



FEDERAL DIRECTORATE OF IMMUNIZATION



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THIS ISSUE INCLUDES UPDATES FROM:

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- SINDH EPI
- KP EPI
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MESSAGE BY
HONOURABLE FEDERAL HEALTH MINISTER, DR. 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.

I convey my sincere appreciation to all stakeholders specially the front line health care workers as The Federal Directorate of Immunization, Ministry of National Health Service Regulations & Coordination, under the guidance and strategic oversight of NCOC conducted the 2nd Phase of COVID-19 Paediatric Vaccination Campaign from 31st October to 5th November, 2022 in selected districts of Sindh, Punjab and Islamabad inoculating 7.8 million children achieving 98% of the set target.

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.

Pakistan is facing a dire humanitarian crisis stemming from unprecedented floods inclusive of prevalence of vaccine preventable diseases that have impacted major parts of the country. During the month the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination in addition to other departments and projects via FDI also ensured to reach out the effected communities by offering state of the art health facilities with a prime focus on immunization services that were identified by global entities.

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.

NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE (NICC) MEETING

One of the country's highest level EPI think tanks, the National Inter-Agency Coordination Committee (NICC) held a meeting on 9th November in Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) to endorse the 5 years immunization way forward under the leadership of the Honourable Federal Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C) Islamabad.



Senior health dignitaries from Pakistan as well as around the world participated in the final endorsement of country's Gavi Full Portfolio Planning (FPP) application submission.

Member representations were from Ministry of, MoNHSR&C, (FDI), Provincial/Area Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Polio Programme, Country Representatives of World Health Organization, UNICEF, World Bank, USAID, JICA, CSOs, and other partner organizations.

Federal Minister while considering the endorsement of Gavi FPP Application as a big milestone, commended the efforts of all stakeholders as the FDI in close consultation with the provinces/areas and development partners have successfully led the consultation process and completed the application. Pakistan is one of the very few countries to complete the FPP consultative and application process. This support will bring more than millions of dollars to Pakistan's health sector by strengthening the immunization system. Federal Minister further stated that "I am obliged to Gavi for provision of this support. Moreover, I highly acknowledge the level of commitment and dedication of all stakeholders for protecting the future of the children of Pakistan through achieving the Universal Immunization Goal".

The vision of Government of Pakistan reflected in the submitted application is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 3 "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being at all ages" and incorporates Health System Strengthening (HSS), Equity Accelerator Funding (EAF), Targeted Country Assistance (TCA) & Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform (CCE OP) Grants.

The proceedings of the day started with a comprehensive presentation by Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI followed by a brainstorming session at the end of which each stakeholder and member of the forum including the Programme Managers of provincial/area EPIs endorsed the application. Dr. Kazi thanked all participants and the leadership of the MoNHSR&C for the continued guidance and support.

HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF 100,000 DOSES OF HEPATITIS 'A' VACCINE FROM SINOVAC

Federal Directorate of Immunization organized a handing over ceremony of 100,000 doses of Hepatitis 'A' Vaccine from Sinovac, People's Republic of China to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 9th November at FDI Honourable Federal Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel presided over the event as the Chief Guest and on behalf of the Government of Pakistan received vaccines from the Guest of Honour Mr. Gao Qiang, Chief Executive Officer, Sinovac.



Federal Minister thanked the government and the people of China and stated that it is heartening to see that Pakistan China friendship achieves another milestone. Pakistan and China are 'Iron Brothers' with strong, genuine, and enduring relationships.

At present, Pakistan is going through the aftermaths of the worst floods in the history of Pakistan, where to date, large communities in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan are living in flood relief camps. These relief camps residents (both children and adults) are highly vulnerable to disease transmission. Hence emergence of an outbreak of Hepatitis 'A' virus is very high. Providing assistance to the flood affected populations of Pakistan is Government's top priority. At this point in time, we are really grateful for the donation of 100,000 doses of Hepatitis 'A' vaccine by Sinovac for children and adults. The act reinforces the strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China for health and prosperity of the two nations. "I wish and pray that Pakistan-China friendship remains higher than mountains, deeper than oceans, sweeter than honey, stronger than steel, and dearer than eyesight. ALWAYS.

