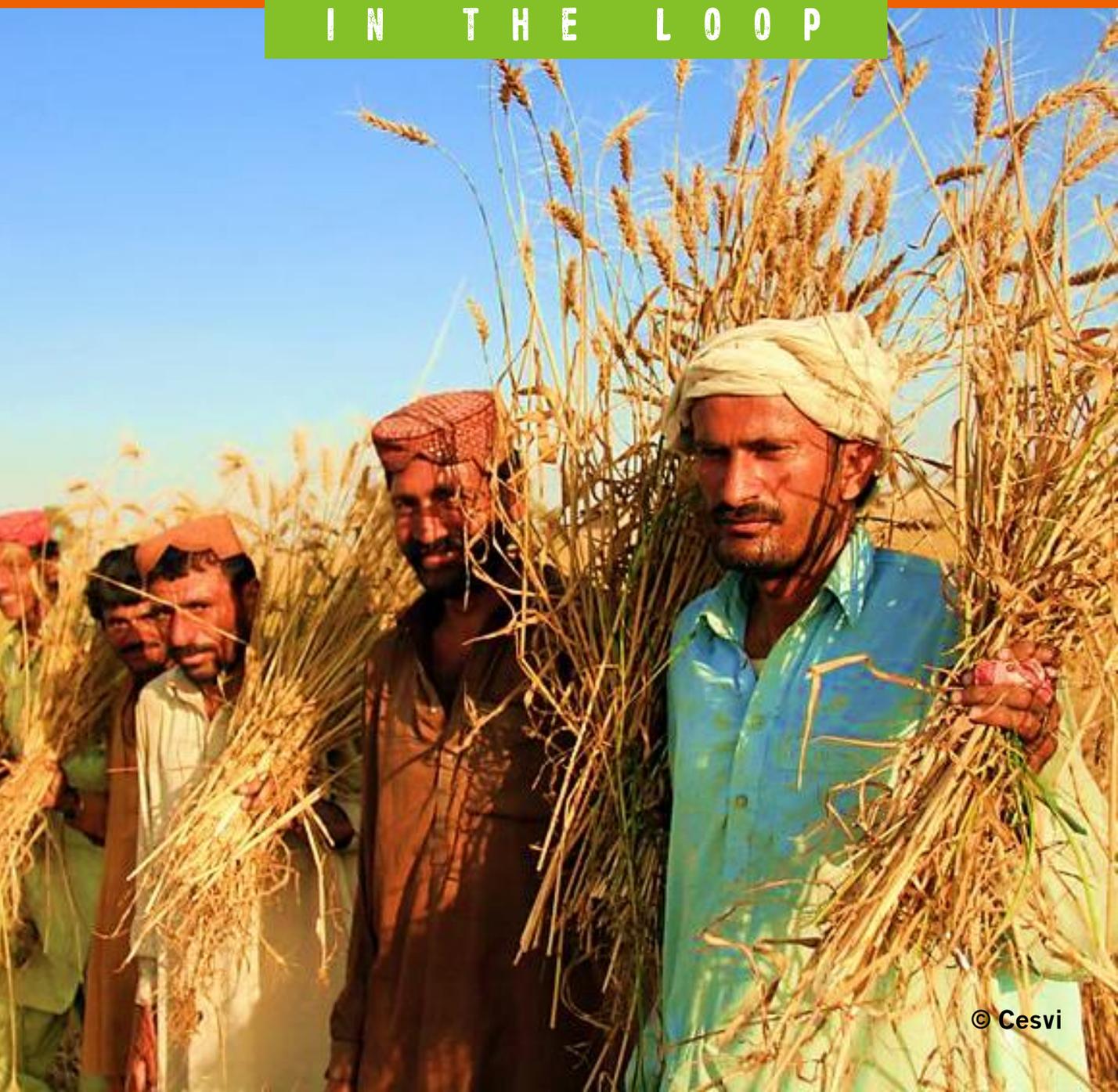


PHF BULLETIN

26 April – 02 May 2021

I N T H E L O O P



PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

I N T H E L O O P

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PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

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COVID-19 UPDATES

Pakistan will close the land border terminals for the entry of pedestrians from Afghanistan and Iran for over two weeks from May 5 in efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given the go-ahead for emergency use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine. The mRNA vaccine from the US manufacturer joins vaccines from AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson in receiving the WHO's emergency use listing.

