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EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION

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FEDERAL

Joining of National Program Manager at Federal EPI

Dr. Muhammad Akram Shah joined EPI team as National Program Manager on February 15th, 2021. Dr. M. Akram Shah joins the EPI team with vast experience in public health that he has gained while serving on key positions in public sector. Dr. Shah has also served as Provincial Program Manager, EPI at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has been working with the Government of Pakistan from more than 15 years on executive positions. The EPI will hugely benefit from his vision and abundance of experience in the coming months and years.



Dr. Muhammad Akram Shah has joined as National Program Manager

Launch of the TCV Catch-Up Campaign in Islamabad and in Punjab

The Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine campaign was launched on February 1st in the urban areas of Islamabad and in 12 district of Punjab with a target to vaccinate 13 million children. The Government of Pakistan engaged 7,250 skilled and trained vaccinators along with 7,250 assistants to effectively and safely immunize children during campaign. During the campaign the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme (PEI) synergized immunization efforts across the country, and also immunized 4.3 million children under the age of 5 with polio drops.

A total of 14,500 social mobilisers were also engaged to visit households for mobilizing parents and caregivers to visit the vaccination sites with their children. The campaign ran smoothly while the number of the AEFIs has been reported less than 0.1 % in different parts of Islamabad and Punjab.

The provincial and district authorities worked tirelessly during the campaign to mobilize the communities to achieve the set target. The campaign achieved the set target by vaccinating more than 13 million children both in Islamabad and Punjab. The success of the campaign was not possible without the contribution and maximum support of the partners that includes WHO, UNICEF, CHIP, Sanjhpreet, Hashoo Foundation and PHC Global.



The children are receiving the vaccine during the TCV catch up campaign

Sinopharm (COVID-19 Vaccine) arrival in Pakistan

On February 1st, 2020, Pakistan received 500,000 doses of Sinopharm (COVID-19 Vaccine) from China. The vaccine arrival ceremony was held at Noor Khan Air base on February 1st, 2020. The ceremony was well attended by the Mr. Shah Mehmood Quershi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, Director General Health, Rana Muhammad Safdar along with official of Federal EPI that

includes Dr. Soofia Yunus, Deputy National Program Manager. The received doses will be first given to the front line health workers and later to the elderly person above 65 years.



Arrival ceremony of the Sinopharm vaccine at Noor Khan base

Preliminary meeting at Federal EPI on Immunization Policy

A preliminary meeting for formulating the immunization policy was held on February 10th, 2021. The meeting included the representatives from the WHO, Unicef, Federal EPI, and Dr. Ejaz Ahmed Khan, the consultant working on the current draft of the immunization policy. The meeting mainly focused on improving the policy draft. During the meeting, it was discussed that the guidelines will be separated from the policy. The policy includes the portion of pandemic response and also focus on some private public partnership. In the end, it was agreed that Dr. Ejaz will work on the policy draft and share it back for the review and changes. The participants agreed to provide input as the first draft of the policy will be available for review in the first week of March.

Consultation on Multi-Year Plan (cMYP) 2021

A national level consultation was conducted on comprehensive multiyear plan on February 25th, 2021. The consultation was organized in Islamabad with the support of World Health Organization. The meeting was well attended by all the provincial (Sindh, Balochistan, AJK, GB and KP) and federal leads of Expanded Program on Immunization. The main presentation on the comprehensive plan was delivered by Dr. Riaz Solangi. The presentation highlighted the planning of next years along with the identified gaps to be considered. A detailed discussion was led by the provincial leads from Punjab, AJK, Sindh, KP, GB and Balochistan on the different subjects of the cMYP. The provincial (Punjab, Sindh, AJK, KP, GB and Balochistan) and federal leads mainly discussed the set targets of the upcoming years in detail. While reviewing the targets the provincial leads of Punjab, AJK and Sindh endorsed the set targets and the representatives of Balochistan, KP and GB requested for additional time for the revision of the targets.

During the meeting it was agreed that all the provinces will submit their revise targets before March 1st, 2021. The meeting brought consensus on MR and TCV campaign timelines. The provincial leads had a detailed discussion on the launching dates of the MR campaign. Dr. Muhammad Akram Shah, National Program Manager of the Federal EPI advised all the provincial leads to finalize the MR campaign dates at their end and get back to Federal EPI with final decision before March 15th, 2021.