Mr. Gao Qiang, Chief Executive Officer, Sinovac during his address said that today marks another event in continuation of the seventy years of everlasting and unprecedented bilateral friendship based on mutual trust, respect and goodwill between Pakistan and China. The Government of China considers the children and adult populations living in the flood affected communities as their own people and the assistance provided in form of 100,000 doses of Hepatitis 'A' vaccine is a gesture of care and affection.

The event was attended by respected senior health dignitaries from the MoNHSR&C, NEOC, NIH, NCOC, DRAP, FDI and Country Representatives of World Health Organization, UNICEF, and other partner organizations.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI thanked all officials and said that "the management of FDI is always honored to convene such events as it is always an experience of great learning for the entire team". On behalf of the programme, "I thank the Sinovac for the assistance provided and assure that it will be used in the best possible manner to benefit the children and adult populations of Pakistan. Looking forward towards a continued partnership. Dr. Kazi also thanked the leadership of the MoNHSR&C for the continued guidance and support.

BASIC LIFE-SAVING TRAINING ORGANIZED BY RESCUE 1122 FOR FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS OF SEHAT TAHAFUZ HELPLINE 1166

FDI in association with KRATOS and RIZ Consulting organized a “Basic Life Saving” training for FDI Sehat Tahaffuz Helpline1166 staff members on 15th to 17th November. Participants ranged from security staff, security supervisors, support staff, and medical doctors. The objective of the training was to foster the values of lifesaving, civic responsibility, and leadership by equipping the participants with the skills and



knowledge required to respond effectively on site of accidents and trauma, medical emergencies, disasters, and fire incidents before the official help or ambulance arrives.

A team of highly trained emergency responders of Rescue 1122 comprising of Mr. Haneef Rescue and Security officer, Station in Charge Mr. Haroon Abbasi, and Rescue Driver Kaleem Ahmad provided hands-on training based on a training package developed by the Pakistan Life Saver Program and Centre of Excellence for Trauma and Emergencies, Aga Khan University. Physical hands-on training on mannequins was provided on Bleeding Control and CPR and fire extinguishing equipment handling. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Chana Director Technical FDI and Dr. Basharat Baig Deputy Director M&E distributed certificates among training participants. Dr. Arooj Iftikhar, Technical Officer moderated the ceremony. In closing remarks, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Channa applauded KRATOS for organizing the training activity and emphasized the importance and benefits of pre-hospital emergency services. Dr. Channa stated that there is clear evidence that bystanders’ and family members' decisions and actions can save hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Furthermore, Dr. Channa reiterated that lack of timely care kills millions every year, primarily from two diseases – out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) and bleeding from trauma.



Every minute that goes without CPR, reduces the chances of survival by 10%. As a token of appreciation for Rescue 1122, Dr. Zafar Channa handed over six oxygen cylinders to officers of Rescue 1122 to equip 1122 ambulance services.

COVID-19 PEDIATRIC CAMPAIGN ROUND 2

The Federal Directorate of Immunization, Ministry of National Health Service Regulations & Coordination, under the guidance and strategic oversight of NCOC conducted the 2nd round of COVID-19 Pediatric Vaccination Campaign from 31st Oct to 5th November in selected districts of Sindh, Punjab, and Islamabad. Through a well-coordinated effort of FDI, provincial EPIs, partners, and all other stakeholder the targets were achieved as follow:-

| COVID-19 Pediatric Vaccination Campaign Round-II | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| S. No | Province | District | 5-11 Yrs Population | Total 2nd Dose Administrated | % |
| 1 | Punjab | Lahore | 2,454,455 | 1,895,199 | 96.52% |
| 2 | | Multan | 1,015,818 | 778,635 | 95.81% |
| 3 | | Rawalpindi | 1,170,407 | 914,207 | 97.64% |
| 4 | | Okara | 645,533 | 521,730 | 101.03% |
| 5 | Sindh | Bahawalpur | 783,721 | 615,166 | 98.12% |
| 6 | | Karachi | 3,502,446 | 2,468,241 | 101.87% |
| 7 | | Hyderabad | 467,546 | 360,712 | 108.59% |
| 8 | Islamabad | Islamabad | 477,750 | 293,574 | 87.78% |
| Total | | | 10,517,677 | 7,847,464 | 98.12% |

The campaign from Federal level was directly led by the Honourable Federal Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel. On the opening Mr. Patel stated that "This is a remarkable step for kids, for parents, and for the entire nation". Honourable Federal Health Minister, Dr. Abdul Qadir Patel further shared that "Health of Pakistani children is our priority number one and for that the MoNHSR&C, under the strategic oversight of National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) is conducting this campaign.

