

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

- 01** Health Systems Strengthening
- 02** Community Empowerment/ Gender centered interventions

Confirmed cases

296,590

NEW CASES 441

Sindh
129,615

Punjab
96,921

Balochistan
12,899

Islamabad
15,666

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
36,265

AJK/ GB
2,302 / 2,922



HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING



36,000

Health workers including doctors, nurses are trained across Pakistan in Infection Prevention and Control



1,216

Health workers trained as Master trainers



66

On-site, virtual and blended trainings including in the quarantine facilities



49,000

Personal Protection Equipments (PPEs) and Hygiene kits have been provided to health workers across Pakistan

PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

UNFPA continues to support the medical and health workers through provision of Personal Protection Equipment through National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA, PDMAs), Provincial health and Population Welfare Departments. So far, over 49,000 PPEs and hygiene kits have been distributed nationwide, while additional procurement of 200,000 masks is underway.

1,216 health workers trained as Master trainers on infection prevention and standard precautionary measures regarding COVID-19, across Pakistan through 66 On-site, virtual and blended trainings including in the quarantine facilities targeting doctors, nurses, managers, support-staff, cleaners, ambulance drivers and security guards. In total over 36,000 health workers trained by UNFPA since March 2020.



A Rapid Needs Assessment was conducted following COVID-19 in partnership with Sindh Prison Department in selected prisons in Sindh. Dignity kits have been distributed to over 350 inmates including boys and girls.

UNFPA collaborated with UNAIDS to support Global HIV Prevention Coalition, by providing 3400 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to Country Coordination Mechanism to protect its community front line workers including Transgender community, during COVID-19 pandemic. The CCM supports the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria (GFATM) in Pakistan.

Six Telemedicine and capacity building centers (two each in Gilgit region, Chitral and Sindh province) for health care providers have been established to facilitate the cluster based decentralized virtual trainings. Essential equipment such as polycom devices, tele-conferencing equipment, laptops, mobile phones and IT supplies have been procured for all centers to support digital learning of health care providers.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



324,000

IEC materials distributed



05

COVID-19 Helplines Operational



> 29,000

Afghan refugee and host community women continue to receive SRH services during COVID-19



06

Facebook live sessions reaching out to 240,682 young people



144

Youth and adolescents were trained as young ambassadors



11

Radio shows on reproductive health, gender equality, gender-based violence

RISK COMMUNICATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING



600 youth, transgender and women activist volunteers have reached out to over 300,000 people so far in communities in Karachi. 4000 calls received on the helpline established to link women from the neighbourhood to SRH services. 36 Riskshaws display COVID-19 related awareness messages while 16 radio programmes aired on COVID-19 and SRH messages with question answer sessions.

Five COVID-19 Helplines established to provide medical consultations, education, awareness, advice to patients via phone and referral of patients to nearest health facilities, laboratories and emergency centers. 1371 calls (748 females and 623 male) attended, of which 91 were suspected COVID-19 cases.



On an average 935 women/month have received skilled birth attendants support between February to August 2020. Whereas, in six months over 29,524 Afghan Refugee and host community women in Balochistan and KP continue to receive family planning services.

20 Static Health centres located in Afghan Refugee Hosting communities and three mobile medical units for Afghan Refugees camps ensure continuity of integrated SRH and GBV services.

