

PHF BULLETIN

22 Mar – 28 Mar 2021

IN THE LOOP



PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

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COVID-19 UPDATES

Scientists are exploring several possibilities that might explain at least 18 reports of extremely rare blood clots in the brain that occurred in individuals in the days and weeks after receiving the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

According to a new survey unveiled by British pollsters YouGov, trust in AstraZeneca's Coronavirus vaccine in many European countries has plunged following controversy around the jab in recent weeks.

Thailand has started human trials of a domestically developed Coronavirus vaccine by state drug maker, the Government Pharmaceutical Organisation (GPO), with Mahidol University's Tropical Medicine Department and an American non-profit. It is expected to be deployed next year, which according to health minister could give the country more freedom with its vaccine policy.

The National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) decided to increase restrictions of activities contributing to sharp increase in COVID-19 positivity. The provincial & Islamabad administration were also directed to tighten implementation of SOP's and crackdown on violations which are taking place.

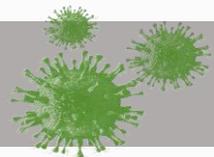
Pakistan will begin receiving shipments of China's CanSino Biologics COVID-19 vaccine this week for commercial sale. An AJ Pharma spokesperson said the first 10,000 doses are expected to arrive in the country on 25 March, 100,000 next month, and 200,000 the month after. Pakistan has already received a batch of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine for commercial sale.

Representatives of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) urged the government to implement a full, nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of the novel Coronavirus in the ongoing third wave of the pandemic.

The Civil Aviation Authority imposed a complete ban from 23 March to 5 April on incoming travel from 12 countries—Botswana, Brazil, Columbia, Comoros, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia—in a bid to curb the spread of mutated strains of the novel Coronavirus.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) has notified a formula for maximum retail prices of COVID-19 vaccine. According to the notification, signed by Legal Affairs Assistant Director, two formulas have been approved for sale of vaccine with 40% mark-up for companies and additional 15% for retailers/hospitals.

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



@Handicap International

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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.

HEALTH WORKING GROUP UPDATE



The organizations that volunteered to develop the working paper - ACTED and Mercy Corps – had a meeting to discuss the input submitted by the working group participants. Participants also assigned responsibilities among one another to consolidate and write the paper. The next working group meeting will be held on April 6th, 2021.

FOOD, SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD WORKING GROUP UPDATE

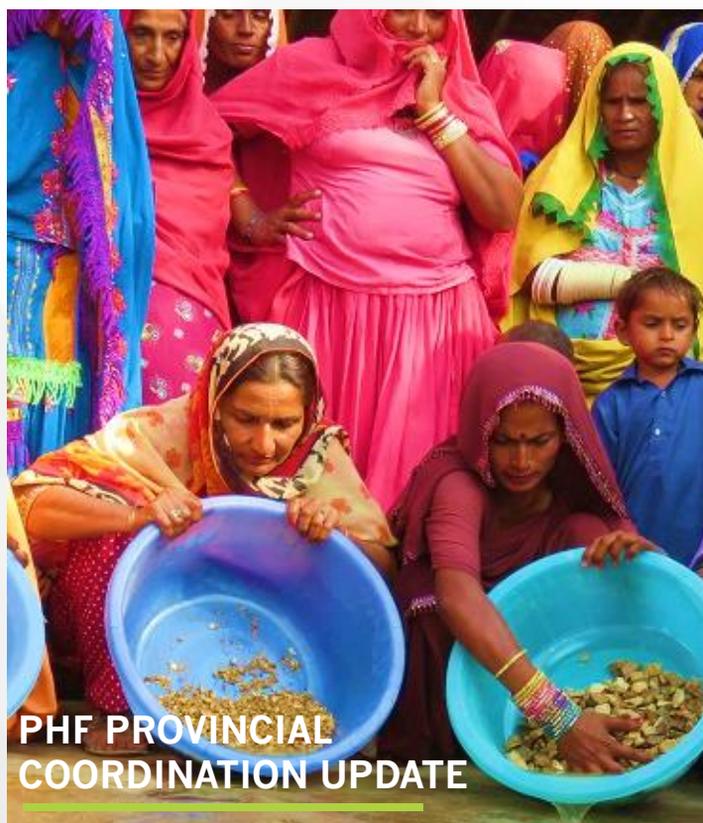


The questionnaire for the working paper was distributed among the participants who were asked to provide the completed document by February 19th, 2021. Participants also discussed the questionnaire to clarify any confusions. Next meeting of the FSL working group will be held on March 30th, 2021

PHF EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

PHF Country Coordinator and PHF Chair met with UNRC/HC before the HCT meeting

to discuss the HCT agenda. A position paper developed by PHF was shared and discussed with the UNRC/HC. It was developed based on the survey initiated by PHF among its member INGOs to identify key challenges and issues pertaining to three areas which are signing/renewal of MoUs, taxation, and stocktaking in the country.



PHF PROVINCIAL COORDINATION UPDATE

PHF Sindh Coordination meeting was virtually held on March 22nd, 2021. It was attended by PHF member organisations. A group exercise was done to finalise a tool for collecting the data of INGOs working on different thematic areas (4W Matrix). Meeting minutes and the 3W matrix template will be shared with members.

The next Punjab Coordination Meeting is scheduled virtually on 30th March, 2021.

