



## Donor Coordination Conference

The Policy and Strategic Planning Unit is the interface of the Health Department for managing and steering the various health sector activities in the province. It is also the platform through which all donors and development partners communicate with the department and put forward their agendas for providing technical assistance.

The PSPU recognizes that there needs to be increased coordination between the various partners in order to improve the effectiveness of development assistance. A Donor coordination Conference was thus organized on the 17th of March 2015. The purpose was to gather all donors and development partners who are running initiatives in Punjab to sit together under one roof and share details of their programmes/projects. This meeting was chaired by the Secretary Health Punjab. Other notable attendees included the Additional Sect Health, Director General Health and Programme Director PSPU. Speaking on the occasion the Secretary Health emphasized the usefulness of the exercise. He conveyed his surprise at the number of activities happening across Punjab and focused on the need of greater harmonization and alignment of donor activities to improve the equity of health outcomes and avoid duplications. Expressing his views Dr Zahid



Pervaiz, DG Health said that it was important to create an environment where the donor activity being conducted results in rapid improvements in the health status of the people. For this the health department must strive to bring in monitoring and evaluation measures to establish a results oriented culture. USAID, Save the Children, Unicef, WHO, Marie Stopes Society, EVA, and many other organizations were present..

## Conference on Improving HR at BHU Level

In keeping with the ongoing efforts for health sector reforms the Policy & Strategic Planning Unit (PSPU) with the support of UNICEF arranged a consultative workshop on “Ensuring Human Resource Management at BHUs” on April 09, 2015 at Royal Palm hotel, Lahore. The conference was attended by mint public health professionals as well as renowned academics. In his keynote address Mr. Khawaja Salman Rafique, Advisor on Health appreciated the effort and said that it was essential that everyone work together with the single objective to bring improvement in the health sector. He assured of his commitment to take action on the proposed action plan.

Mr. Ali Bahadur Qazi, Program Director, PSPU emphasized that primary health care was the cornerstone of our health system and that the Punjab Government was committed to strengthen primary health care services. The health reforms roadmap that was started in April 2014 had brought in many initiatives to tackle various issues with availability of human resource at BHU as a critical area of interest. The Chief

Minister is taking personal interest and has directed Health Department to come up with strong action plan to overcome the issue of HR management at PHC.

Dr. Zahida Sarwar, Additional Program Director (Technical) elaborated on the proposals put forward in the Punjab Health Sector Strategy and initiatives taken by Government so far to enhance the service delivery and effectiveness of health care provider. Participants of the meeting were then divided into five groups and areas of the meeting were distributed among those groups to take expert proposal for policy making.

Ms. Yurika Morita, member of roadmap team enlightened the HR improvement at PHC level and mentioned that presence of medical staff at BHU is 67% but pointed out that remaining gap of 33 % is a still big challenge to Health Department. Data of staff presence for the last 4 months reveals an increase from 58% to 67%, which shows the commitment of the government to improve the health

system. Statistics however show that retention of the doctor at BHU level is still a challenge faced by HD and since December 2014, almost 300 out of 500 doctors have left their jobs.,

The participants were then divided into five groups to deliberate and submit their proposals. At the end, Mr. Jawad Rafique Malik, appreciated the effort of all the participants and assured of his support in adopting the practicable suggestions. Dr. Zahid Pervaiz, DGHS in his closing remarks thanked all the participants from academia, development partners, PMA, MO/WMO, media personals, and all other members for making the meeting successful.

- Improve Health Department capacity and systems for enhanced accountability and stewardship functions.



## Joining Hands for Diarrhoea Control — Save the Children signs MoU with Government of the Punjab

According to the multiple indicator survey 2011 conducted in Punjab, Diarrhoea accounts for around 26,000 annual deaths among children aged under five thus constitutes the 17% of the total annual under-five deaths in Pakistan.

In a bid to counter such Diarrhoea menace, Save the Children Pakistan Program has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Govt. of the Punjab to jointly work on a multi sectoral project that aims to reduce diarrhoea related deaths among the children under 5 in Hafizabad and Khanewal districts of Punjab.



Secretary Planning & Development Department P&DD Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry and Deputy Country Director Save the Children Pakistan Tayyaba Aurangzeb signed the MoU. The participants at the occasion included Additional

Program Director Policy & Strategic Planning Unit (PSPU) Punjab Dr. Zahida Sarwar, Deputy Director Punjab Dr. Zahida Sarwar, Deputy Director Local Government & Community Development Najeeb Aslam, Assistant Chief P&DD Nusrat Tufail Gill, Assistant Chief P&DD, Dr. Mahmood Qamar and Project Director, Diarrhoea Prevention & Control Project Save the Children Dr. Masood Abbasi.

Diarrhoea Prevention & Control Project is a flagship program being implemented for the first time in Pakistan where issues of diarrhoea are being addressed by multi sectoral interventions. Every year around 53,000 children under five fall prey to death due to diarrhoea in Pakistan. This project aims not only at lowering the morbidity & mortality caused by diarrhoea but will also be helpful in sensitizing communities about health & hygiene related practices that will ultimately be helpful in reducing diarrhoea induced preventable deaths at a larger scale.