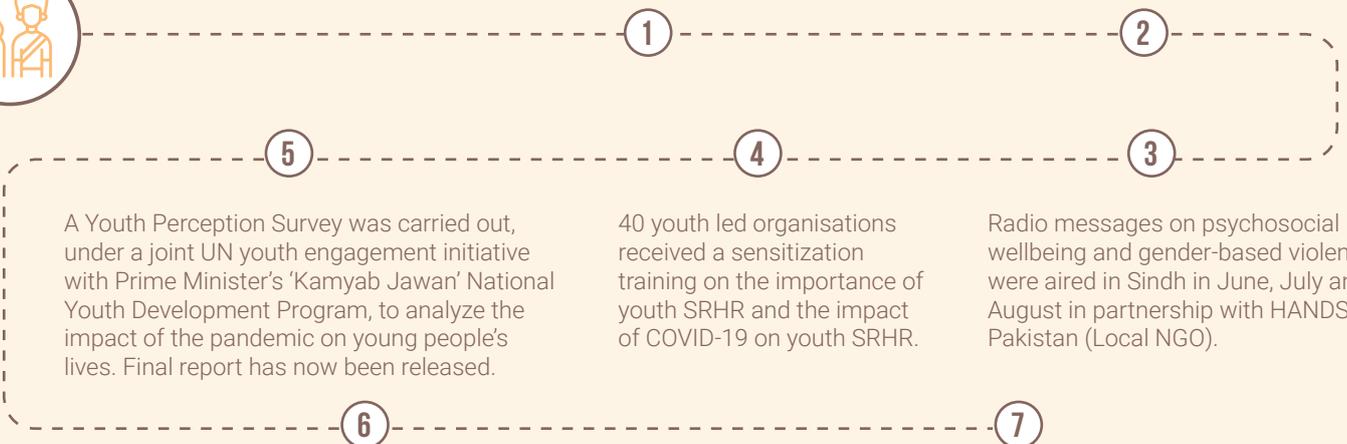
In total over 324,000 IEC materials with messages on hygiene, pregnancy, breastfeeding and maternity care, COVID-19 SRH services and information have been printed and distributed across Pakistan.

YOUTH INTERVENTIONS



6 Facebook live sessions with experts were conducted, reaching out to 240,682 young people in partnership with Aahung (Local NGO) on menstrual hygiene management, psychosocial well-being of young people during the lockdown, gender-based violence and inequalities.

11 radio shows on reproductive health, gender equality, gender-based violence and psychosocial well-being were conducted with Aahung, reaching out to 66,896 people.



A Youth Perception Survey was carried out, under a joint UN youth engagement initiative with Prime Minister's 'Kamyab Jawan' National Youth Development Program, to analyze the impact of the pandemic on young people's lives. Final report has now been released.

40 youth led organisations received a sensitization training on the importance of youth SRHR and the impact of COVID-19 on youth SRHR.

Radio messages on psychosocial wellbeing and gender-based violence were aired in Sindh in June, July and August in partnership with HANDS Pakistan (Local NGO).

144 youth and adolescents were trained as young ambassadors on themes related to COVID-19, including mental wellbeing, reproductive health and gender based violence. These ambassadors have started community trainings, following prescribed SOPs.

28 winners were announced from the Youth Innovation Challenge, launched under the joint UN Youth Initiative with local partners and have received support to prepare their implementation plan to transform their innovative ideas into action for empowering communities.

GBV INTERVENTIONS



03

Helplines for GBV survivors setup and functional



3,468

Calls were received on Rozan helpline



4,251

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



4,919

Women received dignity kits at women friendly health spaces

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF GBV

4,251 women and young girls (712 in Balochistan and 3,539 in KP province) accessed the UNFPA –supported women friendly health spaces and received awareness sessions.

The social & electronic media campaign using videos, animations and issue-based flyers on stress, anxiety, and GBV related to COVID-19 have reached close to 10,150,000 people since April 2020.



Tele-psychosocial support services - Rozan's helpline for GBV survivors at national level responded to 3,468 calls during the month of June – August 2020.

4,919 dignity kits were distributed in four provinces among women in prisons, orphanage, shelter houses, including women and girls with disabilities across Pakistan to help maintain personal hygiene during COVID-19.

Support is being provided to NDMA for the mass media campaign on psychosocial support with special focus on GBV in COVID-19 situation.

