



Expanded Program on Immunization  
Government of Pakistan



# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES - EPI

APRIL | 2019

## National EPI Review Held to evaluate Progress March 27-28, 2019

National Immunization Programme review is the comprehensive assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of immunization program at national, provincial and areas level. The purpose of review was to ascertain programme progress, identify gaps and propose evidence based solutions to improving programme's performance. National EPI Review is an august forum to be conducted biannually thereby providing opportunity to provinces to benefit and learn from each other's best practices. Provincial/ Area EPI reviews are to be conducted on quarterly basis while District EPI reviews to be conducted monthly to measure the progress.

In the light of the above, National EPI Review was conducted on 27– 28 March, 2019 at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad and deliberations were held on coverage data, VPD burden, sentinel sites data, supply chain system, monitoring activities, and a group work was conducted on microplanning for developing a standardized format to be used all across the country .

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The National EPI Review was attended by EPI officials from federal, provincial and federating areas as well as development partners and donor agencies. In depth discussions were held and set of general and specific recommendations were formulated keeping in view the context of every province and federating area.

Federal EPI also bid farewell to Dr Munir Ahmed DGHS, Punjab for his extensive and tireless services to the health sector in general and EPI programme in special in the Punjab Province.

### National EPI MIS Training held in Islamabad, March 5-6, 2019

Federal EPI has organized two day training of EPI-MIS in Islamabad to improve and strengthen reporting and surveillance system of the EPI. Participants from the Federal and provincial and areas attended the training.

Expanded Programme on Immunization - Management Information System (EPI-MIS) is the web-based system that covers all the activities of EPI programme. It is a comprehensive system that manages human resource, health infrastructure, population management, vaccination coverage, vaccine management, VPD surveillance, RED/REC micro planning and cold chain equipment management, etc.



- **Online Reports submission:** The system provides interfaces for online reporting of weekly/monthly/yearly reports of EPI centers and surveillance sites
- **Transactional, event-driven data entry:** The system supports vaccine requisition, batch management, losses adjustments and purpose transfer to stock of all products and all cold chain fixed assets
- **Auto calculation:** EPI Centers, UC, district and provincial and national level aggregated reports and indicators
- **Anywhere & Anytime:** Managers can view, daily, monthly, quarterly and yearly reports, Human Resource records, indicators and analytical dashboards.



### **Two Day Consultative Meeting with GAVI Mission, March 25-26, 2019**

Recently Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has extended financial support of \$ 25 M as its Health System Strengthening Grant to immunization programme, while Pakistan has also earned \$ 13.5 Million as Performance Based Funding based on the improvements in immunization coverage.

Representative of Gavi the Vaccine Alliance visited Pakistan to discuss programming and prioritizing for the additional Health System Strengthening and Performance Based Funding. The consultations held at the Federal EPI that also engaged leadership of Ministry of NHSR&C, National EOC and technical partners; WHO and UNICEF.



# ACTIVITIES

## Undertaken

across Pakistan for EPI

### Dr. Munir has left a lasting legacy - PUNJAB

By Sajjad Hafeez

Punjab hosted a befitting farewell to outgoing Coordinator EOC and Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Munir Ahmed. Senior officials of the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department and Programme Managers from the Directorate General Health Services attended the ceremony acknowledging the extraordinary progress of Punjab made under Dr. Munir Ahmed DGHS ship.

Dr. Munir Ahmed retired as Director General Health Services on 31st March 2019. Under his able leadership Punjab was certified for successfully eliminating Maternal and Neo Natal Tetanus. Under him Punjab introduced four new vaccines in the EPI schedule, brought polio to the verge of eradication, improved immunization coverage from just 60% to over 80%, developed E-vaccs (android based vaccinator performance and attendance system), developed state-of-the-art EPI warehouses in Lahore and Multan with latest cold chain equipment as well as vLMIS, conducted mass training programs, revolutionized EPI communication with new website, helpline, social media platforms, video training modules for all tiers, monthly and fortnightly technical and surveillance bulletins, synergized polio and routine immunization along with a number of other initiatives.

Before taking over as DG Health and Director EPI, he made his mark as an excellent district administrator.

