

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we've seen in the past. Every day we continue to see more false information shared throughout communities, confusing citizens and leaving them unsure as to who can answer their questions.

The **Pakistan Coronavirus CivicActs Campaign (CCC)** captures rumors and perceptions among communities to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, humanitarian agencies and citizens. By providing the public with facts, these coronavirus bulletins aim to create a better understanding of needs regarding coronavirus and to debunk rumors before they can do more harm.

## Current Situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan

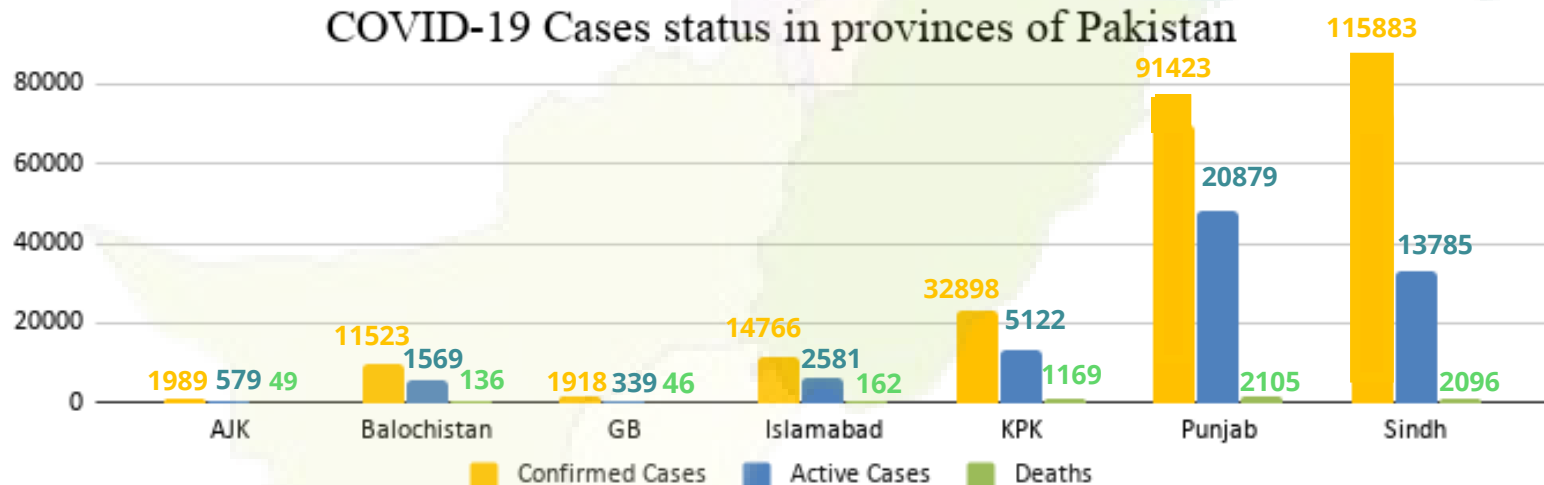
**Total Confirmed Cases**  
270,400

**Total Active Cases**  
44,854

**Total Deaths**  
5,763

**Total Recoveries**  
219,783

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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# **How the Covid-19 Pandemic is Impacting Farmers**



## **Shortfall in Harvest and Earning**

**"Before the pandemic, I was living a happy life with my family. I used to grow vegetables and pulses in my field which later were sold out after sorting. I was supplying my customers with the best quality products while the products with an average quality were supplied to the local markets.**

**My business was hit hard by the pandemic. The lockdown impacted my import and export badly. We were no longer able to sell our products on a large scale which caused us a lot of economic loss and also reduced the price of our products. I used to sell wheat at PASCO centres before the outbreak, but now the process takes a lot of time while following SOPs. I ran out of time to cultivate cotton due to this. So now we have to sell it to local markets with a deficit of 200 kg per maund.**

**We used to make good profits from wheat and vegetables, but due to the current circumstances we had to bear a loss of 500,000 this year. Due to severe losses we had to borrow pesticides and seeds so that we could grow the next crop. Our situation became so bad that we even had to borrow diesel at interest to cultivate our own field. Now with easing of lockdowns, we hope that the situation will get better and we will be able to make good profits."** (Muhammad Arshad - Farmer)

## **An Annual Loss**



**"I have 4 acres of agricultural land. I have not seen a good day ever since the pandemic began. Exactly one month after the pandemic outbreak, we had to harvest our wheat crop. Things had gone worse and unpredictable for a specific time. With strict lockdowns everywhere, we were not able to harvest our wheat crop on time. At that time, the government introduced the Ehsas Program which was quite helpful but still there was a big difference between the supply and demand. We left no stone unturned to harvest our crop but the prices gradually decreased and hence we were not able to buy seeds for the next sowing. Low income farmers were severely affected by the annual loss.**

**It is expected to take at least 3-5 years for farmers to compensate for this loss. The prices have gone incredibly high and to feed a large family is a big challenge. I've had to borrow money from some relatives for my family. I would request the government to plan on developing schemes and programs for farmers to overcome the crisis they have faced amid the pandemic."** (Abdul Wahid - Low-Income Farmer)



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## **Unfortunate Outcomes**

Farmers were already suffering due to climate change. Now the epidemic has made living miserable. We heard from a farmer about how the coronavirus affected his life. "I have four sons and a daughter. I am a poor servant and I don't have agricultural land. I cultivate land on contracts. Two of my sons work in factories which covers the cost of our crop and household expenses.

I wanted two of my sons to get married after the harvest of wheat this year. I also planned to construct a house for them, but due to untimely rains the crop yield was affected. Additionally, the factories were closed and there has been no source of income.

The small profit made was spent on preparing the land for the next crop and some on the house. The crop needs fertilizer and pesticides but I do not have even a single penny at my home. I wanted to take a loan from the bank but the interest on it has gone incredibly high. I hope the situation will get better soon."

(Waseem - Farmer)



## **What Steps Can the Government Take:**

Unlike other sectors, a large majority of the farming community do not have any savings to fall back upon. Farmers are turning towards the provincial and federal government for support in terms of the challenges they face amid imposed lockdowns.

A student of University of Agriculture, Multan, Muhammad Javaid, has emphasized a few ways through which government can support farmers to get through this crisis in the the agricultural sector.

"The government should provide interest free loans to the farmers in easy installments. Special concessions should be made for buying fertilizers these days. And the compensation given to the farmer should be closely monitored. Make sure that the pesticides and other fertilizers are of good quality. The income source is more dependent on cotton, wheat and sugarcane. The farmers should be given at least 5000rs per acre so that the crop yields good. The path to farmer's prosperity will be easier."

## Coronavirus symptoms Include:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Tiredness

**Contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at**



**1166**



## Where can I get tested?

### **Karachi**

**Aga Khan University Hospital**

Stadium Road, Karachi

**Civil Hospital**

DOW University Campus

Mission Road, Karachi

**Dow Medical Hospital**

Ojha Campus

Suparco Road, Karachi

**Indus Hospital**

Opposite Darussalam Society, Korangi Crossing, Karachi

### **Lahore**

**Punjab AIDS Lab**

PACP Complex

6 - Birdwood Road, Lahore

**Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital**

7A Block R-3 M.A. Johar Town, Lahore

### **Islamabad**

**National Institute of Health**

Park Road

Chak Shahzad, Islamabad

### **Rawalpindi**

**Armed Forces Institute of**

**Pathology**

Range Road

CMH Complex, Rawalpindi

### **Multan**

**Nishtar Hospital**

Nishtar Road,

Justice Hamid Colony, Multan

**For more cities visit the**

**[COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform](#)**

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