Honourable Federal Health Minister, urged all stakeholders inclusive of Donors, Partners, Religious Leaders, Academia, Media Reps, Teachers & Students, Government Inline Departments, Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organizations to play their due role to make this campaign a success. Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG FDI remained at the forefront of the campaign and remained in close coordination with all provincial/area EPIs, Polio Programme and all other stakeholders. Dr. Kazi led the campaign Data Management Cell and Crisis Communication Cell with his physical presence.



DG, FDI MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG FDI had comprehensive meetings and briefings with various direct and indirect stakeholders to discuss strategic alliances, documents as well to be apprised on the developments of different projects and components of the EPI Programme.

Meetings glimpses are as follow:-

Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI received daily briefing on daily basis on all aspects of the ongoing second round of COVID-19 Pediatric Vaccination Campaign for children 5 to 11 years of age in selective districts of Islamabad, Punjab and Sindh.



Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI conducted a very important visit to EPI Balochistan on 5th November and presided over the third EPI Balochistan Quarterly Review Meeting as Guest of Honour. Senior Health Dignitaries of highest level from the Balochistan province including Honourable Health Minister, Worthy Secretary Health, DG Health Services, PPHI and EPI Project Coordinator graced the event with their presence.



A high level Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance Mission visited Pakistan from 22nd November to 2nd December. Gavi Mission members Ms. Carrie Gheen, Senior Country Manager and Mr. Mario Jimenez Ramirez, Programme Manager attended a series of meetings chaired by Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI. The main objective of the visit was to proceed with the international body review of Gavi Full Portfolio Planning application submitted by Pakistan.



NEW DG HEALTH SERVICES PUNJAB PLEDGES COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN EPI

Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Ilyas Gondal met the EPI Punjab team on November 17, and appreciated their efforts. The meeting was also attended by Director Headquarter Dr. Sohail Ahmed Rana. Director Health Services (EPI) Dr. Aihtesham ul Haq hosted the senior health dignitaries and presented an overview of the programme, its strategic priority areas and progress and performance of the programme. He shared update on legislation, Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination campaign and the MR campaign in Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur as part of flood response activities with WHO support. The DGHS appreciated that Punjab was leading Pakistan’s coverage ratio and asked the team to achieve 100% coverage. He also appreciated the support of partners WHO and UNICEF.



WHO WORLD REPRESENTATIVE, HEAD OF MISSION MEETS DGHS AND EPI TEAM

WHO Pakistan Country Representative, Dr. Palitha Mahipala visited Lahore to have meeting with Director General Health Services Punjab Dr. Ilyas Gondal and Managers of Vertical Programmes at the Directorate on 23rd November.

WHO Head of Office Punjab Dr. Jamshaid Ahmed, Programme Managers of EPI, TB Control Programme, AIDS Control Programme, NCDs, PHFMC, CDC and Hepatitis Control Programme shared the mandate and progress of their respective programmes.



Dr. Palitha Mahipala shared experiences on global best practices in Primary Healthcare Services and ways to enhance Cross Programmatic Efficiency. Dr. Palitha Mahipala shared that strengthening Primary healthcare services through collaboration of all stakeholders was extremely important for an efficient healthcare system.

Later, during WHO WR’s field visits to South Punjab, Dr Palitha Mahipala also inaugurated the WHO supported EOC in Rajanpur along with Deputy Commissioner Rajanpur, Mr. Arif Rahim, and donated clean delivery kits, dignity kits, community tents, mosquito nets, and nutritional commodities for the management of malnourished children in flood-affected areas of district Rajanpur.

During his visit to south Punjab, Dr Mahipala also visited a mobile health camp in Fazilpur, and appreciated the integrated services provided in collaboration with the district health teams, he mentioned that “data collected from these camps is used for disease surveillance for immediate and early detection of any outbreak of flood-borne disease in the area, for timely interventions.”

UN MISSION'S VISIT TO PUNJAB

A high-level UN Mission visited the Directorate General Health Services Punjab on 25th November, for a cross programmatic review of Primary Healthcare Services and strengthening service delivery at facility level.

