



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.

I would like to congratulate the Federal Directorate of Immunization Team and EPI Programme Teams all across Pakistan for achieving immunization milestones as per national and international frameworks. This newsletter serves as a great carrier of news and updates of such interventions enabling the programme to connect with national and international stakeholders.

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, safest, and efficient 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, 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 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 also many other national and international stakeholders.



MESSAGE BY **MR. ABDULLAH A. FADIL, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE IN PAKISTAN**

UNICEF takes pride in being a development partner to the Government of Pakistan, especially when it comes to promoting and safeguarding rights of children.

Investing in children is the best investment in a country's future. Protecting newborn children against vaccine preventable diseases through timely immunization, enables them to survive, thrive and reach their full potential in life.

Immunization remains a life-saving health intervention. As the world's biggest buyer and supplier of vaccines, UNICEF continues to play a pivotal role in supporting immunization efforts by governments around the world. In Pakistan, under the leadership of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination and its Federal Directorate of Immunization, UNICEF is playing its role in helping the country move towards the goal of achieving universal vaccination for all children.

Let me reiterate that UNICEF is committed to supporting immunization efforts in Pakistan as an active and key member of the immunization team. We strive to reach the inaccessible, vulnerable, unvaccinated and under immunized children including zero dose as well as those who do not complete their immunization schedule on time.

Let us synergize and work hand in hand to present all newborn children the best gift in the form of a complete vaccination regime which protects them from childhood diseases and gives them the best start in life.

NATIONAL EPI REVIEW MEETING

Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) organized a 3 days National EPI Review Meeting from 21st to 23rd February in Karachi. The National EPI Review, offered a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of the programme. It addressed the main issues affecting health performance of last year 2022. Senior leadership vow to improve immunization coverage at all levels especially among high-risk populations, low performing districts that of at present.



The opening session of the review begun by delightful remarks from honorable Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Minister of Health & Population Welfare, Sindh. Madame Minister stated "Pakistan's COVID-19 response and vaccine roll out has been commended globally and EPI has played a vital role due to its strong supply chain management system".

The event was graced by Honourable Federal Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination Islamabad with his attendance as the Chief Guest. The Federal Minister addressed the participants during the closing ceremony of National EPI Review Meeting and commended the teams on the positive developments. He added "I would like to emphasize the wide range of stakeholder's involvement. This approach is duly supported by the Federal Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination".

High noble dignitary representatives present from Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Pakistan Pediatric Association, FDI, WHO, UNICEF, Polio Eradication Initiative, EPI Punjab, EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, EPI Sindh, EPI Balochistan EPI AJK, EPI Gilgit-Baltistan, EPI Islamabad, extended partners and many other partner organizations.

Honourable Federal Health Minister commended the joint efforts and reinforced the desire of the Government to reaching out to save and protect together every child of Pakistan aiming for vaccination against the deadly 12 vaccine preventable diseases.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI said that "Pakistan is a large country and in this context the review provides an essential opportunity for all provinces and technical EPI teams inclusive of CSOs and partners to connect, join and share." Dr. Kazi on behalf of FDI, thanked the Honourable Federal and Provincial Health Ministers for providing continuous support and leadership. Programme for a joint synchronization and combined effort work as one team.

The review discussions revolved around the developments in 2022 in the areas of Immunization Campaigns, COVID-19 Response, VPD Surveillance and Response, National Flood Response, EPI/PEI Synergy, GAVI Full Portfolio Planning (FPP) and analysis of all provincial and area EPIS and partner organizations and lastly the way forward.



DR. MAHESH KUMAR MALANI, MINISTER OF STATE VISIT TO FDI

Honourable Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, Minister of State visit FDI on 28th February. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI welcomed the Minister of State and along with technical team members briefed about all aspects of the Expanded Programme on Immunization, Pakistan. The presentation included Immunization coverage, VPD surveillance, procurement & supply chain, catch-up



campaigns, outbreak & flood response, COVID-19 vaccination and support, EPI-PEI synergy, ACSM & waste management, achievements & way forward.

