



UNDER THE SCORCHING SUMMER SUN...



Under the harsh summer weather of Lakhra in District Lasbela, Balochistan, Qadir Bux travels on foot to reach communities in remote areas with a single motivation fueling his drive - saving the lives of children!

With hardly any shelter available on the way and the temperatures rising to 50 degrees, the duty of an EPI vaccinator working in District Lasbela, is nothing less than that of a hero. The EPI catchment area of Lakhra was so vast that Qadir Bux had to travel for hours between settlements to meet his targets of vaccinating children.

The area is difficult to cover due to its extensive land-mass, and uneven/scattered distribution of population. There are communities in Lakhra which cannot be reached with any vehicle but that has never been a hindrance for Qadir Bux., even in tough weather conditions. He parks his motorcycle at the side of the road and walks the rest of the long distance to vaccinate children in the remotest areas.

"I was never scared of the distances I had to travel but of the thought that a child might not get vaccinated on my watch," shared Qadir Bux, "The thought alone is unbearable for me."

Recently, Qadir Bux's duty was shifted to the Rural Health Center Lakhra after the death of the former senior vaccinator who was responsible for the fixed center. Qadir Bux said, "Now I sit in this fixed center for EPI because somebody has to manage this place as well since our last senior vaccinator passed away. It is easier than going to the field for outreach services, but I still do that. I like the thought of always being connected to the communities and their children that I have been vaccinating for several generations - they are like my extended family."

Shaheen, the daughter of the former EPI senior vaccinator, now working as a young vaccinator with Qadir Bux said, "the appointment of Qadir Bux to my father's post is an honor. He is hardworking, passionate, punctual, and extremely responsible. He does not even take a day off, regardless of how much it is needed and always says, if I don't work, who will vaccinate my children. It is his passion and connection with people that has also encouraged us to work harder for our community. Qadir Bux is indeed a vaccine hero for the people of Lasbela District."



In addition to his commitment and connection with the community, Qadir Bux has become a favorite of his District Management Team and his subordinates due to his impeccable record keeping and documentation system, low stockouts of supplies, and vaccine management. The Lasbela District Health Coordinator, Ms. Mahgul said, "Qadir's EPI center is my favorite in the entire district. You can see his devotion and passion being reflected in his overall management of the center. We need more vaccinators who are as motivated as Qadir Bux. He is an asset for our country and a vaccine hero for the world."