Director General Health Services Dr. Ilyas Gondal chaired the proceedings of the Cross Programmatic Review having representatives from key stakeholders of the Primary Healthcare

Services. The Mission shared that there was need to strengthen the package of services at Primary level healthcare facilities. Director Health Services EPI Dr. Ahtesham ul Haq shared that EPI centers were present at primary, secondary and tertiary level facilities. He said that Punjab was introducing several initiatives like Labour Room Birth Vaccination Counters, Public Private Partnership and evening shift vaccination. He shared Immunization was one of the main interventions of primary healthcare.



PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Punjab conducted the Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign from October 31 to November 5. The campaign was conducted on directions from the NCOC and the Federal Directorate of Immunization in five districts (Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi, Bahawalpur and Okara). The second dose was administered to children of five years to less than 12 years of age. A total of 4,708,886 children were vaccinated against a target of 4,847,896 as Punjab reported a 97% coverage. There were 2,464,426 male and 2,244,460 female children. In the first round of the campaign, 97% children were administered first dose.

Director Health Services EPI Dr. Ahtesham ul Haq congratulated the teams for administering the second dose to all children who had received their first dose. He appreciated the EPI team for their monitoring oversight and supporting the field teams.



MEASLES RUBELLA CAMPAIGN IN DG KHAN AND RAHIM YAR KHAN

EPI Punjab conducted Measles Rubella Campaign in 34 Union Councils of flood affected districts, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur from November 7-12. The campaign target was 297,606 in eligible age group. A total of 304,019 children were vaccinated with a coverage of 102.1%. The campaign was conducted in 16 UCs of Dera Ghazi Khan and 18 UCs of Rajanpur. There were no reported AEFI cases in the campaign.



VPD SURVEILLANCE STRENGTHENING MEETING

EPI Punjab organized District Surveillance Coordinators Meeting in coordination with UNICEF and WHO on 27th November. Additional Director EPI Dr. Jabbar served as lead facilitator. UNICEF Immunization Officer Dr. Quratul Ain highlighted need to improving the surveillance. NPO WHO Dr. Imran Qureshi presented analysis of surveillance data on process and performance indicators and score of high and low performing districts.



TOT ON INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION FOR IMMUNIZATION

A 3 days ToT on Interpersonal Communication for Immunization was organized for six districts with support of UNICEF from 8-10 November. The ToT was attended by a total of 38 participants including DHOs-PSs, EPI FPs, DSVs, SHSNS. The following districts attended Bahawalnagar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Kasur. The training was imparted by trainer, Ms. Irfana Rafique, who covered the following areas: -



- 1: Principles of Interpersonal Communication
- 2: Exploring Provider Perspective and Barriers and Problem Solving
- 3: Misconception of parents
- 4: Community Engagement
- 5: Misinterpretation and Supervisors Role
- 6: AEFI and Crisis Communication

EPI REVIEW MEETINGS

EPI Punjab continued Review meetings throughout the month all across the province. Director Health Services EPI Dr. Ahtesham ul Haq chaired all meetings with the government and partner staff for emphasizes to perform at best level. Representatives of Government line departments, WHO, UNICEF and BMGF joined discussion on ACSM Plan, EPI MIS and joint field monitoring plan.



VACCINATORS INDUCTION TRAINING

EPI Punjab has started a series of induction training of vaccinators in all divisions with UNICEF support in November. The training's first sessions were conducted in Gujranwala and Multan. The training contents pack included EPI service delivery, documentation, cold chain, stock maintenance all allied areas for fixed and outreach services.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Dr. Palitha Mahipala WHO Country Representative Pakistan visited Karachi, on 10th November and monitored MR Campaign in monsoon rains flooded areas, the IDPs of District Malir and East. Also monitored 2 vaccination teams of MR campaign activities in Tent City of IDPs and one outreach site at School of EDDO Goth UC-7 Bin Qasim Town of District Malir. He also visited integrated mobile COVID-19 and RI



vaccination activities in high-risk areas of UC Pehlwan Goth in District West. DHOs, DHMT, WHO provincial and district team of both districts in consensus shared the experience and outcome of MR campaign, EPI and integrated mobile van activities in worst flooding heavy rain high alert adversely affected areas and IDPs.

EPI team with the support of WHO conducted Provincial TOT on Equity Based Comprehensive Micro-plan in Sindh.