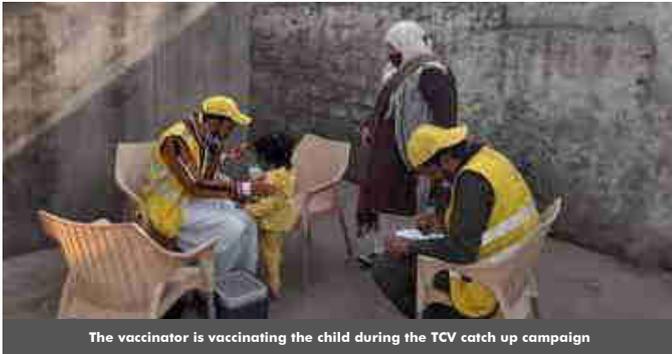
Dr. Muhammad Akram Shah is addressing to participant during the cMYP



ICT

Launch of TCV Catch Up Campaign

The Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine catch up campaign was launched in Islamabad from February 1st to 15, 2021. The campaign has achieved the set target by vaccinating the children at the fix sites and in the schools. The reach out teams completely mobilised the community in the campaign target areas. The teams were also well capcitated with vaccine administration, management & social mobilization.



The vaccinator is vaccinating the child during the TCV catch up campaign

Monitoring and Supervision of TCV Campaign

The Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine catch up campaign was planned in three phases i.e. pre, intra & post campaign, where all the activities were scheduled, monitored and conducted according to developed campaign plan. All monitors of Health Department, WHO, UNICEF, PHC Global, TKF & Hashoo Foundation completely monitored the field activities during the campaign days.



Monitoring and supervision of TCV campaign

Evening Review Meeting of TCV Campaign

The daily evening review meetings were conducted on regular basis to review the progress of campaign. During the meeting all the participants chalked out the next day action plan after identifying the gaps.



The meeting is in progress

CDA

Launch of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine Catch-Up Campaign

The directorate of health Services MCI/CDA successfully launched the TCV catch-up campaign in urban slums and peri urban areas of Islamabad from February 1st to 15th, 2021. The campaign was extended for 5 days by keeping in view the demand from the targeted community. The campaign has achieved the set target by vaccinating 239,785 children. To make the campaign more successful, the Director General Health Services MCI conducted the review meetings on daily basis for the secondary level supervisors and for the district and federal mentors. Other partners i.e. WHO, UNICEF, IPCR, CHIP, Hashoo Foundation & PHC Global also attended the review meeting regularly. For the successful completion of the campaign, the MCI office commends the support of nursing and technical students from the Rawal Institute, Railway Hospital, Social Security Hospital, and Health AIDs & Abuzar Diagnostic Center etc.



The children are receiving vaccine during the campaign



Group photo of vaccinators and children during the TCV campaign

Introducing TCV in Routine Immunization

After successful completion of TCV catchup campaign in targeted areas of Islamabad, Directorate of Health Services MCI planned to introduce TCV in routine immunization from March 1st, 2021 through its functional EPI vaccination centers as well as outreach / EOA strategy within the municipal limits of Islamabad. For this purpose, a training of vaccinators was conducted by Directorate of Health Services MCI. During the training it was communicated that TCV vaccine will be available in routine immunization schedule from March 1st, 2021 for children aged nine months.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

During the TCV campaign #MissionTyphoid
the exclusive hashtag reached out to
30.7m+ unique users and created an impact of
93.4m+ impressions

PUNJAB

Launch of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine Catch-up Campaign in Punjab

The province of Punjab completed its first round of the typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) catch-up campaign in February 2021 by vaccinating 12.9 million children between 9 months to 15 years of age. The campaign was organized from February 1st to 15th, 2021 and later it was extended for another two days. With this campaign, Punjab has formally introduced typhoid conjugate vaccine in routine immunization schedule of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in the province.

The campaign was organized in the following 12 districts: Lahore, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan, Gujranwala, Layyah, Rajanpur, Faisalabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Multan, Rawalpindi Chakwal and Pakpatan. The selection of districts was based on various indicators including incidence rate over the last one year. This campaign covered a large age group of children, hence a lot of activities were performed in schools. The school Education Department was an important partner providing valuable support in helping reach out to public and private schools. Overall, 3,673,228 children (30%) were vaccinated at schools and 9,304,178 (70%) were vaccinated at community level.

The provincial and federal governments and partners worked closely together to implement a high-quality campaign as per the COVID-19 guidelines keeping staff, children and parents safe. UNICEF, WHO, PHC global and other development partners played their role under the dynamic leadership of Director EPI, Dr. Bashir Ahmed Siddiqui in successful execution of the campaign.