Honourable Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani first reaffirmed the will of the Government of Pakistan for the prevention of the 12 targeted vaccine preventable diseases. Also, noteworthy Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani admired and appreciated the achievements of EPI.

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

As suggested by DG, FDI, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C) re-constituted the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) in the month of February. A formal briefing session on EPI was organized for the newly constituted NITAG Chairman and members on 16th February.



The briefing main purpose to the NITAG is to guide policy makers in the MoNHSR&C and EPI Pakistan

to produce evidence-based immunization related policy decisions. Participants discussed that the NITAG shall do policy analysis and strategy formulation for control, elimination, and eradication of VPDs through immunization taking in consideration of latest scientific development in the relevant field. The NITAG members committed that they would assist the MoNHSR&C, Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), Provincial EPIs, and National Inter-agency Coordination Committee (NICC) by providing evidence-based policy direction on various immunization related issues as required.

Dr. Khalid Shafi, NITAG Chair emphasized that NITAG priorities will include formulation of immunization policy and strategies for routine and supplementary immunization activities, introduction of new vaccine in routine EPI schedule, evaluation of new immunization technologies, vaccine quality and safety, immunization schedule, advocacy for immunization, vaccine handling and storage at public and private

sector, licensing of new vaccine for public and private sector use, commissioning of new research, assessments/evaluations to guide policies. The NITAG will also provide special policy and strategic direction to the MoNHSR&C in any emergency (e.g. pandemic, earthquake, flood etc.) for any population in any particular area to control any imminent of VPDs.

DG, FDI MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Throughout the month Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG FDI held comprehensive meetings and briefings with various direct and indirect stakeholders particularly to discuss strategic alliances, documents and to be apprised on the developments of different projects and components of the EPI. Meetings glimpses are as follow:-

A high-level UNICEF delegation visited the office of Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI office on 17th February to have strategic discussions on various joint FDI & UNICEF Pakistan initiatives inclusive of Integrated Service Delivery, 1166 Sehat Tahaffuz Helpline and many other areas of mutual interest.



A team of BMGF led by Mr Khurram Butt met Dr Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG FDI. Mr Butt apprised the DG about the current and future interventions of BMGF in Pakistan. Dr Kazi thanks the foundation for its continuous support and highlighted the issues specially related to Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Mr Butt assured foundation's support for EPI & Polio eradication and discuss the future possible ventures in Balochistan and KP.



Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI on 22nd February visited the worthy Secretary, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Health & Population Welfare Department, Sindh and apprised him on the recent developments in the Immunization Programme of Pakistan with a prime focus on flood affected communities' response interventions, GAVI 5.0 Pakistan application submission, recently reconstituted National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG),



EPI/PEI synergy, HPV and many other routine immunization points. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah commended the positive developments at FDI and assured all possible support from the Government of Sindh. Dr. Shah reinforced the idea of acquiring quality data for effective decision making and reiterated the vision of Honourable Health Minister Sindh, Madame Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho of working towards a paradigm shift towards the prevention side.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI during his stay in Karachi for EPI Review Meeting, on 24th February also visited EPI Sindh, Polio Eradication Initiative Sindh, World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF provincial offices. Dr. Kazi had detailed strategic discussions with Mr. Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi, PEOC Coordinator Sindh, Dr. Asif Ali Zardari, Provincial Team Lead, WHO Sindh and Dr. Shoukat Ali, Provincial Team Lead, UNICEF Sindh. The teams

apprised DG, FDI on the recent development for immunization against the 12 vaccine preventable diseases with a prime focus on polio eradication from Pakistan.