Russia is turning to multiple Chinese firms to manufacture the Sputnik V Coronavirus vaccine in an effort to speed up production, which could mean quicker access for countries in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan has said that so far the Government has signed deals for procuring 30 million Coronavirus vaccine doses, adding that 19 million doses will be received by June. He added that the Government is not relying on donations and 90% of the doses were being purchased. He said that 70 million people will be vaccinated against COVID-19 in the country by the end of 2021.

The National Institute of Health (NIH) in Islamabad detected the Brazilian and South African variants of the Coronavirus in one sample each through genome sequencing. The authorities are now actively engaged in tracing the positive cases.

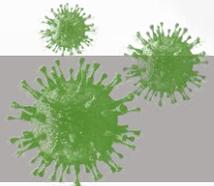
The Civil Aviation Authority has extended ban on travel to Pakistan from countries in its Category C list. The restrictions include fining airlines that allow passengers to board without PCR test result; and requiring passengers to provide their information through Pass Track app.

Pakistan not only decreased the number of inbound flights to 20% as part of measures to halt the spread of COVID-19 from May 5 to May 20, but also reduced the number of foreign airlines' flights to 120 per week.

National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said the national rate of positivity of COVID-19 infections has reached 9.17% in Pakistan with a total of 87,953 active cases, of which there are 5,377 patients in critical condition.

Overall COVID-19 positivity was highest in Balochistan 16.50%, followed by Punjab at 12.51%, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) at 11.82%, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 10.10%, Islamabad at 8.31%, Sindh 5.40%, and Gilgit Baltistan at 3.90%.

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



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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 UPDATES



The current caseload of the COVID-19 across the country will be discussed in the next meeting scheduled on May 4th, 2021.

FOOD, SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD WORKING GROUP UPDATES



PHF organized a mini-webinar for the Food Security & Livelihood working group, whereby a guest speaker from UN Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) presented Drought Forecast in Pakistan for the year 2021 and another guest speaker from Concern Worldwide presented on Drought Early Warning Systems.

The group lead provided an update on the paper the group is developing. The first draft of the paper will be shared with the group for review at the end of the week.



PHF PROVINCIAL COORDINATION

The monthly Sindh Provincial Coordination Meeting was held on 27th April 2021 virtually. It was attended by PHF member organisations. For maximum participation, it was decided to extend the deadline of 4ws mapping and action planning exercise. The Punjab Coordination meeting is scheduled on 4th May 2021. Thematic working groups for Punjab chapter will be devised in this meeting.

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TRANSFORMING LIVES
MEMBERS IN ACTION



DIGITALIZATION AND COVID-19 THE PERFECT STORM

By [Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission e.V \(CBM\)](#)



COVID 19 has disrupted the globe, life across the globe and has placed an unprecedented burden on the global healthcare systems. The studies at HARVARD Medical School show that during the outbreak, there is 32% decrease in the eye patients' visits and operations. However, in Pakistan this percentage is much higher and unfortunately, these statistics, in an under advantaged district like Kamber Shahdadkot, would be the gravest.

Napoleon puts it rightly that every adversity carries with it a seed of greater benefit. The pandemic has presented to us multifarious opportunities to light a candle for the most deserving in their darkest hour.

COVID-19 has greatly altered the humanitarian and development landscape of 2020 and 2021. In order to accelerate efforts in inclusive digitalization, Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (SIOVS) Hyderabad and CBM

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TRANSFORMING LIVES MEMBERS IN ACTION

International initiated the “Pakistan Trachoma Elimination Project” with a focus on resilience innovation and inclusive digitalization. To curb the challenges of eye patients’ treatments, a TELE TRACHOMA Service was initiated in 2020.



Here we discover the journey of one such TT patient who treated from the tele service. Sajida-a 60 year old housewife and field worker- a resident of Union Council Bhago Dero Taluka Shahdadt. She had been suffering from TT since last 5 years because of habitually removing her eyelashes. Social Mobilizers of CBM while delivering awareness sessions distributed tele-trachoma pamphlets in her village after which a relative of Sajida shared the tele- trachoma numbers with her.

Deedar- husband of Sajida- called the service and explained her condition. The pictures of her affected eye were collected by the project team and were forwarded to the National Master Trainers.

After getting confirmation and appointment from one of the National Master Trainers, Sajida was called at and operated on at Taluka Health Quarter Shahdadt. She was also provided with free medicines and commute by the trachoma project. Now, she is living a healthy life.