Dr. Yasmin Rashid is vaccinating the girl during the TCV catch-up campaign

Journalists visit to DG Khan to cover TCV Campaign

A delegation of health beat reporters from the renowned news channels and newspaper visited DG Khan on February 11 to 12, 2021 to independently cover the TCV Campaign. The visit was arranged by the UNICEF with the support of EPI Punjab. The journalist delegation was briefed by the Secretary, Primary and Secondary Healthcare Capt. (R) Muhammad Usman. The delegation was accompanied by Dr. Bashir Ahmed Siddiqui, Director EPI Punjab, Hafiz Qaiser Abbas Deputy Secretary Coordination, and the UNICEF team. The delegation visited different sites including public sector schools, outreach kit stations, nomad area, fix EPI Centers and DG Khan teaching hospital to monitor the campaign related activities. Dr. Khalil Ahmed, CEO District Health Authority also briefed the journalists about the pre and post campaign related activities.



Journalists visit during the TCV campaign

Secretary PSHD participation in the CEO Conference

Cap. (R) Muhammad Usman, Secretary Primary and Secondary Healthcare chaired a monthly progress review meeting/ CEO conference on February 24th, 2021 in Lahore. The CEO conference was conducted with support of UNICEF. The meeting was well attended by the Secretary Health and Population Welfare South Punjab, Director General Health Services, and PDs of all program along with the colleagues from the UNICEF and WHO. All the Program Directors briefed the participants about their performance and key challenges. Dr. Mudassar Saeed, Medical Officer EPI, briefed the participants on successful execution of TCV campaign. He also requested field officers to gear up the Covid vaccination drive. Capt. (R) Muhammad Usman appreciated the EPI Program on successful completion of TCV Campaign. He appreciated the performance of CEOs of 12 districts who tirelessly worked for the TCV catch-up campaign.



The meeting is in progress

Glimpses of ACSM Activities in Punjab

The Expanded Program on Immunization Punjab with support of UNICEF has timely initiated social mobilization and community engagement activities at the grass root level to create enabling environment and acceptance for Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine.



SINDH

Deployment of Cold Chain at COVID Adult Vaccination Centre (AVC) Sites

The Sindh team successfully deployed the cold chain equipment on all COVID-19 Adult Vaccination Centres. The preparatory meeting for the deployment of the equipment was conducted under the supervision of the secretary health. The meeting was well attended by the PD-EPI, EVM coordinators and the delegates from the Islamabad along with the participants from the EOC core team.

Arrival & Distribution of COVID Vaccine

The COVID vaccine was well received under the supervision of Secretary Health & Project Director EPI Cell, Sindh. The COVID-19 vaccine stock was then dispatched through refrigerated truck with fool proof security to all concerned districts.



Arrival ceremony and distribution of the Covid Vaccine

Monitoring of Enhanced Outreach Activity in Sindh

The Tameer-Khalaq Foundation (TKF) continued intensified monitoring of routine immunization activities at fix and outreach sites in all the six districts of Karachi and Hyderabad. During monitoring of enhanced outreach activity the staff monitored the outreach sessions in their assigned union councils by using the latest technology such as Kobo software and the android app. The monitors also scheduled the daily evening review meeting in which they elaborated the daily field findings with DHMT, THMT, and DPCR for necessary support and action. After the monitoring visits, EPI Sindh has issued tracker files developed and updated by TKF team with respective office and DHOs for necessary support and action. With facilitation of EPI, UNICEF and TKF, training of TKF field Monitors on Zero dose validation and clustering for retrieval of zero dose children through outreach vaccination activity in 34 SHRUCs and HR UCS of Karachi was conducted. The randomly selected 10% sample size of zero dose children recorded in NIDs November, 2020 was considered for validation. The TKF field monitors completed the zero dose validation activity smoothly with facilitation of CBV staff in randomly assigned clusters in 34 UCs in phase -1 and now the TKF team is facilitating UC staff in retrieval of zero dose children through extensive outreach and social mobilization activities.



Glimpses of field monitoring of RI activities & training by TKF team

Singing of MoU with Private Health Entities

The Project Director of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Sindh along with DHOs signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on February 11, 2021 with private healthcare entities to provide the free of cost vaccines for children below two years of age against the 11 deadly diseases. On the occasion Dr. Akram

Sultan, Project Director, EPI said that "We have entered into a historical MoU with private healthcare sector under the public private partnership model to vaccinate our children free of cost". The EPI has signed MoU with VITAL Pakistan, SINA and ZMT chain of healthcare network who are providing immunization services against 11 deadly diseases in 62 health facilities – most of them are located in the slums of Karachi. These private organizations are already providing free of cost health services and routine immunization will be added into their setup. The event was well attended by the representatives from DG Health Sindh Office, DHOs of Karachi, EPI team and partners from JSI, WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, TKF, IRD and others.



