

23 - 30 DEC 2020

# PHF BULLETIN

I N T H E L O O P



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# PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

## I N T H E L O O P

### COVID-19 UPDATES

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Pakistan has a total of 477,240 confirmed cases of coronavirus. 430,113 patients recovered, while 10,047 lost lives battling the disease.

Pakistani nationals looking to fly back to the country have not been able to board flights at the Heathrow Airport despite Pakistan government's directives that Pakistani passport-holders and students would be allowed to travel to the country, provided they hold a negative Coronavirus test conducted within 72 hours of the travel time.

The Government of Pakistan has extended restrictions on inbound travellers from the United Kingdom to Pakistan until January 4 due to the new variant of the Coronavirus circulating in Britain.

The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said the rate of positivity of COVID-19 infections has reached 5.92% in Pakistan.

The ventilator occupancy rate reached a worrying level in Punjab's government-run hospitals after as many as 181 critical COVID-19 patients were shifted to these facilities during the last 24 hours.

Pakistan has reported its first three confirmed cases of a new Coronavirus strain detected in the United Kingdom earlier this month.

In Pakistan, COVID-19 is proving lethal for people in the age group of 80 and above while the highest number of positive cases were being reported among those in the age bracket of 50-59.



Another Chinese pharma company, Zafai Longcom, has expressed interest in clinical trials of the COVID-19 vaccine in Pakistan and has contacted the Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (DRAP).

During this time of crisis, the 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 is playing a part in raising awareness among the communities they operate in.

Different guidelines for various sectors in relation to the COVID-19 response are also being shared with the members and other stakeholders.

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

# PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

## I N T H E L O O P

### PHF EX-COM RE-ELECTIONS 2021 UPDATE

In response of call for nominations for remaining 3 members of PHF Executive Committee 2021, PHF Secretariat received 3 nominations (Relief International, MDM France & Human Appeal) within the given deadline. Below is the final list of PHF EX-COM Members 2021-22:

Sr.	Organization	Position
1	CESVI	Chair
2	HOPE' 87	Deputy Chair
3	Action against Hunger	Member Ex-com
4	Tearfund	Member Ex-com
5	Mercy Corps	Member Ex-com
6	MDM France	Member Ex-com
7	Relief International	Member Ex-com
8	Human Appeal	Member Ex-com

### PHF PROVINCIAL COORDINATION UPDATE

The 5<sup>th</sup> Early Recovery Working Group meeting was held in KP on December 10th, 2020. Meeting minutes can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Relevant organizations can also share their input in the 4W Matrix and submit it directly by January 15th, 2021,

to [fatima.ali@undppartners.org.pk](mailto:fatima.ali@undppartners.org.pk)

### PHF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES

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

#### FOOD, SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD WORKING GROUP UPDATES



The next meeting of FSL Working Group is scheduled on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### HEALTH WORKING GROUP UPDATES



The Health Working Group is in process of developing a technical paper that will identify learnings/experiences of the organizations and serve as literature for all organizations, including PHF. The group expects to finalize the paper before the next meeting, which is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

# PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

## IN THE LOOP

### TRANSFORMING LIVES- MEMBERS IN ACTION



#### A RAY OF HOPE FOR DAILY WAGERS IN SINDH

by ACTED Pakistan

50-year-old Safooran w/o Arab Bheel, lives with her three children in village Bheenriyo Bheel, in District Umerkot, Sindh.

Despite being swamped with responsibilities of domestic work, looking after her children and fetching water from long distances, she also works as a daily wage laborer for road construction. Her day is spent toiling under the blistering heat, crushing stones and melting pitch. Working under the scorching heat of the sun has made her life quite arduous and challenging.



“

*Words are insufficient to express how I felt at that moment. It was like a ray of light in the darkness of my life. I cannot thank ACTED and WFP enough for providing the much-needed assistance in this difficult time of my life.*



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Since such a labour opportunity is only available in urban or semi-urban areas, far away from where she lives, Safooran, spends most of the day out of the house to meet the basic needs of her family. Owing to the long distances, she has no choice but to celebrate Holi (religious festival of Hindu community) away from her loved ones. Explaining the challenges of the pandemic, she said that due to Coronavirus and subsequent lockdowns, there was no work opportunity available and the entire community faced problems earning a livelihood and providing meals to the family.