JICA VISIT TO FDI

A remarkable moment with specialized team of JICA representatives visit to FDI newly established Information Resource Centre. The JICA team focusing spotlight meticulously on feminine health related matters particularly maternity, newborn and child healthcare handbooks displayed at the spectacular Information Resource Centre. A comprehensive continuum care to improve maternal and child health enables both mothers and their children to receive



continuum of care from early pregnancy to infancy. Containing information on safe pregnancy, delivery, and child health; and meanwhile serves as a health record. Covers all stages from antenatal care to delivery, postnatal care, child vaccinations and child growth monitoring. It ensures continuity of care and provides health education to parents. As such it has proven to be an effective tool in promoting and protecting the health of mothers and children.

A brief history and fun-fact in Japan, the Maternal Handbook was launched during 1942 World War II. In 1948 it became the maternal child health by adding section health child section to the maternal handbook. Now it is being introduced in many other countries including Pakistan. JICA, in the light of Sustainable Development Goal # 3 (i.e. "Good Health and Well-being") aim and promote well-being for all ages. JICA realizes the importance of human security and quality growth to contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity amongst Pakistani community. Therefore, JICA will secure impact cooperation on the SDGs through utilizing Japan's own knowledge and introducing innovations.

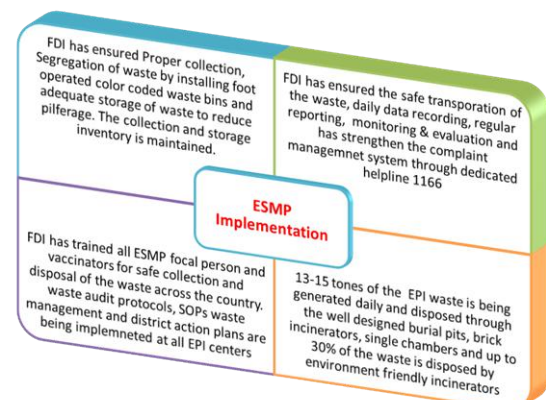
FDI'S OCCUPATIONAL & HEALTH SAFETY COMPONENT

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) is a multidisciplinary practice dealing with all aspects of health and safety in the workplace, with a strong focus on preventing workplace hazards. Healthcare workers face a range of occupational risks associated with infections, unsafe patient handling, hazardous chemicals, radiation, heat and noise, psychosocial hazards, violence and harassment, injuries, inadequate provision of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

FDI recognize and is committed to provide and maintain a safe, healthy and comfortable work environment for its staff, caregiver and other visitors. FDI believes that a well-managed health and safety programme is an integral part of good management practice. In fulfilling its responsibilities, FDI will ensure that regular monitor all centers and review the implementation and compliance with the required health and safety regulations.



FDI ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (ESMP) FRAMEWORK



PUNJAB CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION (BCC) STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR UHC AND PHC

EPI Punjab and UNICEF hosted a consultative workshop for the National Behavior Change Communication (BCC) Framework for UHC and PHC on Feb 24-25, in Lahore. The key objectives of the provincial workshop were to identify the provincial priorities in terms of the behaviors and indicators to be focused on in the SBC strategy, and identify key audiences, appropriate channels, and implementation needs and steps for SBC Strategy.



The inaugural session of the consultative meeting was addressed by Mr. Wilbroad Ngambi, Chief Field Office UNICEF Punjab, Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Gondal, Director General Health Punjab, Dr. Atiya Aabroo, DDP-I from Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C), Dr. Tahir Manzoor, Health Specialist UNICEF Punjab and Dr. Muhammad Khalil, Director IRMNCH Punjab. Mr. Ihtasham Akram, National BCC Consultant UNICEF presented a prime background of the National Health Vision, and the progress made till now following its agenda. "A BCC Committee was established under the direction of the UHC National Advisory Committee (NAC) to ensure the comprehensive development of the National BCC Strategic Framework and Provincial BCC strategies, and to oversee the process", Mr. Akram said.

