHRUCs and HRUCs of Karachi since 2021. These micro plans have continued to help the programme increase the vaccination of zero-dose children and the programme has managed to remove and cover more than 155,156 (77%) from the line list with the help of these micro plans. Based on these results Sindh EPI and EOC requested the Zenysis team to expand the microplanning initiative to all very high risk SMT UCs of Karachi and Hyderabad. Therefore



aid in extending to cover ample of children residing in the province. In this regard the first ever child-wise zero-dose micro plans were issued in SMT UCs of Karachi in December 2022 and this initiative is now being expanded to include Hyderabad district.

In the above regard, EPI Sindh in collaboration with Zenysis Technologies also held a provincial level training on the Sindh Sehat Analytics Platform that was attended by Project Director EPI Sindh and Provincial EPI and partner staff. During the training, the officials took keen interest in the working of the Zenysis platform and how to use it for triangulated analysis and to create visualizations. The training also gave an opportunity to EPI staff for recreational activities and team building which was thoroughly enjoyed by all members.

URBAN SLUM IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES AND BIRTH DOSE INITIATIVE

EPI Sindh and UNICEF is implementing many joint initiatives in many key immunization working areas in Sindh provinces. Birth Dose Initiative is one of key activity area in the Karachi. Besides, zero dose coverage in far flung areas and remote areas is another initiative to cover missed children.

Scaled up 24/7 birth dose immunization activities in 20 public and private hospitals, 14 in Karachi and 6 in Hyderabad



January to December 2022						
No of Deliveries	BCG	BCG %	OPV-0	OPV-0 %	Hep-B	Hep-B %
56,397	52,190	91%	54,107	96%	52,679	93%

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT ON IMMUNIZATION & INTEGRATED SERVICES IN HIGH-RISK UNION COUNCILS OF KARACHI

In December EPI Sindh team worked in planning towards aiming to overcome bottleneck issues related to routine immunization and healthcare services delivery in high-risk union councils (HRUCs) of Karachi, EPI Sindh to avail private sector engagement in those areas with support of The Aga Khan University. planning involved envisioning a result-oriented roadmap. A launching ceremony was planned for the next month.

EQUITY BASED RED/REC MICRO PLANNING PROVINCIAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS

Director EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan has said: "if we want to strengthen the EPI in province, we all have to increase the routine coverage of vaccination."

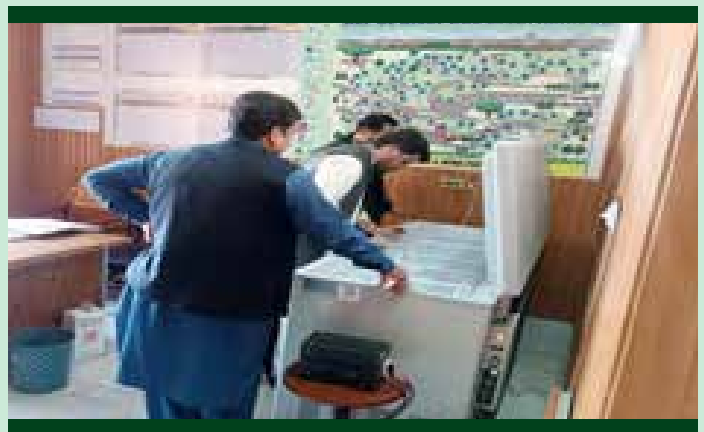
This he said during "Equity Based RED/REC Micro Planning Provincial Training of Trainers organized by EPI KP in association with WHO in Peshawar."

On this occasion Director EPI ensured all EPI staff for every kind of support from Provincial side and emphasized that if someone is not following the system, they will be held accountable.



INTENSIFIED OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Provincial EPI is struggling hard to improve the immunization coverage in the province. In this regard 2nd round of intensified outreach activity started in KP during the month of December. Monitoring and oversight mechanism has been firmed up by use of technology and regular virtual meetings with all the districts under the chairmanship of DG Health Services Dr. Shaheen Afridi and Dr. Muhammad Arif Director EPI along with EOC team and partners.



