

Federal Minister of Health, Abdul Qadir Patel:

In his message, to mark the start of the World Immunization Week, 2023 the **Federal Minister of Health, Abdul Qadir Patel**, “urged all parents to get their children vaccinated against 12 deadly diseases under the age of two years.”

“The ultimate goal of World Immunization Week is to ensure that more children are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases, allowing them to live happier & healthier lives. The Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness on the value of vaccines and the urgent need to find and vaccinate all missed out children.”

“Government of Pakistan is committed to ensure that safe and effective vaccines are available and delivered nationwide and reach every child. In this regard, I would take this opportunity to acknowledge and highlight the efforts of our frontline health workers and the EPI teams across Pakistan working tirelessly to reach every child, including those living in the most vulnerable and remote communities.”

“I am also grateful to our International donors and development partners for their commitment and support in meeting our goal of providing free of cost vaccines to every child in Pakistan,” the Minister added.

Federal Secretary Health Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam:

The ultimate goal of World Immunization Week is for more children to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases allowing them to live happier & healthier lives

On behalf of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, I take this opportunity to urge all stakeholders, i.e. Religious Leaders, Academia, Doctors, Media Personal, Civil Society Organizations, Parliamentarians, Immunization Partner & Donor Organizations and specially the Parents and our Frontline Health Workers to play their role in order to achieve our ultimate goal of universal immunization coverage (100% fully immunized children) **Federal Secretary Health Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam** said in his message.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, Director General, Federal Directorate of Immunization:

“World Immunization Week, is an opportunity to remind families and communities how effective vaccines can be, and to encourage people to take action to ensure that more children, and increasingly people in other age groups as we are witnessing right now, that is, vaccination against COVID-19, are immunized against deadly and debilitating diseases,” said, **Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, Director General, Federal Directorate of Immunization** to mark the beginning of the week.

“We know that a significant number of unimmunized children come from urban slums, hard to reach and security compromised areas. These children are in dire need of basic services such as primary health care, education, clean drinking water and sanitation. We now have to focus our resources to find novel means to trace these unvaccinated zero-dose children,” Dr. Kazi added.

Dr. Shahzad Baig, Coordinator, National Emergency Operations Center:

“Polio still threatens the futures of too many children today. This World Immunization Week let's protect all children with polio vaccines, especially those who have never been vaccinated. Because until we End Polio for good, polio anywhere puts everyone at risk.” said **Dr. Shahzad Baig, Coordinator National Emergency Operations Center**. “We’re striving to make sure kids in even the most marginalized areas can access polio vaccines, other essential care, and a healthier future,” he added.

Dr. Palitha Mahipala, WHO Representative in Pakistan:

“Vaccines bring us closer to community cohesion and compassion. With equal access to lifesaving vaccines, children can attend school, grow into healthy adults, parents can make their livelihood, and communities can thrive into a prosperous healthier society,” said **Dr. Palitha Mahipala WHO Representative in Pakistan**.

Mr. Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan:

World Immunization Week is a reminder that timely vaccination is the first line of defense against communicable diseases’ said **Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan**. Reiterating UNICEF’s resolve to vaccinate every child in Pakistan, he said, “Vaccine save millions of lives every year, especially those of children who are more susceptible due to low immunity. Vaccination is a safe and effective way to help them survive, thrive and reach their full potential in life.