POB Mission/chair visited the SHRUCs Landhi and appreciated the EPI work



EPI Sindh team throughout the month of November, carried out regular monitoring EPI fixed sites and outreach activities to ensure the effective service delivery and community coverage in different districts of province.



A series of interpersonal communication training for vaccinators continued in the month of November in six districts of Sindh.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Under the leadership of Director EPI Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan, a review meeting of Expanded Programme intensified vaccination across the province held at Directorate of General Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 11th November.



EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa launched a province-wide vaccination campaign aimed at immunizing children under two years of age to protect them from deadly combination of diseases. The initiative started across the province from 10th November with the main objective immunization of children under two years of age for protection against dangerous vaccine preventable diseases. Director EPI Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan while leading the initiative has said that during this campaign zero dose, newborn, due and defaulter children are being vaccinated at the Union Council level. Dr. Arif requested all parents to responsibly fulfill guardianship role by immunizing their children and reduction of children being "left out" from immunization services during campaign.

Training of District/Sub District Supervisor on Monitoring and Supportive Supervision organized by EPI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the support of WHO on November 23rd in different districts. EPI Coordinators, DSVs participated in these trainings.



EPI BALOCHISTAN QUARTERLY REVIEW MEETING

On 5th November, EPI Balochistan hosted a Provincial Quarterly Review meeting in Quetta. The meeting was chaired by the Provincial Minister for Health Sayed Ahsan Shah. Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Secretary Health, Government of Balochistan also graced the event with his presence. The meeting was participated by Dr. Muhammad Ahmed Kazi, DG, FDI, DGHS Balochistan Dr. Noor Muhammad Qazi, Provincial



EPI Coordinator Dr. Akthar Ali Buledi, UNICEF’s Child Survival and Development Expert Dr. Humayun Muhammad Amiri and other partners staff from WHO, PPHI, ACASUS, BMGF, UNICEF, and EOC Balochistan.

DHOs and Deputy DHOs shared their progress in the forum and key indicators results were discussed briefly. Dr. Kazi and Dr. Buledi requested with Minister to raise the EPI budget for equitable service provision. Sayed Ahsan Shah has shown his concern over the health and survival of children especially in the post-flood situation in Balochistan. The minister also committed to show any support required by EPI Balochistan for increase accessibility of immunization services focusing upon the unreached and underprivileged children.

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

MNT Elimination pre-validation assessment conducted by UNICEF and WHO staff members including international experts. A series of preparatory and consultative meetings were conducted before the assessment. The assessment mission concluded that Balochistan is not ready for the MNTe validation. The assessment was conducted in five districts of Balochistan including Harnai, Khuzdar, Killa



Saifullah, Duki, and Sherani. The debriefing was conducted by the team for the Secretary Health Department, Government of Balochistan, Director General Health Services Balochistan, Provincial EPI Coordinator Balochistan and participated by WR.

Enhanced Outreach Activities (EOA) conducted in province with the collaboration and support of WHO. The November EOA was successfully conducted, and extensive monitoring was done by District Health Management Team and supported by the Provincial EPI staff as well as partners. The Provincial Coordinator himself conducted monitoring visits to the districts. There were more than 200,000 children vaccinated during 12 days of EOAs for different doses.



Training of Trainers on Interpersonal Communication (IPC) for Immunization There were two ToTs conducted to train 50 Master Trainers from Balochistan with the support and collaboration of FDI and UNICEF from 24-30 November. Furthermore, these master trainers will train 1,260 vaccinators on IPC Skills for Immunization in 20 Districts of Balochistan. The Provincial Coordinator emphasized the enhancement of fixed site coverage as he considered that better IPC skills of vaccinators will play a vital role in vaccine demand generation, and it will be more fruitful once our vaccinators gain the expertise of a good communicator.