PUNJAB FINALIZED ALL OF ITS DISTRICT'S IMMUNIZATION PLANS OF ACTION 2023

EPI Punjab in collaboration with WHO, finalized the plans of action for all the districts of the province as the provincial metropolis hosted the fourth and final event of 'WHO-Supported Workshop for Development of District Plan of Action 2023'. Director Headquarter, Directorate General Health Services Punjab Dr. Suhail Arshad Rana, Director EPI Punjab Dr. Ahtisham ul Haq, Additional Directors EPI, Technical Officer WHO, UNICEF representative



and officials from the DGHS were present on the occasion. The DHO-PS and EPI Focal Persons of Lahore, Kasur, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Sahiwal, Okara, Pakpattan and Faisalabad participated in the intensive sessions. The workshop was organized by EPI Punjab with the support of WHO.

Dr. Suhail Arshad Rana said that exceptional results require exceptional planning. He said, "Quality plans lay the basis for quality performance. We have to ensure each, and every child is vaccinated and this cannot be

done without flawless planning at district level. Urban Immunization is our new challenge and I am glad Lahore, Faisalabad and Sahiwal have developed detailed annual plans. We are grateful to the WHO for providing technical and financial support for this important activity.”

Director Health Services, EPI, Dr. Ahtishamul Haq said, “This is an effective intervention in which all districts have developed month-wise activity plans around seven strategic priority areas of the programme. Punjab looks towards a complete digitalization transformation in the year 2023 as EMR and EPI MIS will redefine the data reporting and analysis system. Then we have GAVI FPP and global Immunization Agenda 2023 in sight. All plans are meticulously laid down as targets, human resource, microplans, communication plans and vaccine logistics plans have been thoroughly prepared. The implementation of these plans will be tracked and followed up and we hope we will reach every child through our efforts.” Technical Officer WHO Punjab Dr. Imran Qureshi supported the district teams in finalization of the plans. He reviewed the district plans with special focus on weaker areas. He shared that vaccination is the most cost-effective public health intervention ever introduced in human history.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE (SBC) TRAINING ON DIGITAL MEDIA

By focusing the tech-based media as an integral part of modern communication, EPI Punjab and UNICEF steps ahead by conducting exclusive Digital Media Training for EPI SBC & communication personnel across the country. The two-day training was in Lahore on Feb 14-15, while a large number of communication personnel related to EPI across the country marked their vibrant presence on this occasion.



The first phase of SBC training on digital media conducted by EPI – SBC team at UNICEF CO in collaboration with the Centrum Media team, led by Mr. Talha Ahad. TCM officials managed the training successfully and passed on valuable knowledge on different aspects of digital media, digital content, and its dispersal. Ms. Zara Jamil, SBC Officer UNICEF & Mr. Waqas Shafi, Communication Officer UNICEF – EPI facilitated the two-day training by sharing insightful information.

EPI UNDER REVIEW IN MONTHLY CEOS/ MS CONFERENCE

Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Punjab Dr. Jamal Nasir and Secretary P&SHD Ali Jan chaired 8th CEOs/MS Conference on 4th February, reviewed the performance of all districts of Punjab. Although major primary healthcare indicators were discussed along with the immunization of children under EPI schedule, vaccine stock status, and urban Immunization. The immunization is part of health roadmap, as well.



The chair evaluated performance of the Expanded Programme on Immunization and inquired about vaccinator attendance, weak districts and weak UCs and the status of immunization in flood affected areas. Detailed review of complaints pendency was conducted, Dr Akhtar Malik directed all Districts to resolve pending complaints relating to health department registered on Toll free number within 24 hours and submit a compliance report.

EPI TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETINGS

The EPI Technical Review meetings of the Programme were held on regular basis throughout the month with UNICEF support. Director Health Services (EPI) Dr. Ahtisham Ul Haq monitored the indicators and reviewed the events. The emerging issues like Immunization plan for mega urban districts, Plan of Action workshops for 2023 remained main agenda items during this month while several other aspects including service



delivery, social & behavior change activities and Cold Chain were also discussed in these technical reviews. These meetings were attended by senior EPI officials along with representatives of partner organizations including UNICEF, WHO, BMGF and FDI.