“One day ACTED team called us to collect our money. I went there and received cash assistance of PKR 21,000. Words are insufficient to express how I felt at that moment. It was like a ray of light in bleak darkness. I cannot thank ACTED and WFP enough for providing much-needed assistance in this difficult time of my life.”

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# PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

## I N T H E L O O P

### TRANSFORMING LIVES- MEMBERS IN ACTION

#### HELPING THE HELPLESS DURING CRISES



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The residents of village Ramiyo Gaju in District Umerkot have experienced the worst effects of drought over the years. 80-year-old Suleman suffers from Tuberculosis and lives with his visually impaired wife in District Umerkot, Sindh. He relies on livestock and daily wage labour to meet their basic food and health needs.

Despite his best efforts, many of Suleiman's livestock died from lack of food and water, leaving him and his wife malnourished and vulnerable. A community mobilizer told Suleiman that ACTED, with funding from World Food Programme, was providing assistance to people like him. Suleiman immediately applied for the cash assistance.

After verification of his situation, Suleiman received training on health, hygiene, nutrition, agriculture, livestock, and a cash assistance of PKR 21, 000. The assistance enabled him to feed himself and his family.

*“Our situation worsened following lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak. With no opportunities of daily wage work and inflated food prices, we struggled to fight-off starvation. The money helped in not only buying food but also in getting eye treatment for my wife”.*

#### Challenges of vulnerable communities in Sindh

The province of Sindh in Pakistan is prone to frequent spells of drought, which is exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Communities struggle to survive in drought-stricken areas of District Umerkot, where people rely on livestock and daily wage work to meet their basic food and health needs. People sell either animals or animal milk to pay for food and other necessities, while other use milk and meat from livestock to feed their families. Besides rearing of livestock, communities in Umerkot have few sources of income.

When livestock are lost, communities largely depend on daily wage labor. However, with high prevalence of poverty, work is difficult to find, forcing men and women to seasonally migrate or travel to nearby areas in search of livelihood opportunities.

These travels expose vulnerable populations including women to safety and security risks. The limited food supply in these drought-affected areas is causing malnutrition among communities including women and children. Poor hygiene conditions are prevalent with open defecation common among people, who suffer from acute diseases like diarrhea and fever.

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# PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

## IN THE LOOP

### TRANSFORMING LIVES- MEMBERS IN ACTION

**Cash Based Assistance to Improve Food Security and Livelihood Conditions of Vulnerable Drought-Affected Communities**



As part of the response to provide emergency life-saving assistance to drought-affected communities, ACTED is implementing the project “Cash Based Assistance to Improve both the Food Security and Livelihood Conditions of Vulnerable Drought Affected Communities in District Umerkot, Sindh” funded by World Food Programme (WFP). The program benefits more than 6,200 vulnerable drought-affected households through activities designed to strengthen food security, improve awareness on safe hygiene and nutrition practices, enhance knowledge on alternate livelihood options and increase knowledge on climate smart agriculture and livestock management.

During project implementation, Covid-19 hit province Sindh hard. To contain the spread of Covid-19, the district government enforced restrictions and lockdowns. With normal day activities on hold, project beneficiaries, most of whom were daily wage workers, had no means to earn a living and were at risk of worsened malnutrition and even starvation.

ACTED in coordination and support of World Food Programme and district government continued to provide immediate assistance to vulnerable communities, enabling them to meet their food and other necessities.



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## I N T H E L O O P

### BUZZ OF THE WEEK



A team comprising of American scientists and paramedical staff of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) commenced research on Covid-19 patients in Pakistan. [Read more](#)

Pakistan will allow the private sector to import vaccines for protection against the novel coronavirus, a senior health official confirmed on Sunday. [Read more](#)

As the climate change crisis continues to grow, organizations like the WWF are continuing the good fight. But they need businesses and the government to cooperate. [Read more](#).

Quicker transition to cleaner resources of energy is crucial to mitigate climate change related effects, which cannot be achieved without adoption and implementation of energy efficient practices in industries and other segments of society. [Read more](#)

At least 800 children died this year in Thar, Sindh due to malnutrition. [Read more](#)

New food crop varieties aim to end malnutrition, stunting. [Read more](#).