PD EPI with DHO Central signing the MoU along with SINA & VITAL Pakistan

Immunization through Mobile Vans

Currently, five mobile vans are operational and conducting immunization activities in Super High-Risk Union Councils (SHRUCs) and urban slums of Karachi. From April to December a total of 2,312 children were immunized through mobile vans, out of which 70% (1,628) were the new enrolments on the electronic immunization registry. In the year 2020, a total of 12,324 children were immunized in mobile vans, out of which 54% (6,640) were the new enrolments on the electronic immunization registry. As of 2021, up till February, a total of 5,344 children were immunized in mobile vans, out of which 46% (2,077) were the new enrolments on the electronic immunization registry.



Father holds the child as the vaccinator is administering the vaccine.

Meeting with the officials of Ziauddin University

Dr. Akram Sultan, PD EPI and Mr. Suneel Raja met with Dr. Asim Hussain and Dr. Shireen, MS at Ziauddin University Hospital for establishing EPI centers and to provide the continuous training support to Ziauddin hospital staff. During the meeting important decisions and points were finalized.



The meeting is in progress

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

BALUCHISTAN

Provincial & District Review Meetings

Under the Health System Strengthening grant the review meetings were scheduled on the regular basis with the technical and financial support of WHO & UNICEF. During the review meeting the progress of the low performing areas was discussed in detail. The partner organization discussed in detail about the EPI improved coverage in the year 2020. The technical partners did detail analysis of data from different sources, assessed reliability and presented conclusions to enable informed decision-making. Overall during the meetings the focus was on the coverage of zero dose and defaulter children.



EPI review meeting in Peshawar and Mardan

Finalization of Maternal Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTe) SIA Plan

The provincial health department organized consultative meeting on February 15, 2021 under the leadership of Director EPI to finalize the plan of Maternal Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTe) SIA. The meeting was well attended by the technical partners including the WHO, UNICEF, RIZ, BMGF and shared the technical inputs to finalize the plan. During the meeting it was discussed that in phase-1, fourteen high risk districts from KP and one district (Upper Kurram) from tribal areas will be highly focused for the future interventions. It was discussed that 3 million Women of Reproductive Ages will be vaccinated in these districts.



Director EPI along with Provincial EPI team and Partners finalizing the MNTe SIA Plan

Installation of Central Temperature Monitoring Devices (CTMDs)

The installation of central temperature monitoring derives was completed in Peshawar, Tribal districts and in divisional warehouse of Kohat and Mansehra from February 2nd to 13, 2021.



Consultant from Berlinger is installing the CTMD at Provincial EPI warehouse Peshawar

Training of Lady Health Workers (LHWs) On Routine Immunization

A training session for the Lady Health Workers (LHWs) was conducted in February 2021. The training session gathered the district coordinators of LHW program from 10 districts and trained them on EPI protocols. These trainers will further conduct the training in their respective districts for LHWs along with the District Superintendent Vaccinators (DSVs).



Trainings session being chaired by the Provincial EPI Coordinator (Dr. Ishaq Panezai), DHO Quetta Dr. (Ahmad Zaman Jamali) and Provincial Program Officer WHO Balochistan (Dr. Rehmat Kakar)

Provincial Training on Reach Every District (RED)/Reach Every Child (REC)

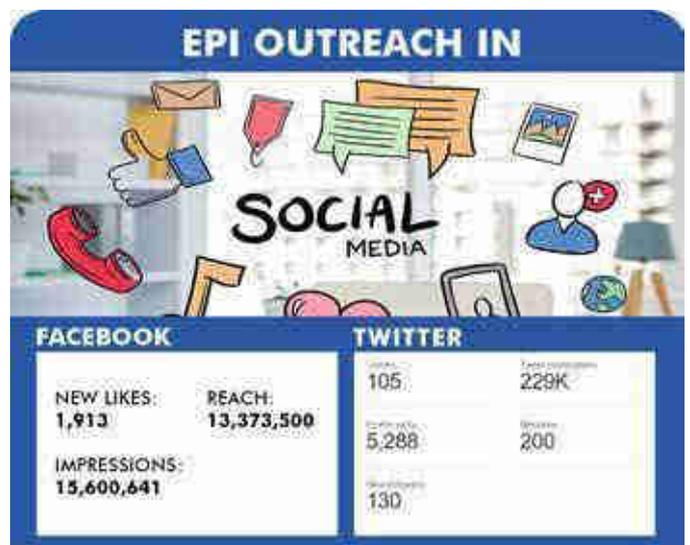
A provincial training of trainer was conducted on RED/REC microplanning for the District Superintendent Vaccinators (DSVs) from across the province in the month of February. After receiving the training, the master trainer will further conduct the training session with district administration staff in their respective districts and implement the updated micro plans in their districts.