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TRANSFORMING LIVES
MEMBERS IN ACTION



A DREAM COME TRUE

by [Islamic Relief](#)



High up in the hills of Janial, a remote village of Mirpur, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, nine-year old Nayab Mehfooz lives with her parents. Her father is a shopkeeper in local market, while her mother is a housewife. Nayab has lymphatic disorder, and her muscles are weak, which means that she never enjoyed a 'typical' childhood. "I cannot run or jump or play on the swings. I have weak legs." She says

Nayab's limbs did not function normally, due to which she was incapable of walking independently. Every day her mother used to carry her to school. Due to expensive medication and health procedures, Nayab's family was unable to continue her treatment. Now she is nine years old and her urge to walk is growing with her.

"I cannot run or jump or play on the swings. I have weak legs."

–Nayab Mehfooze

Under Islamic Relief's Mirpur Earthquake Emergency Response, Nayab has been treated and provided with orthotics. Now Nayab is able to walk and can participate in games with other children and is excited to go to school.



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BUZZ OF THE WEEK



The World Bank (WB) has warned that Pakistan is facing a severe groundwater crisis due to the lack of a reliable system for measuring groundwater extractions and their impact on the resource base. [Read more](#)

SICPA Pakistan has won the 13th National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) International CSR Award in the category of "Best Practices in CSR". [Read more](#)

Deadly heatwaves in South Asia are likely to become more common in the future, with the region's exposure to lethal heat stress potentially nearly tripling if global warming isn't curbed, researchers said. [Read more](#)

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved \$600 million in financing from the International Development Association (IDA) for the Crisis-Resilient Social Protection Program (CRISP) that will support Pakistan to expand Ehsaas, the national poverty alleviation program, to protect vulnerable households and increase resilience to economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

The Japanese government will provide grant assistance worth \$39 million (Rs 6.2 billion) for the improvement of water treatment plant and water distribution system in Faisalabad city under the master plan that will focus on water supply, sewerage and drainage for next 20 years. [Read more](#)

The Economist Intelligence Unit launched a report on the state of clinical nutrition in Pakistan that highlights the challenges that the healthcare system has been facing in adapting appropriate nutrition programmes. It also outlines opportunities that lie ahead. [Read more](#)

Two key agencies of the UN, the FAO and the WFP have warned in a new report that 174 million people around the world are already facing acute hunger, worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, and the lack of help they are receiving from the outside world. [Read more](#)

The use of biotechnology by Pakistani farmers would not only result in enhanced productivity but would also help address food security challenges being faced by the country, said Punjab Agriculture Minister Hussain Jahania Gardezi. [Read more](#)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

Pakistan Rehabilitation/AT Technical Specialist for Learning, Acting and Building for Rehabilitation Systems (ReLAB-HS) – Handicap International

Closing Date: March 31st, 2021

[Click here to Apply Now!](#)

Pakistan Project Manager for Learning, Acting and Building for Rehabilitation Systems (ReLAB-HS) – Handicap International

Closing Date: March 31st, 2021

[Click here to Apply Now!](#)

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INGO REGISTRATION UPDATE

Overall PHF Membership includes 37 INGOs

23 organizations have signed MOU, one organization is registered with SECP.

8 organizations are waiting for MOI's response after applying for renewals in January 2020 – their MOUs expired in 2020.

5 organizations have been in appeal since September 2018. MOI review committee has called them for their final presentation in end of April 2019. So far, no decision is reported on these appeals

As per decision of MOI, irrespective of date of expiry, all PHF members who are in receipt of a MOU have applied for renewal of their MoU within the deadline of Jan 31st, 2021.

PHF engagement with key stakeholders and members is ongoing.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT PHF

March 30, 2021- 11:00 am- 12:30 pm
PHF Provincial Coordination-Punjab Meeting

March 30, 2021- 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm
Food Security & Livelihood WG Meeting

April 01st, 2020- 10:00 am- 11:30 am
General Members Meeting (GMM)

COMMUNITY FOR LEARNERS



Free Course

Public Health in Humanitarian Crises 1

The course on Public Health in Humanitarian Crises 1, introduces discussions about the public health approach to problems experienced by people affected by disasters, both natural and related to conflict. The course discusses the many changes which occur in people's lives when they are uprooted by a disaster, ranging from changes in disease patterns, access to health care, livelihoods, shelter, sanitary conditions, nutritional status, etcetera. It explores what humanitarian interventions could look like if we want to mitigate the effects of disasters. The course content is a mix of theoretical knowledge and many practical examples from recent disasters. We think this course is unique because it contains many practical 'real-life' examples and is taught by instructors and guest lecturers who together have over 200 years of experience in this field.

The course consists of 10 modules totaling approximately 9-10 hours of delivered content with an additional 2-3 hours of self-work (quizzes and writing and evaluating a short peer-review assignment) as well as lively discussions forums. The course has been designed in a way that each module builds on the lessons of previous modules. However, you may do the modules in any order and some can be done separately.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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PUBLICATION AND RESOURCES



Development Aid News Digest

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



Humanitarian Policy & Practice Digest, 23 March 2021

InterAction has published “Humanitarian Policy & Practice Digest” as of 23rd March 2021. To access the digest, [please click here](#).

Summary Progress Update 2021: SDG 6 — water and sanitation for all

SDG 6 acceleration efforts underway as data shows targets off-track. [Read more](#)



[Click here](#) to download the report.

SHARE YOUR 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

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

We would love to hear from you!

Share your feedback:
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