

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

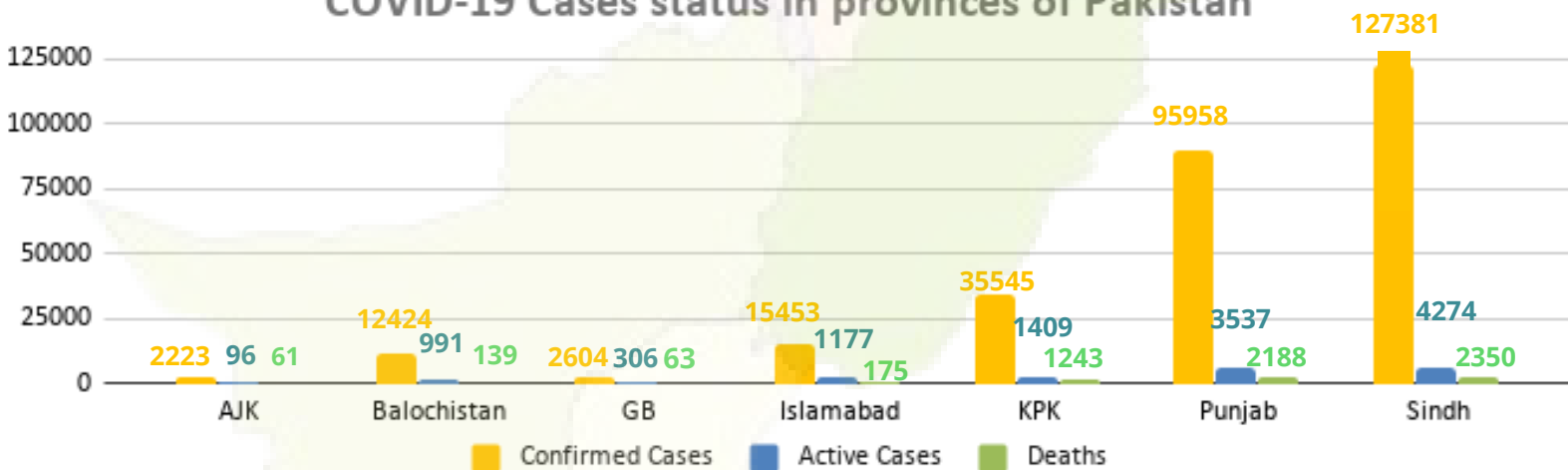
Total Confirmed Cases
291,588

Total Active Cases
11,790

Total Deaths
6,219

Total Recoveries
273,579

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



To receive our regular updates through WhatsApp

1. Add our number +27 60 080 6146 as a contact.
2. Send the word "Pakistan" as a message on WhatsApp.



Child Labor on the Rise

In South Asian nations like Pakistan, where child labor is rampant, COVID-19 has brought more hardship to underage workers. Meanwhile, the resulting economic crisis is pushing even more children into child labor. Previously, 10 million children had been identified as being engaged in child labor in Pakistan.

But the coronavirus outbreak which has affected the livelihoods of middle, middle lower and lower classes of the society, has also led to an increase in child labor. As the pandemic has caused many people to lose their jobs, families are turning to their children as a means of having extra hands for earning in order to keep the stove running.

From a Student to a Daily Wager

Saida Gul is a twelve-year-old resident of Gagra village of Landi Kotal in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. From the last three months since the COVID-19 outbreak, along with the nationwide lockdown and closure of educational institutions, he has been working as a daily wager in the marketplace of his village.

Before the pandemic, his father and elder brother were employed in the management at a hotel. But when the spread of the virus began in Pakistan, many businesses along with the hoteling sector had been badly impacted and the operations had to be suspended due to the threat of coronavirus being spread throughout this industry. As a result, they became jobless and Saida was asked by his mother to seek work in the village

marketplace to help meet the needs of his family.

“At the marketplace, I assist people to shift their luggage from one place to another through a wheelbarrow cart that we had at home. On a daily basis, I am able to earn up to Rs. 200- 300 that could hardly provide three meals to my family,” he added.



I Don't Want to Study

“Before sending me off to work, my father explained to me why I was being sent to work along with my younger brother. He said that because of a virus that has been spread his earning as a lemonade seller wasn't generating enough money to feed our household of seven family members. And since I and my brother were to be the next breadwinners of the house so why not start now in the times of need.

It's been two and a half months since my brother and I have started work at the mechanics shop. I remember when I used to go to school, my favourite subject was maths and I wanted to be a pilot. But now I don't want to go back, it's just going to be a burden on my father. I want to support him by working even at this age”.

(A 10-year-old from Rawalpindi)

Child Labor on the Rise

Grateful for every penny

“Our uncle has been supporting us since our father’s death. But when the country was hit by the pandemic and lockdowns restricted any means of work, we found ourselves on our own. I think it’s not to blame him because the situation became like this. Our mother, who is diabetic, requires medicine every once in a while. All three of us brothers searched for any source of earning we could find whether on a permanent or even on a daily basis to get through the days.

While my brothers turned towards selling disposable surgical masks in the streets and the marketplaces, I was lucky enough to be hired by a shopkeeper who required assistance in the supply and distribution of goods. Even though the work is not a daily thing as his stock arrives after every 5-6 days, he pays well enough.”

(13-year-old from Sanghar)



What steps can the Government take

Even before the pandemic, Pakistan had some of the world’s worst education statistics, with 44% of school-age children not attending classes even with the education being free for those below the age of 16 but the cost of books, uniforms and other expenses weighed on families in the tribal belt. Months-long economic lockdowns and the threat of a prolonged global recession have worsened hardships for poor families, especially those who depend on informal jobs and lack social protections.

It is the responsibility of the state and federal governments to identify the poor families through the help of social welfare organizations and extend all possible financial support to them to avoid child laboring in the country. Additionally, with legislation like the Children Act, 1991, and Employment of Children Rules, 1995, existing in the country, the government needs to take action, monitor how they are being implemented. Moreover, the government needs to include the welfare of children in the nation’s economic revival plan.

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**](#)

Coronavirus CivActs Campaign is brought to you by
Accountability Lab Pakistan