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Meeting chaired by Provincial Health Minister Honourable Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho with GAVI delegation led by Ms. Carrie Gheen on HPV vaccine, adult booster dose and upcoming Paediatric COVID-19 vaccination on 22nd Feb.
- Mid-Level Management (MLM) Training on EPI components conducted by EPI Sindh and WHO from 13-15 February for provincial EPI Team members.
- VPD Surveillance orientation meeting was held on 20th February under the Chair of Dr. Khalil Memon- Deputy PD EPI Sindh, facilitated by technical trainers from partner organizations.



ANNUAL EPI PROGRESS REVIEW MEETING

EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with WHO conducted a detailed review programme for the year 2022 in which issues, its solutions and further improvements were discussed in detail. Director EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan gave a detailed briefing regarding all the indicators of EPI.

Provincial Director Health Services Central Dr. Muhammad Akram Shah, District Health Officers, UNICEF Health Specialist Dr. Inamullah Khan, EPI Coordinators, Provincial EPI Officers, representatives of WHO, UNICEF and other partner organizations were present on this occasion. The main objective of the programme was to conduct a detailed review of all the EPI indicators of the year 2022, the problems faced and its solutions and to formulate a plan of action for further improvement of the programme.



5 DAYS MID-LEVEL MANAGER'S TRAINING ON EPI CONDUCTED FOR POLIO STAFF

EPI Balochistan organized the fifth Batch of training on EPI- MLM for NEOC PEI staff from February 23rd to 27th in Karachi and more than thirty-five district and Provincial PEI Officials were part of it following the agenda of strengthening the EPI/PEI Synergy framework.

The seven EPI components were discussed in detail and contents were delivered in interactive sessions. The Group work was given special focus



as to make the MLM training more productive. The facilitators equipped the participants with the advance knowledge of EPI framework and, linked the PEI indicators with EPI Programme such as how to track the defaulters and Zero- dose children. The Provincial EPI Coordinator Dr. Akhtar Ali Buledi, visited the training on 2nd day of MLM Training and pass his critical remarks over training and, how to inculcate EPI agenda in the field during the field visits. He added that EPI/PEI Synergy is very important and success of the synergy framework totally depends on the role of both programmes field staff. The coordinated efforts are much needed to implement the framework at District and UC level to fulfill the indicators. The training was facilitated by EPI Balochistan, WHO and UNICEF immunization staff of Balochistan EPI Provincial Office.

12 DAYS TRAINING OF NEWLY RECRUITED VACCINATORS ON REVISED EPI MODULES IN BALOCHISTAN

EPI Balochistan and FDI in collaboration and support of UNICEF organized 12 days in-depth training for newly recruited vaccinators of Balochistan at each divisional head quarter. Under this capacity building programme, EPI trained 682 vaccinators on revised EPI seven modules curriculum. The trainings were started simultaneously in all venues and facilitated by master trainers who received training in Islamabad.



In this regard, more than 75% of training were completed and, rest of the batches are planned in the month of March, 2023 and will be completed before month of Ramzan.

The Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan Dr. Akhtar Ali Buledi and Immunization Officer UNICEF Balochistan Dr. Aurangzeb Kamal along with Dr Rehmatullah NPO EPI- WHO Balochistan, Dr. Mohd Ameen Deputy PC EPI Balochistan visited the training held at Provincial EPI on closing day.

Dr. Mazhar Qureshi who is consultant of UNICEF for this training programme also visited the training venues in Quetta, Zhob, Sibi, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad and Khuzdar districts. He also shown his satisfaction over trainings and impressed over performance of facilitators from Balochistan.

