

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi
Director-General
Federal Directorate of Immunization
Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and
Coordination, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad



Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi is serving as the Director-General of the Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) since August 19, 2022, where he oversees Pakistan's national immunization efforts which focuses on vaccinating children aged 0-15 months against 12 vaccine preventable diseases, along with vaccinating pregnant women to improve public health outcomes. He held the additional charge as Director General Health at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, and the position of the Ex-officio President of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan under Act 1967, from November 24, 2023, to August 8, 2024.

Since September 16, 2022, Dr. Kazi has also led the National Program for the COVID-19 Vaccine Support Project under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination. This program involves strategic partnerships with major international organizations, including the Asian Development Bank's Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility, the World Bank's Pandemic Response Effectiveness in Pakistan, and the Islamic Development Bank's IVAC COVID-19 Vaccine Support to bolster Pakistan's COVID-19 response, and system strengthening.

In September 2022, he was nominated as Member in the Governing Board of the Pandemic Fund Secretariat hosted in the World bank Group, Washington, DC. U.S. underscores his pivotal role in steering Pakistan's health policy to ensure optimal health outcomes through comprehensive efforts amidst challenging times.

Dr. Kazi's leadership and extensive expertise in public health policy and administration have played a crucial role in advancing immunization efforts in Pakistan, addressing the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic, and enhancing public health resilience.

Dr. Kazi's journey in public health began after graduating with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro, in 1990, followed by a Master of Community and Public Health from Griffith University, Brisbane, in 1997.

His academic portfolio is as impressive as his professional one, with several training certifications from esteemed institutions worldwide such as Johns Hopkins University, National University of Singapore, Mahidol University, and the United Nations. This educational background has equipped him with a broad perspective on health issues, enabling him to author numerous research publications and present at various national and international forums.

His career trajectory is marked by significant contributions across various capacities within the Health Department of the Government of Sindh, including roles such as District Health Officer in Karachi where he rolled out successfully the Covid-19 vaccination and Medical Superintendent at Sindh Government Hospital Liaquatabad to manage Covid-19 ICU. These positions laid the groundwork for his expertise in health administration and direct patient care.

Before ascending to his current roles, Dr. Kazi's dedication to public health saw him tackle global health challenges with the World Health Organization as a Provincial Polio Emergency Response Officer among other critical positions, where he contributed to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in Sindh, Pakistan from 2015 to 2020.

His tenure at the WHO was preceded by pivotal roles within the Government of Sindh, managing key programs such as the Sindh AIDS Control Program, the World Bank funded Family Health Project, the Asian Bank funded Reproductive Health project, and the Institute of Skin Diseases, and he worked in the Ministry of Health to lead the National Program for PHC and Family Planning, National Malaria Control Program, and Federal Emergency Medical Services Committee on Defense Planning where he made substantial contributions which further highlighting his versatile skill set in managing health agenda. He started his career as Medical Officer appointed through Public Services Commission in 1991.

His international acclaim is further evidenced by his representation of Pakistan in the Technical Secretariat for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, from 2005 to 2012 showcasing his expertise beyond traditional public health realms and into areas of global security and safety.

Dr. Kazi's achievements are marked by a relentless commitment to improving healthcare access and quality, particularly in underserved communities. Under his guidance, several groundbreaking initiatives were carried out. Notable among these are:

- 1. National Health Initiatives:** the Prime Minister's Program for the Elimination of Hepatitis-C in Pakistan, with an investment of Rs. 68 billion, and the launching of the Jinnah Medical Complex in Islamabad, costing Rs. 15 billion, are landmark projects, demonstrating a commitment to addressing critical health issues at a national scale.
- 2. Integrated Immunization and Nutrition Program:** with the support of Gavi-the Vaccine Alliance, the Power of Nutrition, and the Aga Khan Foundation, "an Integrated Package of Systems Strengthening, Nutrition and Immunization in Pakistan", USD 7.2 million.
- 3. National Health Support Program:** in collaboration with the World Bank, valued at Rs. 2,760 million, underscores a strategic partnership that enhances health outcomes across the federating areas.
- 4. Innovative Health Registries:** the roll-out of the National Electronic Immunization Registry across Pakistan has been a game-changer, registering millions of children and integrating with NADRA for improved birth registration, thus ensuring better health outcomes for future generations.
- 5. Disaster Response and Preparedness:** spearheaded the monsoon season contingency plan, with an estimated budget of USD 161 million, supported by WHO, UNICEF, and other partners focused on 38 prioritized districts.
- 6. Global Health Funding:** successfully mobilized substantial co-financing from Gavi, securing 60% of the share for essential vaccines, amounting to USD 127.6 million in FY 2023-24. Additionally, the Gavi disbursement of the funds under the Full Portfolio Planning worth USD 200 million for the next five years, ensuring sustained funding for critical health programs.

7. **Vaccine Cold Chain Optimization:** the cold chain equipment optimization platform, co-financed by Gavi with an investment of USD 35 million, significantly enhanced vaccine storage and distribution.
8. **Infrastructure Development:** nationwide renovations of EPI warehouses, the procurement of 63 refrigerated trucks, and the solarization of warehouses in the country, in collaboration with the Gavi and UNICEF, to strengthening the healthcare infrastructure.
9. **Expansion of Healthcare Access:** the establishment of 100 new prefabricated structures in Union Councils lacking EPI health facilities including the refurbishment and rebranding of approximately 2,200 EPI sites.
10. **Sustainable Healthcare:** initiative to solarize 500 healthcare facilities guarantees uninterrupted services, exemplifying a forward-thinking approach to sustainable healthcare solutions.
11. **Proactive Public Health:** introduction of the Human Papillomavirus vaccine to prevent cervical cancer in adolescent girls highlights commitment to preventing future health crises through proactive public health measures.
12. **COVID-19 Response:** adeptly mobilized USD 43 million for the COVID-19 vaccine and associated operational costs, demonstrating agility in crisis management.
13. **Health Information Resource Center:** the establishment of a comprehensive Information Resource Centre at the Federal Directorate of Immunization in Islamabad ensures that crucial health information is both accessible and impactful.
14. **Global Health Leadership:** the organization of the First Global Health Security Summit in Islamabad underlines the role as a leader in global health, fostering international collaboration and dialogue.
15. **Capacity-building Initiatives:** with the OPCW from 2005 to 2012, strengthening international cooperation and enhancing national defenses against chemical weapons and toxic industrial agents across 32 States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Recognition of his contributions to public health is widespread, as seen in the accolades awarded to him, including a recognition for his services in the fight against Covid-19 by the National Command and Operation Centre, Islamabad, and a certificate of recognition from the Director General OPCW during its Nobel Peace Prize awarding in 2013.

In summary, Dr. Kazi's achievements are a testament to his dedication, strategic foresight, and ability to lead transformative health initiatives that have brought investment of worth billions that have had a lasting impact on the health landscape of Pakistan. His work continues to inspire and set benchmarks in the field of public health.