The Tele trachoma service is fueled by digital technologies, that needs to be modified with the passage of evolving market-driven necessity. It allows implementing organizations not only to re-imagine the trachoma treatments, but also lessens patients’ no-shows, improves eye healthcare quality, and cuts patients’ costs.

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TRANSFORMING LIVES
MEMBERS IN ACTION

“I am very happy now that I can easily work in the fields. Earlier, it felt like sand in my eyes all the time. I never imagined that treatment would be possible through cell phones. I am thankful to SIOVS, CBM international and Teletrachoma service.”
- Sajida



IPs have gone an extra mile to ensure digitalization, resilience, accessibility, and inclusiveness in the district.

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BUZZ OF THE WEEK



To make efficient use of water, the principle of “more crop per drop” must be implemented in the irrigation sector and, water-energy subsidies could be slowly phased out and more pro-poor policies promoted instead of subsidising low efficiency water use. [Read more](#)

The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Commitment with the Pakistan Planning and Management Institute (PPMI), which will enable NAHE to train HEC employees on a number of evidence-based required competencies. [Read more](#)

The single most important factor that determines the quality of both undergraduate and postgraduate education is the quality of faculty. At present, only about 25 percent of the faculty members in our universities have PhD degrees, and the ratio of PhD level faculty to student is a dismal 1: 100 approximately. [Read more](#)

Addressing a webinar titled ‘Budget 2021-22: Needs & Expectations of Higher Education Sector’ organised by Association of Private Sector Universities Pakistan (APSUP), Superior University, Inter University Consortium for Promotion of Social Sciences Pakistan (IUCPSS), University of Lahore, Government College University Lahore, and FPCCI Central CSR Committee on Higher Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Dr. Atta recommended increase in allocation to education by federal and provincial governments by 0.5% of GDP annually till it reaches 5.0% of GDP over next 5 years. [Read more](#)

A United Nations survey revealed that Pakistan is home to some 4.6 million orphan children, out of which a majority the population is aged below 17 years. [Read more](#)

A holistic approach and reliable database on water resources and their usage across the Pakistan is the key to achieving food, water and energy security in the fifth most climate-vulnerable country in the world, according to the panelists who attended a UN Food Systems Summit Independent Dialogue. [Read more](#)

Addressing a ceremony in Gilgit Baltistan, the Prime Minister announced a five-year development package worth Rs 370 billion for Gilgit-Baltistan during his visit to the area. [Read more](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Communication Specialist- Handicap International

Closing Date: May 10th, 2021

[Click here to Apply Now!](#)

Country Programme Close-out Coordinator- Oxfam

Closing Date: May 09th, 2021

[Click here to Apply Now!](#)

Inclusion Specialist- Handicap International

Closing Date: May 10th, 2021

[Click here to Apply Now!](#)

PHF WEEKLY BULLETIN

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INGO REGISTRATION UPDATE

Overall PHF Membership includes 37 INGOs

19 organizations have signed MOU with Mol

13 organizations are waiting for Mol's response after applying for renewals.

4 organizations have been in appeal since September 2018. Mol 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 Mol, 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

May 04th, 2021- 2:00 pm- 3:00 pm
PHF Punjab Coordination Meeting

May 04th, 2021- 11:00 am- 12:00 pm
Health Working Group Meeting

May 06th, 2021- 10:00 am- 11:30 am
GMM

COMMUNITY FOR LEARNERS



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Free Course

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

This self-paced course provides a general introduction to the relationship between human rights and the environment. Participants will gain basic knowledge for the application of human rights to environmental issues. Procedural and substantive obligations relating to the environment will be reviewed and some good practices presented, such as examples of national constitutions that have incorporated a right to a healthy environment.

All stakeholders interested to learn about the main aspects of the relationship between Human Rights and the Environment can benefit from the knowledge gained through the course. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a joint certificate UNITAR – UN Environment.

This course is a collaborative effort between UNITAR and UN Environment, which expands the learning portfolio available on InforMEA platform.

[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, April 29th, 2021

InterAction has published “Humanitarian Policy & Practice Digest” as of April 29th, 2021. To access the digest, [please click here](#).

Balochistan, Pakistan IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis: March - September 2021 (Issued in April 2021).

[Click here to download](#)

UNICEF Pakistan Annual Report 2020

[Click here to download](#)

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:
amina.gha@pakhumanitarianforum.org

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