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- The Provincial EPI Balochistan Core Committees' members conducted monitoring visit at District Kech at Turbat on 1st February under the chairmanship of Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan, Dr. Akthar Ali Buledi and other officials inclusive of Dr. Rehmatullah NPO WHO EPO Balochistan, and Dr. Waheed Lashari, TFP EPI, Riz (BMGF) were part of the visiting team. The team visited different EPI Sites at Turbat and divisional Cold room Mekran Division and provided feedback of visit to DHMT of District Kech.
- Launching ZM Application and Mobile Distribution among vaccinators for Immunization Registry in Balochistan was conducted in Provincial EPI Head Quarter Balochistan, under the supervision of Dr. Ameen Ameer Deputy Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan with support of BMGF, WHO and IRD Pakistan. The Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan Dr. Akthar Ali Buledi was chief guest of the ceremony.
- The Special Secretary Health Government of Balochistan, Mr. Dawood Khan Bazai, visited the Provincial EPI Balochistan Head Quarter at Quetta where he conducted meeting with Provincial EPI Team. The Provincial Coordinator EPI Balochistan, shared Profile, key EPI Indicators, and district wise progress to Mr. Bazai on Power point presentation. The Special Secretary Health, appreciated the efforts of EPI Team and Partner Organizations and assured the assistance from Health Secretariat.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- To ensure effective communication between the vaccinator and the caregiver EPI AJK and UNICEF throughout the month of February arranged Interpersonal Communication (IPC) skills training followed by cascade training in AJK. Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, Provincial Programme Manager EPI AJK supervised and chaired a few of the IPC training sessions in AJK. Appreciated the hard work of our front-line health workers.
- Post Review Meeting of January NID, 2023 was held on 17th February at PPM Office EPI AJK under the Chair of Honorable Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, PPM EPI AJK. The meeting was attended by all PEI and Provincial EPI officers. PPM discussed in detail the deficiencies identified during NIDs and surveillance and urged us to take concrete steps to address these gaps in the future.
- The launching ceremony of Deworming Campaign in districts of AJK including Mirpur, Kotli, Bhimber, and Sudhnoti starting from 15–16 Feb was held at Muzaffarabad. Honorable Nisar Ansar Abdali, Minister of Health AJK graced the occasion as a chief guest. Dr. Aftab Hussain, DGH AJK, and Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, PPM EPI AJK also attended the ceremony.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- End of year EPI Review Meeting was organized in different districts of GB on different dates respectively. These meetings were chaired by DHOs of respective district DSVs and partner agency staff. Routine Immunization and its coverage during last year was discussed and UCs with better performers were appreciated and UCs with low coverage during last year were advised to improve performance.
- Provincial Coordination Committee meeting was held on 8th February under the chairmanship of Director EPI Gilgit-Baltistan. The Government officials and partner agency staff WHO, UNICEF & PEI staff attended the said meeting in EPI Directorate GB. The agenda points of the meeting included Zero dose children, Diamer NID failure and Surveillance Review. The PEI team EPI Gilgit-Baltistan gave detailed presentation and had a detailed discussion on the agenda points. The low performing districts were discussed, and the following steps were emphasized to improve the immunization system and coverage.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

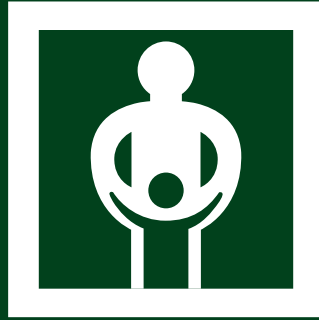
- Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz Lodhi, Director General Health Services throughout the month of February coordinated with different stakeholders to ensure EPI Programme achieves the targets.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- Dr. Zaeem Zia, District Health Officer Islamabad holding a EPI PEI Synergy meeting at DHO Office Islamabad with all stakeholders on 27 Feb.
- MoU signing with representatives of private hospitals, District Health office has engaged 4 new private hospital for free of cost EPI vaccination services under public private partnership.
- Islamabad Polio Control Room conducted an orientation session with UC Secretaries & Revenue staff (Patwari, Girdawar, Naib Tehsildar) regarding importance of EPI Vaccination & Polio Campaigns.





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