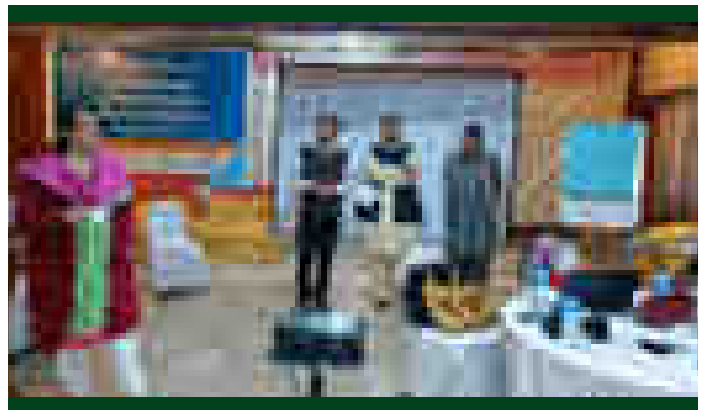
EPI REVIEW MEETING- 3RD QUARTER

EPI AJK organized the 3rd Quarter EPI Review Meeting on 3- 4 November. The event held in Kotli was chaired by worthy PPM EPI AJK, Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan along with all the dynamic DHOs with their district team, partner organizations WHO & UNICEF were also a part of the meeting. PPM EPI AJK, Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan Appreciated and thanked DHO Kotli, Dr. Shafqat Hussain and Kotli team for great management and hospitality.

All District Health Officers actively participated, presented, and made recommendations. In this context every district was given a specified time to present its progress or challenges faced along with any suitable suggestions. All districts presented the progress of their respective districts in detail, then discussed the challenges faced and recommended best possible solutions.

TRAINING OF VACCINATORS ON TCV INTRODUCTION IN ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION

Training on TCV introduction into Routine Immunization (RI) was conducted at PPM Office Muzaffarabad. Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, PPM EPI AJK and Dr. Bushra Shams, Technical officer WHO were present during the training and monitored the quality of training. PPM EPI addressed the participants and appreciated their services. He stressed upon them to attain quality training. Dr. Bushra Shams added while sensitizing the vaccinators on the importance of this vaccine and how beneficial it will be for a child's health and wellbeing.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Training of Trainers (TOT) of DSVs and Data Managers on the Hayat mobile app and web base portal for recording & reporting of routine vaccines was organized from 16-18 November. Hayat is an AKRSP supported project previously established in District Ghizer now extended to other five districts, Diamer, Skardu, Hunza, Nagar and Astore. The DG Health Dr. Saleem ud Din chair the session as Chief Guest.



EPI GB and WHO-PEI organized a two days training session for DSV, ASV and Data Managers on AFP Surveillance at Gilgit on 22-23 November. The closing ceremony was attended by Dr. Iqbal Rasool, Director EPI GB.

Enhanced Outreach Activities (EOA) continued throughout the month of November as EPI GB vaccination teams reached hard to reach areas in their respective districts to vaccinate eligible children.



AFP Training on Surveillance on 23-24 November for DSV, ASV and Data Managers on AFP Surveillance at Gilgit



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

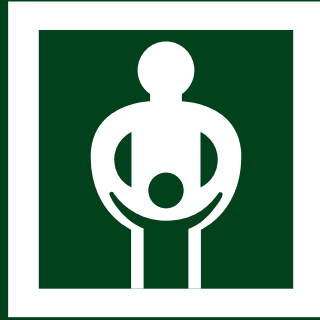
- Monthly Review Meeting of Outreach vaccinators was convened at Directorate of Health Services MCI on 15th November. Opening remarks was given by the chair Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz Lodhi, DG Health MCI. EPI staff as well as partner organizations of PEI /EPI inclusive of Dr Farrah Naz and Dr. Iman Ali attended this meeting. EPI Micro-plans for the new year 2023 were discussed.
- Training of EPI vaccinators on waste management has been convened on 17th November at Directorate of Health Services MCI. Training was supported by WHO and Dr. Ibrahim Mughal facilitated this important session.
- Training of TUSPs conducted at Directorate of Health Services MCI on Friday, 25th November. Training was facilitated by Area Coordinator WHO.
- Readiness meeting of SNID polio SIAs was convened on 25th November Friday at Conference Room of Deputy Commissioner (ICT) Office. Mr. Irfan Memon, DC Islamabad chaired the meeting. Both district i.e. CDA/MCI & DHS ICT shared the preparedness status.
- Additional Deputy Commissioner (East) inaugurated the Polio SIAs on Friday at CDA Medical Center I-8. Polio SIAs started from Monday, 28th November. Special prayer was done for a successful SIAs to determinately make Pakistan a Polio Free Country.



ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- EPI monthly review meeting was organized in the end of November. Top level ICT Management worked with CDA and other stakeholders in terms of a successful SNID Nov on 25th November.





**FEDERAL DIRECTORATE
OF IMMUNIZATION**
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN