

30 NOV-04 DEC 2020

PHF BULLETIN

I N T H E L O O P



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PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

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COVID-19 UPDATES

As of December 4th, 2020, Pakistan has a total of confirmed 410,072 Coronavirus cases. Of the total, 350,305 patients recovered, while 8,260 lost lives battling the disease.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has reported the highest number of infections amongst medics, with a total tally of 2,686 to date. Followed by Punjab, with 2,638, Sindh, with 2,578, Islamabad, with 867, Balochistan, with 611, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with 460, and Gilgit Baltistan, with 210.

The largest number of deaths, however, have been reported in Sindh, where 34 healthcare workers have died due to the virus, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which has reported 24 deaths.

A national policy has been framed to initiate Rapid Antigen Testing to detect Coronavirus through a swift method under strict control.

UK authorized Pfizer and BioNTech's Coronavirus vaccine for emergency use in Britain. The move makes Britain one of the first countries to begin vaccinating its population as it tries to curb Europe's deadliest COVID-19 outbreaks.

During this time of crisis, PHF members have actively responded in supporting National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which is the operational lead on COVID-19 crisis in Pakistan. Several PHF members have donated face masks, gowns, goggles, sanitizers, and are playing an active part in raising awareness among the communities they operate in.



[Find more information for COVID-19 here](#)

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PHF PROVINCIAL COORDINATION UPDATES

PHF provincial coordination meeting in Lahore is scheduled on December 9th, 2020. Meeting invite and agenda will be shared with stakeholders.

PHF is also planning to conduct provincial coordination meeting in Quetta and Peshawar in the month of December.

PHF Country Coordinator and Tearfund Country Director attend the First Provincial Coordination Meeting in Karachi, Sindh on November 6th, 2020



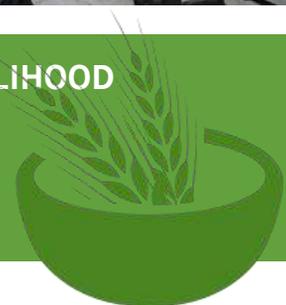
UN-Cash Working Group meeting was held on November 26th, 2020 in KP. It was highlighted that government participation/representation in meetings is necessary as a stakeholder. Also, Food basket/Cash grant should be designed through market assessment and coordination with Working Group.

KP WASH Sectoral Working Group Meeting was held on November 5th, 2020. The current COVID-19 situation and role of sector partners was discussed. Celebration of WTD 2020 were also discussed and WASH 4Ws analysis were also presented by UNICEF Peshawar.

PHF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES

PHF and NHN set up their first ever joint Working Groups (WG) during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve as the basic coordination tool among the PHF and NHN members.

FOOD, SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD WORKING GROUP UPDATES



FSL WG Meeting was held on November 24th, 2020. The participants discussed the second wave of the coronavirus. The group also discussed the possibility of developing a discussion paper on the second wave of COVID-19 and its possible implications on food security and livelihoods. Next meeting of FSL WG will be held on December 8th, 2020.

PHF plans to invite a guest participant from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) to educate the group about SMOG and its impact on livelihoods of people.

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HEALTH WORKING GROUP UPDATES



Health Working Group meeting was held on December 1st, 2020. The group decided to develop a paper that would discuss the operational issues/challenges faced during first wave of COVID-19 and how it prepared the civil society for the second wave.

IRC, Mercy Corps and Oxfam volunteered to support in developing the paper. The next meeting is scheduled for December 15th, 2020. The group will discuss the possible plan of conducting a survey on operational issues/challenges that they faced during COVID-19 response.

GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING (GMM)

General Members Meeting is conducted by PHF on 1st Thursday of every month, in which Country Directors of Member organizations participate to share updates.

December GMM was held on 3rd December 2020 on Zoom. Meeting minutes will be shared with all Members.

Next GMM will be held in February 2021 to ensure maximum participation of Members who might be unavailable due to annual leaves.

PHF EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION



NDMA and UN Strategic Coordination Forum -Disaster Management (SCF-DM) meeting was held on December 1st 2020. PHF Country Coordinator participated in the meeting.

Meeting for Sectoral Strategic Response Plans for HRP 2021 was held on December 2nd 2020. PHF Country Coordinator and several members attended the meeting.

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PHF Secretariat attended regular coordination meetings with Global INGOs for Interaction and ICVA

NDMA and UN Strategic Coordination Forum - Disaster Management (SCF-DM) meeting was held on December 1st, 2020. PHF Country Coordinator participated in the meeting.

PHF membership nominations for Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been completed. Nominated membership will convene together and work on a proposal document that will be shared by December 14th, 2020 for comments ahead of the HCT meeting on December 18th, 2020, where they will be endorsed. Part of these texts would be integrated in HNO and will be further elaborated in the Response Plan which will be drafted in January 2021.

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I N T H E L O O P

TRANSFORMING LIVES- MEMBERS IN ACTION

MEN CHAMPIONING WOMEN'S RIGHTS DURING THE PANDEMIC



Jamil-ur-Rehman, 32, being a differently abled child, was raised in a toxic, discriminatory and often-times violent environment, in a society which is strongly biased towards individuals with disabilities. He always wanted to transform his circumstances and the perspectives around his disability but did not know how. *"I still remember the day when a friend of mine introduced me to the International Medical Corps and its work around GSG in Jan, 2019. For the first time, I felt I can do something...something to aspire, change and make a difference,"* Jamil said.

Jamil is married with 2 children and lives in refugee village Chakdara, District Lower-Dir, KP. He is a member of community-based group of volunteers known as Gender Support Group (GSG) for the prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Gender Support Group is a part of the three-year project *Expanding MHPSS and Strengthening GBV Prevention and Response for Afghan Refugees in KP Province*, funded by Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). It aims to increase the utilization of GBV prevention and response services integrated with mental health and psychosocial support services for Afghan refugees in selected Refugee Villages, as well as community members for the improved protection status of women and girls.



Impact of COVID-19

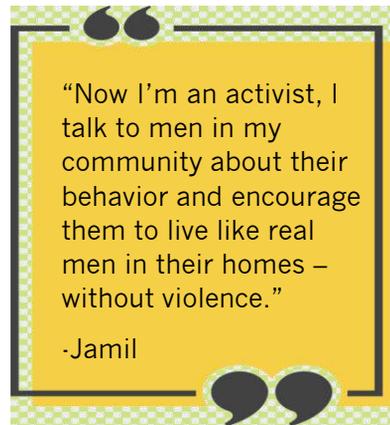
COVID-19 has greatly influenced community well-being and increased the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) in communities which is expected to have long term negative consequences for people, their families and communities.

Those who are directly affected may be reluctant to report the abuse because of fear, influence and power differences between victims and perpetrators of abuse during these challenging times.

Pre-existing economic and social stress in the refugee communities and further fear and anxiety caused by the pandemic, coupled with limited movement and social isolation measures, have led to an increase in GBV incidents.

Growing up in an environment where women always felt discriminated and alienated from household decision making was something Jamil could relate to, as a physically-challenged adult.

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"Now I'm an activist, I talk to men in my community about their behavior and encourage them to live like real men in their homes – without violence."

-Jamil

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IN THE LOOP

That is the reason he feels so strong for the cause and decided to join the voice for women's rights. Through GSG he has been sensitized on gender-based violence, its causes and consequences, human rights and harmful traditional practices.

Now he advocates and campaigns for an end to GBV. His will, strength, positive attitude towards life, and most importantly his loving relationship with his family makes him an influencer in the community.



Photo By: IMCPakistan/Mujeeb-ur-Rehman
Jamil while talking about COVID19 and its impact on GBV with the community members at District Lower Dir-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Jamil shared, "When government announced complete lockdown, I felt there is a need to raise awareness about the issue of gender-based violence during pandemic as well as about the practices that can replace the conventional in-person support".

During the pandemic, he continued to raise awareness online on GBV and provide telephonic services for those seeking psychological first aid, counseling, or any other kind of support with the help of International Medical Corps' Project, funded by PRM.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, he is actively engaged in different activities and provides help to the communities who feel disconnected from their support networks to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence in communities.

BUZZ OF THE WEEK



Pakistan to start COVID-19 vaccination drive in April - Government will provide vaccines free of charge, says health official. [Read more.](#)

The Pakistan Government has warned of stern action against opposition leaders for defying Coronavirus guidelines and holding public rallies despite the ban put in place due to the second wave of coronavirus. [Read more.](#)

The Federal Cabinet has approved the grant of \$150 million and set criteria to procure COVID-19 vaccine. [Read more.](#)

IRC Pakistan has been one of the leading INGOs working alongside the government on the COVID-19 response. Till date, IRC has reached approximately 41 million individuals through its risk communication activities and 482,439 individuals through on-ground support. [Read more.](#)

Pakistan is all set to launch Rapid Antigen Testing amid COVID-19 second wave, [Read more.](#)

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INGO REGISTRATION PROCESS UPDATE

Overall PHF Membership includes 38 INGOs. As per decision of Ministry of Interior, irrespective of date of expiry, all PHF members that received the MOU had applied for renewal of their MoU within the deadline (Jan 31st, 2020). The renewal process is ongoing.

8 PHF members have confirmed that they have received their renewed MOU.

As per the decision of Ministry of Interior, the deadline to apply for renewal of the MoU will be same each year (i.e. January 31st).

5 out of 8 PHF members who were awaiting decisions on their appeal representations, have confirmed that they received MOU from Ministry of Interior.

The Ministry of Interior website portal has not been updated and highlights an overall total of 75 MOUs issued/approved INGOs.

PHF engagement with key stakeholders and effected members is ongoing.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT PHF

December 8th, 2020 2:00-3:00 pm – FSL Working Group Meeting

December 15th, 2020- 11:00 am-12:00 pm – Health Working Group Meeting

COMMUNITY FOR LEARNERS

What has leadership learned from COVID-19?

While no company welcomes an event such as the COVID-19 pandemic, such a challenge can prove a valuable learning experience. Here, leaders from various industries share discoveries they made during the crisis and how this new knowledge will shape their business's future.

During this 75-minute course, **Success Circle: Turning 2020 Setbacks into 2021 Advantages**, you'll:

- Review last year.** Identify the things about you, your life and your job that worked and didn't work to establish a clear starting point.
- Rethink what's next.** Imagine what you want to have happen in 2021.
- Respond with action.** Create a meaningful action plan that will move you from where you are to the vision you create for yourself in 2021.

Reserve your spot now at the January 6 live, interactive, online training.

REGISTER NOW

OPPORTUNITIES FROM PHF MEMBERS

 **Conducting Audit of project "Marriage no Child's play"**

Interested firms to share their proposals, CV's and quotations if you think you are right firm for this assignment by: 16 December 2020 @ 17:00 PST

APPLY NOW

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SHARE YOUR SUCCESS STORIES!!

Please share stories of your achievements, along with high-resolution photographs, to be featured in our section Transforming Lives- Members in Action!

Email us:
info@pakhumanitarianforum.org

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!

We would love to hear from you!

Share your feedback:
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