Secretary P&DD Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry appreciated the role of INGOs in Pakistan in bringing positive change in health sector. He emphasized that public-private partnership can make the beneficiaries of development projects to get maximum out of such projects. He assured to take lead in implementing diarrhoea prevention and control project in Punjab and that too in partnership with government departments especially Departments of Health, Public Health Engineering and Local Government & Community Development.

## Secondary Healthcare MEAs Launched

After successful launching of primary healthcare Monitoring and Evaluation Assistants, MEAs for Secondary healthcare MEAs were launched in the month of May 2015.

The training of Secondary healthcare MEAs was done at Policy and Strategic Planning Unit, Punjab. Program

Director Mr. Ali Bahadur Qazi distributed tablet PCs for monitoring data electronically which will appear in the dashboard for secondary healthcare. The Secondary healthcare MEAs will start their visits from 1<sup>st</sup> week of June 2015. EDOHs of all the districts have been informed about their visit schedule. PSPU.

## Synthetic Review of Contraceptive Supplies in Punjab

PSPU has developed a policy brief describing trends in the uptake of contraceptive commodities in Punjab. An annual

comparison of contraceptive commodities undertaken by Dr Naqvi Hamad shows that:

### CONTRACEPTIVE DELIVERY SERVICES OF PUNJAB

Years	Female Population of Punjab	Condoms (Units)	Oral Pills (Cycles)	IUCD (Insertions)	Injectable (Vials)	Con. Surgery (Cases)	FP Users
2010-11	45580000	29,726,933	1,446,485	463,347	642,741	79,626	1080059
2011-12	46307000	35,293,845	1,493,212	508,034	506,005	80,109	1157145
2012-13	47048000	38,718,472	1,533,147	476,805	481,899	66,542	1144846
2013-14	47801000	39,645,484	1,612,655	482,739	469,100	70,096	1167160

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2011, 12, 13, 14),

Punjab Development Statistics (2012, 2013, 2014)

Use of contraceptive supplies around the world has given couples a chance to choose the number and spacing of their children and has had tremendous lifesaving benefits. Yet despite these efforts, contraceptive use is still low in Pakistan. Despite pervasiveness, family planning programs have caused controversy and drawn criticism from a variety of perspectives.

Despite considerable investments in FP during last 5 years, the quantum of public sector services remained unchanged. In health sector Punjab, delivery of contraceptive commodities show different trend. Use of condoms and oral pills witnessed 12.3 and 8 per cent increase respectively by 2011 in Punjab. But there is 6.6% drop of IUCDs, Injectables and contraceptive surgeries as compared to 2011 at Punjab level. Since in Punjab, the estimated number of

MWRA are increased by 1.3 million women between 2011 and 2014 whereas provision of services to MWRA show declining trend. It points out that a large number of MWRA are not being served with new contraceptive methods showing almost stagnant CPR of Punjab for the last 5 years. Being a signatory of MDGs, Pakistan was supposed to increase CPR from 41 % to 50 % in 2015. A proper action plan for family planning services is required in Punjab. A consolidation of contraceptive commodities of first quarter of 2015 in Punjab in collaboration with Policy and Strategic Planning Unit (PSPU) and Integrated Reproductive Mother, Neonatal and Child Health (IRMNCH) & Nutrition Program of Punjab has been discussed. Suggestions have been put forward as to how use of FP services can be improved through filling gaps for the implementation and evaluation of FP2020 initiatives.



## Dr. Zahid Pervez DGHS Punjab awarded Sitara e Imtiaz by Government of Pakistan

Dr Zahid Pervez is the distinguished Director General Health Services Punjab. He brings to the post a wealth of experience and knowledge having previously served as the Medical Superintendent of all the three major teaching hospitals of Lahore. After taking over as Dg Health Dr Zahid Pervez has been working diligently to bring in an outcome oriented culture in the Directorate and improve the image of the department, especially focussing on leadership and management role at the provincial level. His areas of expertise include Hospital management, Human Resource infectious disease control and M&E. He holds a Masters in Health services management from the UK and has represented Pakistan on various international forums. Dr Zahid is working with passion to see the health sector reforms agenda achieve its goals and to make equitable access to health services a reality for all citizens of Punjab.

In recognition of his meritorious services in the field of health Dr Zahid Pervez has been awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan on 23rd March, 2015



development, Health projects planning and management,

## NEWS Alerts

- ✓ The PC1 for the Integrated IRMNCH is currently being developed with TRF+ support- a draft of the document was presented to Health Department and all stakeholders in a meeting held on 05.06.2015
- ✓ Training of MEAs of Primary Health Care MEAs on 24/7 BHUs and RHCs held in nine divisions of Punjab. The MEAs will also start their visits to 24/7 BHUs and RHCs from 01<sup>st</sup> June 2015.
- ✓ The Health Department has decided to bring in 'contracting in models' on agreed upon KPIs, by engaging with district management. In this context a meeting was held at PSPU where representatives from district management were invited to thrash out modalities of the financial incentive.
- ✓ As a follow up to ensuring availability of HR in Primary health facilities a meeting to discuss age relaxation for graduates was held in Royal Palm Lahore.

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