*“ Dr. Munir Ahmed has left a lasting legacy. Under his able leadership, Punjab has made enormous progress in the field of health”.*





As EDO (H) Gujrat, Dr. Munir is remembered for unearthing an outbreak of HIV in Gujrat and developing a robust system for case detection from among injecting drug users and sex workers, contact tracing and treatment culminating into over 120 HIV free deliveries from positive mothers in Gujrat.

The provincial chiefs of World Health Organization, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID presented souvenirs and shields to Dr. Munir Ahmed and paid rich tribute to him for his meritorious services. New EOC Coordinator Mr. Salman Ghani also presented a bouquet to Dr. Munir and acknowledged his great contribution to polio eradication and routine immunization.

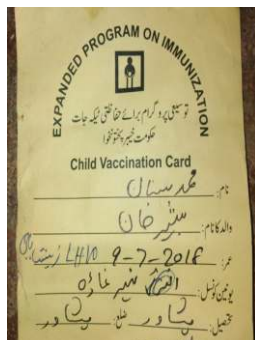



### A Case of Parental Refusal of Essential Immunization Resolved through Effective IPC Effort - KPK

By Huma Nayab

Parental refusal for essential immunization is a matter of great concern which increases the vulnerability of children against VPDs. Reluctant behavior of parents would certainly increase the occurrence of vaccine preventable diseases in children. There are many reasons due to which parents refuse, delay, or are hesitant to vaccinate their children. There are religious reasons, personal beliefs, safety concerns, and a desire for more information from healthcare providers. Health education has a key role in equipping parents with the necessary information so that they can make responsible immunization decisions for their children.

*“Health education has a key role in equipping parents with the necessary information so that they can make responsible immunization decisions for their children.”*





During the recent Extensive Outreach Activity across the districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a rigorous effort was made to leave no child unimmunized. An interesting case of refusal emerged in the village of Masho Khel Peshawar where the parental refusal was not due to any of the above cited reasons but it occurred due to the poor communication skill of the concerned local health worker. He had the harsh history where a health worker reportedly misbehaved and resultantly father took a decision not to vaccinate his child in future.

During the recent Extensive Outreach Activity in the month of March 2019, an extensive outreach session was planned in the area of Paggi. Field Coordinator Muhammad Wajid along with EPI technician Muhammad Anwar visited the area to conduct the planned session of vaccination.

During the session at the village Hujra, it was found that the father of the child Muammad Sanan, Shabir Jan has been continuously refusing to immunize his child and despite of numerous hectic efforts by the local staff, the child is still at risk due to parental refusal.

Shabir Jan told ***“I am the father of the child and it is my right to take decision for my kid”***

The outreach team discussed in detail the initiation of EPI programme, its core objectives, the importance and schedule of immunization, its side effects and consequences of refusal.

After a long deliberation and hectic effort, Shabir was convinced to get his child vaccinated and made a commitment to continue until the child is fully immunized.

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## **Provincial EPI Steering Committee Meeting AJK**

**By Dr. Muhammad Umer Iqbal**

Expanded Programme on Immunization, Azad State of Jammu & Kashmir conducted a steering committee meeting aiming to project departmental progress and improve collaboration with stakeholders.

The meeting was chaired by Major General Masood Malik, Secretary Health AJK while other members of committee including representatives from vertical programs and partners attended the event.





Provincial Programme Manager EPI, Dr. Bushra Shams presented departmental progress through analytical graphs showing improvements through time against various indicators. She also highlighted issues and constraints and areas of collaboration to achieve better outcomes in her presentation. Secretary Health AJK in his comments appreciated efforts made by Dr. Bushra Shams as being the team lead of EPI AJK and promised to support and advocate department at all levels. He also emphasized on other subdivisions of health department to work with same passion and serve humanity to its best.