Trainings session being chaired by the Provincial EPI Coordinator (Dr. Ishaq Panezai), Deputy Program Manager (Dr. Badar Ansari), session being conducted by In-Charge COVID-19 Operation Cell (Dr. Sarmad Khan)

Meetings for the launch of COVID VACCINE

A number of the meetings carried out at the provincial level to prepare the launch of COVID Vaccine. The meeting were intended to chalk out an effective plan to meet the target and objectives of the vaccine roll out in various phases. The key areas being focused are vaccine supply, cold chain, vaccination sites and communication strategy.



GILGIT BALTISTAN

Enhanced Outreach Activity

During the month of February the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Gilgit Baltistan keeping its pace, vaccinated thousands of children through Enhanced Outreach Activity (EOA). The EOA is ongoing in Gilgit-Baltistan and the activity has engaged 165 vaccinators and 165 social mobilizers who are reaching out to the community even in the extreme weather conditions.



Outreach teams in the line of duty

Mop Up Activity

Mop up was conducted in Gilgit in response to the measles outbreak. The activity was well attended by the District Health Officer, Provincial Surveillance Coordinator and the representatives from WHO and UNICEF.



Mop Up Activity in Process

Launching Ceremony of Covid-19 Vaccine

The launching ceremony of the COVID-19 vaccine was chaired by Raja Jalal Hussain Maqpoon, Governor Gilgit-Baltistan. The ceremony includes the other participants such as Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Director, EPI Gilgit-Baltistan, Minister Finance, Minister Law and Secretary Health.



The meeting is in progress

EPI Review Meeting

The EPI review meeting was conducted on February 22nd and 23rd to gauge the progress of the EPI Program and to highlight the grey areas. The meeting mainly focused on the issues, catch up of due defaulters and the priorities of the contingent strategy for upcoming months. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mir Waqar Ahmed, Secretary Health Govt. of Gilgit-Baltistan. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Director EPI, GB and Mr. Abdullah Durrani Technical Officer WHO.

AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

Launching Ceremony of COVID-19 Vaccine

The launching ceremony of corona vaccine was conducted at Prime Minister House of Azad Kashmir on February 3rd, 2021. The vaccination process was officially started by administering the first corona vaccine to the frontline health workers. During the occasion, Dr. Najeeb Naqi, Health Minister AJK, Dr. Mustafa Bashir Abbasi, Minister of Welfare, Mr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir; Major General Ahsan Altaf, Secretary Health, Ms. Midhat Shahzad, Secretary Information, Mr. Sohail Azam, Special Secretary Health, Dr. Aftab Hussain, Director General Health Public, Dr. Bushra Shams Provincial Program Manager EPI, Dr. Muhammad Saeed Awan, Commander CMH Hospital Muzaffarabad and others were present.



Launching Ceremony of Covid 19 Vaccine

Establishment of Sub Centers for Vaccination

The Expanded Program on Immunization in Muzaffarabad has set up two sub center for vaccination in UC Muzaffarabad and UC Lange Pura in FAP Thotha Mahajar camp in collaboration with Population Welfare Department to deliver immunization and health services to individuals with sufficient access to health facilities. The sub centers were established on February 2nd, 2021. Both of the centers were inaugurated by Dr. Bushra Shams, PPM EPI and Dr. Saeed Awan District Health Officer, Muzaffarabad. On the occasion, the community members were also sensitized about the importance of vaccination.



Dr. Bushra Shams and Dr. Saeed Awan are inaugurating health centers at Muzaffarabad

Media Awareness session on COVID-19 Vaccine

The media awareness session related to COVID-19 vaccine was organized on February 18th, 2021. The session was chaired by Dr. Bushra Shams, Provincial Program Manager along with Dr. Saeed Awan, District Health Officer Muzaffarabad.



The participant's participation in the media awareness session



**Expanded Program
on Immunization**
Government of Pakistan