COORDINATION / TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Despite significant COVID-19 related challenges faced by Pakistan, Population and Family Planning remains a top priority for the Government of Pakistan as reiterated by President of Pakistan, H.E. Dr Arif Alvi as he chaired the third meeting of the Federal Task Force on Population Growth and Family Planning, held on 6 August to evolve strategy on balanced population growth in the country. Key decisions were made to accelerate family planning programmes in Pakistan.
- Similarly, provinces of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa held their respective Provincial Population Task Force meetings during the reporting period, on population and family planning confirming that maternal health and family planning remains top priorities despite COVID-19 challenges. In addition, KP Task Force also finalised strategic decisions to support the ongoing initiatives related to Population and Family Planning.
- Ms. Lina Mousa, Country Representative, UNFPA Pakistan attended the Federal and Provincial Task Force meetings. She commended the commitment of Government of Pakistan to the CCI Recommendations for a balanced population growth and confirmed support to advancing Reproductive health and family planning in Pakistan.
- Ms. Lina Mousa, Country Representative, UNFPA Pakistan met with H.E. Canadian High Commissioner Ms. Windy Gilmor in a virtual meeting to discuss and share updates on UNFPA and Canadian High Commission's joint efforts to continue provision of essential Maternal, Newborn, and Reproductive Health care services amid COVID19 Pandemic.
- Ms. Lina Mousa, Country Representative, UNFPA Pakistan met with H.E. Australian High Commissioner, Dr. Geoffrey Shaw in a virtual meeting to discuss and share updates on continued provision of essential Maternal, Newborn, and Reproductive Healthcare services in the Afghan refugee and hosting communities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, during COVID19 Pandemic. Furthermore, Ms. Mousa also appraised Dr. Shaw on UNFPA's overall COVID19 Response Plan and ongoing activities.
- UNFPA continues to provide technical support to the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSRC) through recruitment and deployment of a senior public health expert, Epidemiologist and consultants for strategic communications and data analysis to strengthen the COVID19 response capacity.
- UNFPA Pakistan supported the Population Council in conducting the research study - '**Family Planning and Reproductive Health Needs and Challenges of Poor Women during the COVID19 Pandemic**'. Over 200 women—including beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)—and 60 public and private sector healthcare service providers participated in the recently published research, which explores the effects of the pandemic on the lives of these women, their mental health and well-being, as well as their access to reproductive health (RH) and family planning (FP) services, along with the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and challenges among service providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNFPA Pakistan and the Ministry of National Health, Regulations and Coordination organized quarterly meeting of Country Engagement Working Group under the chair of Additional Secretary MoNHSR&C and was attended by Provincial and Regional officials of the Department of Health and Population Welfare along with private sector organizations and donors. Progress under CCI Action Plan on Population was presented by relevant officials along with business continuity plan during COVID19 pandemic. Effect of lockdown due to COVID19 on SRH services was also highlighted in this meeting.
- In coordination with district level health departments, villages and households were identified with prevalence of mild COVID19 cases in GB (Skardu, Shigar) and Chitral regions. Orientation sessions for care givers were conducted with the support of community volunteers and health care providers on home-based management of mild cases and self-protection using field teams of Aga Khan Rural Support Programme.



Twenty years old Bhawan thanks Dr. SherShah and UNFPA after her successful fistula repair surgery at Koochi Goth Hospital

“IT’S AS IF I WAS REBORN AFTER THE SURGERY.”

After a month of a successful surgery, Bhawan was able to leave happily with her family, going back home.

FIGHT AGAINST FISTULA CONTINUES AMID COVID 19

Obstetric fistula is a devastating and preventable tragedy that primarily affects young and poor women who lack access to quality maternal care.

Twenty-year-old Bhawan lost her first baby and developed an Obstetric fistula after a prolonged and difficult labor. She was brought to Koochi Goth Hospital in Karachi by her husband from the drought stricken village in Tharparker, Sindh. Bhawan was immediately admitted to receive a fistula repair surgery.

During the COVID19 response, some 53 women have received successful fistula

repair surgeries at Koochi Goth Hospital supported by UNFPA Pakistan and Government of Australia (DFAT).

Obstetric fistula is preventable, yet 4000 – 5000 women suffer from it every year in Pakistan.

As the gap widens with COVID 19, UNFPA continues to support the campaign to End Fistula in Pakistan and restore dignity and women and girls suffering from

this debilitating condition. We must ensure that every woman and girl has access to Reproductive Health Services. The limited access to Maternal, Newborn and Reproductive Health services cause an increase in Gender Based Violence, augments women’s suffering and lead to preventable conditions such as fistula.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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