



UNFPA Pakistan’s comprehensive COVID-19 Response Framework focuses on two main pillars

- Health Systems Strengthening
- Community Empowerment/ Gender centered interventions

233,921 Confirmed Cases (July 7)

2,691 new cases
4,839 deaths

96,236 in Sindh, **82,669** in Punjab,
28,236 in KP, **10,841** in Balochistan

Message from Lina Mousa, Country Representative, UNFPA

“Efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in diversion of resources away from maternal and reproductive health services and has thus disrupted women’s access to routine essential and lifesaving health services. In some cases, hospitals are designated to handle COVID-19 cases where reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) workers are also busy combating the pandemic. On the other hand, the pandemic has also caused disruptions at supply chain level, resulting in shortages of life saving medicines and maternal care services, including contraceptives. In addition, containment measures have further constrained the outreach of community health workers who are first responders and the lynchpin between women and health facilities. All these factors can impact service delivery for both emergency and non-emergency cases specifically for those women who rely on free or subsidized healthcare. This may contribute to a rise in maternal and newborn mortality, increased unmet need for contraception and potential lifelong morbidities and disabilities like obstetric fistula. Each year in Pakistan, 8300 women die from preventable pregnancy related complications and about 5.5 million have unmet need for contraception. A medium level disruption in availability and access to reproductive health services and modern contraceptives can result in an additional 2,133 maternal deaths and 2.1 million additional women with unmet need for contraception. Moreover, every year, 8 million women face some form of gender based violence in Pakistan. As the pandemic also impacts availability and access to the protections services and referral pathways for survivors of violence and abuse, an additional 1.6 million women will be at the risk of facing gender based violence. These alarming numbers underscore the immediate need for accelerated action to establish guidelines and allocate resources to ensure continuity of these essential life-saving services. UNFPA is committed to ensure continuity and availability of these services to save precious lives and to protect dignity of women and girls during COVID-19 pandemic.”

Health System Strengthening

3,000

Health workers including doctors and nurses are trained across Pakistan.

79

Is the number of quarantine facilities where staff been trained on infection prevention.

1,049

Master trainers are now training doctors, nurses and midwives across Pakistan.

37,474

PPEs have been provided to health workers across Pakistan since Feb.

Procurement of Equipment & Capacity Development

- Third round of provision of PPEs have been initiated and more PPEs have been distributed in this round through NDMA bringing the total to **37,474**.
- The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) trainings have entered the second phase in which trickledown trainings have benefitted 3000 health workers. **1,049 Master Trainers** are carrying out these trainings for doctors, nurses and midwives across Pakistan.
- On-site trainings of **79 quarantine facility** managers and support-staff including cleaners, ambulance drivers and security guards on infection prevention and standard precautionary measures regarding COVID-19 have been carried out. **56 On-site, virtual and blended trainings** have been conducted across Pakistan.

Community Empowerment

Risk Communication and Reproductive Health and Family Planning

- 600 young volunteers are reaching communities across Karachi. So far, 200,000 IEC materials have been distributed.
- Advocacy messages around maternal health and family planning featuring Honorable Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister of Information, and Honorable Qibla Ayaz, Chairman, Islamic Ideology Council have been produced, broadcasted and also posted on FP2020 global website.
- The awareness campaign featuring messages on safe motherhood, family planning and GBV on FM radio channels enters its second phase.
- UNFPA, in partnership with Population Council, launched a reproductive health helpline for women to seek advice from lady doctors on family planning, maternal health and newborn care.
- A meeting with members of media coalition on population and family planning from Sindh and Balochistan was held to inform the journalists about the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on reproductive health and family planning.
- Ministries of Health and Planning, with technical support from UNFPA, developed FP National Action Plan for COVID 19 which has been shared with stakeholders.

Youth Interventions

- A youth perception survey has been carried out, under a joint UN youth engagement initiative, to analyze the impact of the pandemic on young people's lives.
- Radio talk shows on psychosocial wellbeing of young people are being aired on FM channels in Karachi and interior Sindh.
- A rapid needs assessment on the impact of COVID19 on transgender persons in the twin cities has been completed in partnership with UNDP.
- 4 Facebook live sessions with experts were conducted in partnership with Aahung on menstrual hygiene management, psychosocial well-being of young people during the lockdown, gender based violence and inequalities.