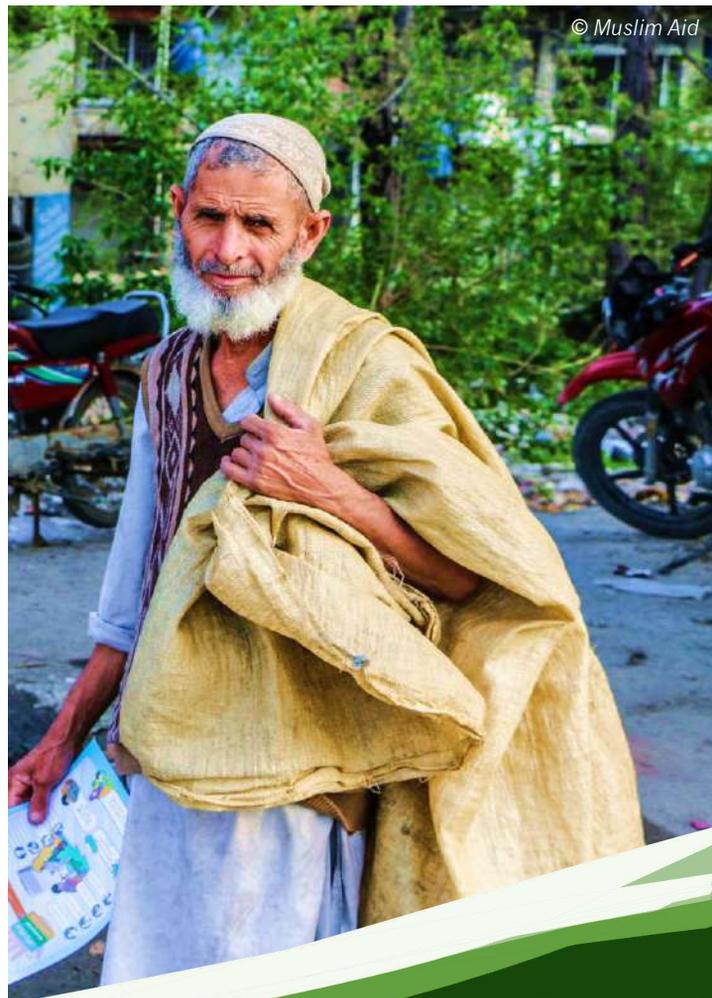
Federal Education Minister has said that the reopening of schools will depend on the country's health situation. The Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) will examine the coronavirus situation in the country on January 4, 2021, and a decision will be taken based on that meeting. . [Read more](#)

### OPPORTUNITIES FROM PHF MEMBERS

**Consultancy: Grant funding for Legislative Policy Analysis on Women's and Girls' Rights- Oxfam**

Closing Date: January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021

[Click here to Apply Now!](#)



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# PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

## I N T H E L O O P

### 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 have applied for renewal of their MoU within the deadline (Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020). The renewal process is ongoing.

12 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 the same each year i.e. January 31<sup>st</sup>.

5 out of 8 PHF members who were awaiting decisions on their appeal representations, confirmed that they have 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 affected members is ongoing.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AT PHF

January 05<sup>th</sup>, 2020- 02:00 pm- 3:00 pm  
Food Security & Livelihood Group Meeting

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020- 11:00 am- 12:30 pm  
Health Working Group Meeting

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020- 10:00 am- 11:30 pm  
General Members Meeting

### COMMUNITY FOR LEARNERS

#### Education in Emergencies

Free Courses

Save the Children in collaboration with INEE, Plan International and other partners are pleased to announce the launch of the Education in Emergencies (EiE) online course.

This free, self-directed online course is primarily designed to help Education in Emergencies (EiE) and education practitioners to improve their knowledge of EiE in general or in specific EiE topics and areas, in line with the six modules/35 units offered. It may also serve as a useful resource for those working in other areas but wanting to improve their understanding of EiE by diving into this intermediate-level content.



**Education in Emergencies**

Module 1 now available on Kaya

[Sign up today!](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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### PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES



#### Development Aid News Digest

To read the latest edition of the Development Aid Digest, please [click here](#).



#### Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020

The Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2020 frames the crisis financing landscape. To read the report, please [click here](#).

### 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:  
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### GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!

We would love to hear from you!

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