PLAN OF ACTION (POA) KHYBER-PAKHTUNKHWA

EPI, KP in collaboration with WHO & key partners conducted one-day workshop on 22nd December for District Health Officers and EPI Coordinators to develop District Annual Work Plan/ Action Plan. The purpose of the activity was to develop district specific plans with identified activities against 7 immunization system components, along with the resources required to reach the set targets and formulate a timeline for specific tasks.

The inputs/feedback from all the districts were taken and accordingly Provincial Plan of Action was drafted and accordingly disseminated under the leadership of DG Health, Dr. Shaheen Afridi and Dr Muhammad Arif Khan, Director, EPI KP in the presence of all the DHO's and partners.



INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (IPC) TOT

EPI KP and UNICEF jointly organized an Interpersonal Communication (IPC) TOT for South KP districts from 12-14 December in Peshawar. Total 23 Provincial & District participants have been trained in the TOT. Director EPI KP, Dr. Muhammad Arif and Dr Inam Ullah UNICEF Health Team lead participated in the opening and closing session respectively. The master trainers will support cascade training in their respective districts and will train more than 450 EPI vaccinators.



EPI VACCINATORS TRAINING

EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa organized a series of vaccinators training and a total training statistic involved 774 (98%) untrained/New EPI vaccinators on New EPI Module with the support of UNICEF. The training comprised of two weeks classroom training and 2 weeks hospital attachment. Different methodologies were used for training like PPT, group works, group discussions, use of audio/videos, role plays, case presentation and Q&A. The trainings were monitored by Provincial EPI and partner staff.



TAILORED INTERVENTIONS FOR SUPER HIGH RISK UNION COUNCIL

A Sports Gala was organized in St Johns school in Peshawar Super High Risk Union Council on 13th December. The participants were students, their parents, and teachers, notables of the community, DHO, and partners' representatives. Importance of Vaccination / Preventive Health messages were highlighted in the event during announcements, speeches by the notables and through display of IEC material. To highlight the dire need of exemplary events being conducted substantial in diminishing zero dose and refusals.



EPI BALOCHISTAN AND UNICEF INTEGRATED HEALTH OUTREACH SESSIONS TO SUPPORT ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION

Balochistan EPI always looking for innovative approaches to scale-up the efforts putted in improvement of coverage of routine immunization. The Integrated Health Outreach is one of the services provided during the month of December to the HSS focused districts of Balochistan especially in Naseerabad division and Lasbela flood affected districts with support of UNICEF. Integrated services address the



community through routine immunization services also served with general OPDs services. During the IHOs EPI Balochistan has distributed baby kits and warm blankets to the community members which were provided by UNICEF Balochistan.

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Quarterly Seminars on Routine Immunization were conducted throughout the districts of Balochistan with the support of UNICEF. The purpose of seminars to raise awareness in communities recording importance of developing immunity in children against Vaccine Preventable Diseases and routine immunization.
- Enhanced Outreach Activities (EOA) conducted in province with the collaboration and support of WHO. The December EOA was successfully conducted, and extensive monitoring was done by District Health Management Team and supported by the Provincial EPI Staff as well as partners. There were more than 215,000 children vaccinated during 12 days of EOAs for different doses.
- EPI Balochistan conducted Annual Surveillance Review and Training for DSVs and M&E Officers in two batches from 20th to 21st Dec and 20th to 23rd Dec respectively in District Lasbela. On first day the surveillance review was conducted in details while on day 2 a comprehensive training was conducted to inculcate the necessary knowledge regarding surveillance indicators. The event was arranged and supported by WHO Balochistan.
- EPI Balochistan with the support of KHUDI- Research and Development has conducted DHMT's 3 days training of trainers on EPI Micro-planning at Karachi on 12th to 14th December.



MEETING WITH THE WHO PEI STAFF REGARDING UPCOMING NIDS

Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, PPM EPI AJK had a detailed discussion with the PEI staff from WHO regarding the upcoming Polio NIDs. PPM EPI ensured full support for upcoming NIDs round and arranged all the things required and promised to maintain the polio free state of AJK.