24,000

IEC materials have been printed and handed over to provinces.

4

Facebook live sessions for youth held.

Helpline

Launched for women to seek advice from lady doctors.

100,000

People reached via radio campaigns.

Youth Survey

on perceptions on the impact of COVID-19 carried out.

GBV Interventions

2

Helplines for GBV survivors set up and functional.

1712

Calls were received on Rozan helpline since April

1,330

Women received awareness on RH & GBV at women friendly health spaces.

473

Women received dignity kits at women friendly health spaces.

Prevention and Management of GBV

- Two helplines -Bolo Helpline in KP and Rozan's helpline for GBV survivors at national level have been supported with technical inputs and equipment. 46 (23 Women and 23 Men) service providers were trained in three trainings on providing psychosocial support to women and girls with survivors of GBV. This was done in partnership with Punjab Safe City Authority, Social Welfare Department KP, Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, Women Development Department Punjab and International Medical Corps.
- UNFPA, in partnership with Social Welfare Department in Punjab and STEP, facilitated safe distribution of dignity/hygiene kits for women with disabilities who are homebound or are at shelter homes.
- 1712 women, girls and other vulnerable people have received psychosocial counselling and referrals for services through Rozan helpline.
- 3,374 people received awareness raising sessions on reproductive health, mental health and psycho-social support services and COVID-19 as well as available referral pathway.
- 1,330 women (712 in Balochistan and 618 in KP province) accessed the UNFPA –supported women friendly health spaces and received awareness sessions.
- A rapid need assessment has been conducted in Central Women Jail and Juvenile Jail in Karachi.

Coordination/ Technical Support

- Ms. Lina Mousa, Country Representative, UNFPA Pakistan met with Honourable Jam Kamal Khan, Chief Minister of Balochistan Province on 21 May, 2020, as part of a UN delegation led by Lieutenant General Muhammad Afzal, Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority and Mr. Julien Harneis, UN Resident Coordinator in Pakistan. Other senior government officials and heads of UN agencies were also present at the meeting held to discuss COVID-19 response in Balochistan.
- Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, in partnership with UNFPA, held a virtual meeting on Population Situation Analysis (PSA) which will analyse population and its inter-linkages with development processes particularly in the current COVID-19 Pandemic situation and will inform evidence-based programming. The meeting was attended by a large number of representatives from provincial government departments, civil society, academia and development partners.
- USD \$200,000 have been received by UNFPA HQ Humanitarian Thematic Fund/Emergency Fund for programme support to Balochistan and Mirpur, AJK as these geographical areas indicate high vulnerabilities due to humanitarian and natural disasters and the COVID 19.
- Punjab Welfare Department, with UNFPA's support, prepared a 'Business Continuity Plan during COVID' and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for more than 3000 services delivery points across 36 districts of Punjab to provide Family Planning Services
- In Punjab, UNFPA co-chairs the meeting of GBV working group and has also prepared ToRs for GBV sub group in Punjab.
- UNFPA co-chairs GBV sub-working group at national and provincial level and has held two meetings so far.
- UNFPA chairs Pakistan Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network which is actively engaged in integrating PSEA in COVID-19 response through the NDMA's notified sectoral working groups.



“

"This is a deadly virus. Initially, we were more concerned while attending to the pregnant women. We were not only worried for our safety but also for the potential risks for mothers, newborns and our own family. They could catch it from us as we are more exposed to the virus.

Now, as we receive training and protective equipment from UNFPA, we feel safe and better equipped to attend the deliveries."

**DR. NATASHA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
OBGY,**

SERVICES HOSPITAL, LAHORE



For further information contact:

Dr. Yilma Alazar, UNFPA Health Team Leader alazar@unfpa.org Khadija Zeeshan, M&E Analyst zeeshan@unfpa.org, UNFPA Pakistan