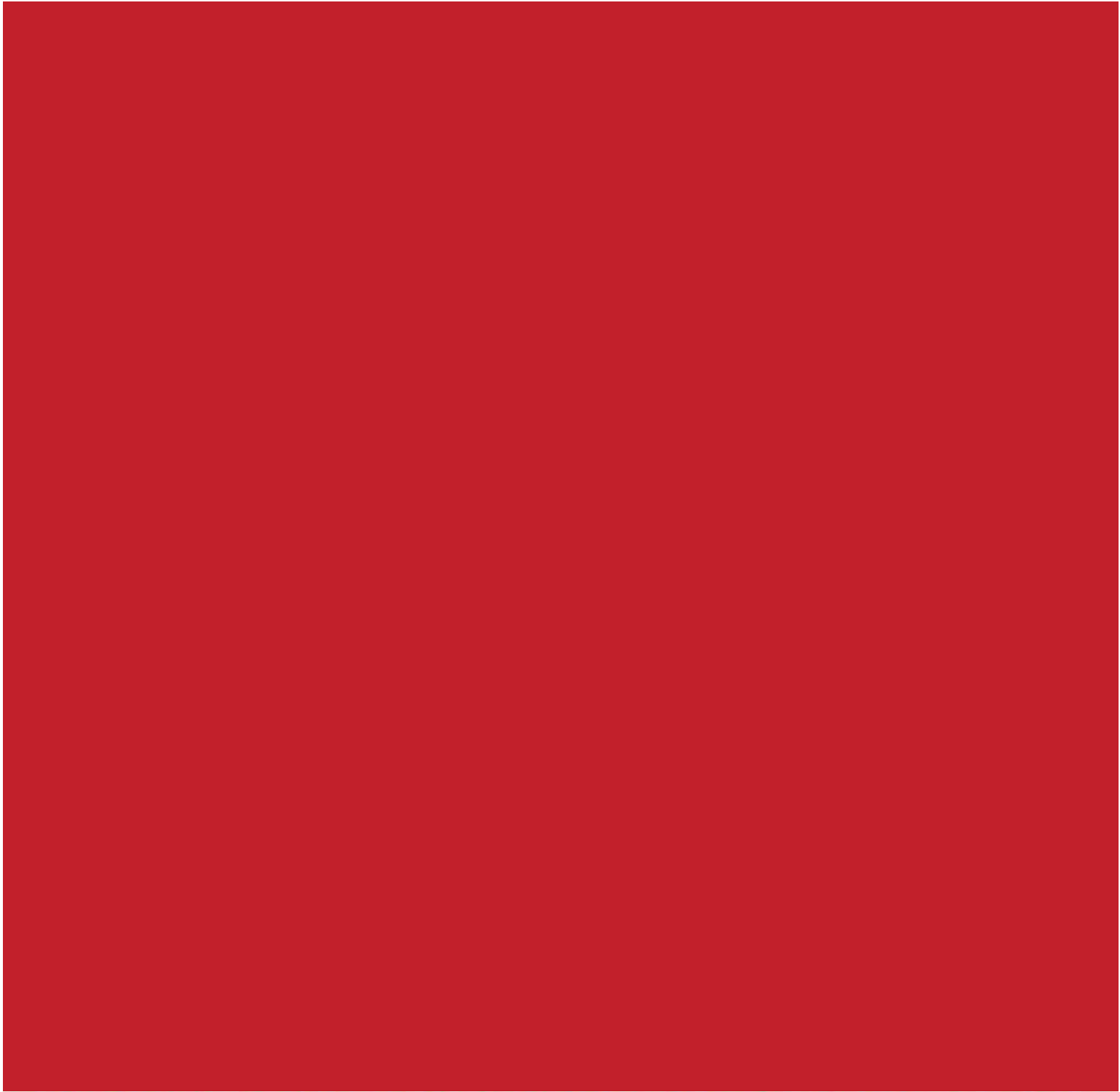
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### **High Risk & Mobile Population Coverage in District Sukkur M.S. Aftab - SINDH**

To improve the coverage of high risk and mobile population, a meeting was held in the Deputy Commissioner's office with Tameer –e- Khalq Foundation. The objective of the meeting was to devise a plan to improve vaccination coverage in high risk and mobile population. District Health Consultant TKF conducted meetings with EPI Focal Persons /DSV & TSVs to plan to increase coverage of HR&MP in the District. Vaccinators were nominated for vaccination in selected UCs of Loung Bhatti Jail colony and Ghulam Band UC Panhwar and sessions were conducted.

Areas were validated and huge number of high risk and mobile population were identified. It was revealed that the mobile population was from Quetta block & Bajor Agency, residing there for more than two months. HR&MP Communities were interviewed and asked regarding routine vaccination, community shared concerns about risk associated with health of children as no one ever visited them regarding vaccination.

Resultantly extensive vaccination sessions were conducted in the identified union councils to vaccinate the unvaccinated children. Extensive monitoring was conducted by DHC TKF and EPI staff to ensure all protocols are followed.



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