PROVINCIAL PROGRAMME MANAGER EPI AJK ATTENDED AND PARTICIPATED IN ONE DAY TRAINING REGARDING VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENT

PPM EPI AJK, Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan on 20th December represented EPI, AJK in the training regarding Vitamin A supplement that was convened at Muzaffarabad and addressed to Polio Focal persons of AJK about the importance of vitamin A.



DEBRIEFING MEETING REGARDING DQA IN MUZAFFARABAD

Debriefing meeting on Comprehensive EPI Review and DQA, 2022 was held on 23rd Dec in Muzaffarabad. Dr. Palitha Mahipala, WR WHO graced the occasion with his presence as the Chief Guest. Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, PPM EPI AJK welcomed all the participants from Federal EPI, WHO, UNICEF and thanked WHO for organizing these activities in AJK and appreciated the districts for achieving good results in DQA.



Data Quality Assessment (DQA) was conducted in EPI AJK from 21st to 24th of December by team members from WHO and Federal EPI and the results were presented in front of the WHO Country Head Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Dr. Idrees Mughal Director Health was present along with Provincial Programme manager EPI Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan.

During the DQA, all aspects of EPI were thoroughly checked and monitored and results were presented at the debriefing, overall performance of EPI AJK under the leadership of PPM EPI Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan was applauded and appreciated by Dr. Palitha Mahipala.

ENHANCED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (EOA) IN GILGIT BALTISTAN

Enhanced Outreach Activity (EOA) continued throughout the month of December in Gilgit Baltistan, in which vaccinators and Social Mobilizers worked in the field besides all challenges in the harsh winters. The dedication of Director EPI GB Dr. Iqbal Rasool is leading the GB EPI team from the front in collaboration with all partner organizations resulted in great results in terms of catching up of eligible children.



EOA provides massive support in increasing routine immunization coverage of the province by providing additional resources to increase skill immunization staff for covering to reach every community. The brave vaccinator Mazahir Abbas from CD Basho is crossing handmade bridge for the purpose to vaccinate children in the far-flung areas to immunize children.

Vaccinators on the ground in GB continue to face difficult circumstances due to rigorous cold snow and hazardous road conditions. However, their efforts show honest dedication to protect children against these vaccine preventable diseases.

MONITORING OF EOA IN GILGIT BALTISTAN

Enhance Outreach Activities in GB are being monitored by Provincial EPI, DHOs and DHMTs in their respective districts providing the supportive supervision to the field staff and provided the corrective measures. Monitoring teams rectify the issues and anomalies on the spot and encourage teams for maximum out come from these activities.



VACCINATOR MAZAHIR ABBAS, CD BASHO

Vaccinator Mazahir Abbas from CD Basho is crossing handmade bridge to vaccinate eligible children in the far flung areas to immunize eligible children. Vaccinators on the ground in GB continue to face difficult circumstances due to hash weather and road conditions but their efforts show clear dedication to protect children against these vaccine preventable diseases.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

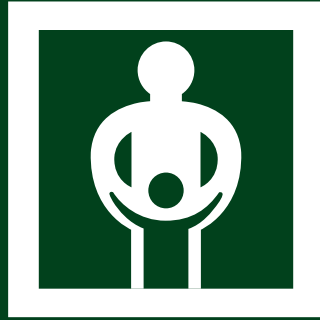
- EPI/PEI Synergy: 71% of recorded Zero Dose children of SNID November 2022 were vaccinated during the month of December.
- A monthly review meeting of Outreach vaccinators convened at Directorate of Health Services MCI on 7th December. Monthly EPI review meeting of CDA/MCI was held at DHS office. Opening remarks was given by Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz Lodhi, DG Health MCI. Dr. Farah Naz WHO and Dr Iman Ali are also attending this meeting.
- Microplanning workshop for CDA vaccinators was convened at Conference Room of Federal Directorate of Immunization. All vaccinators were trained to develop new revised micro plans for the year 2023.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Meeting with Polio UCMOs was chaired by Dr. Shazia Gul, Focal Person EPI/PEI & Co-Chaired by Dr. Fawad Khalid Khan, NSTOP ICT on 22nd December.
- Meeting of data team of DHO office with Technical Team of Zindagi Mehfooz to strengthen the compliance on 21 December.





**FEDERAL DIRECTORATE
OF IMMUNIZATION**
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN