

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

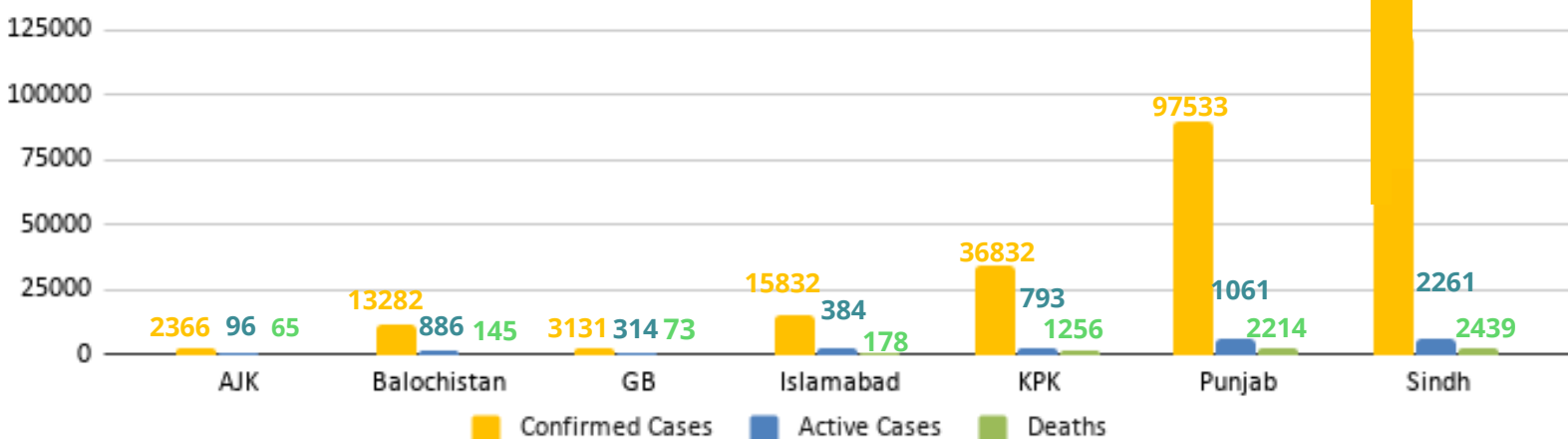
Total Confirmed Cases
300,371

Total Active Cases
5,795

Total Deaths
6,370

Total Recoveries
288,206

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



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The Impact of COVID-19 on Urban Slums

Considering the gravity of the spread of COVID-19 in Pakistan, the most vulnerable community is said to be those living in urban slums and informal settlements. Close living conditions and lack of basic sanitation make these communities particularly vulnerable to contracting and spreading the coronavirus. Many also have pre-existing medical conditions and lack access to healthcare, putting them at high risk of dying or developing serious complications if they do contract the virus. Simply staying home is rarely an option for them, as it often means giving up work and even basic necessities like food, water, and sanitation.

According to the World Bank, the percentage of the urban population living in slums in Pakistan was 45.5% in 2014 and was expected to decrease in coming years.

If God wills it, Nothing can harm us.

"We have been living in this area for as long as I can remember and we were not aware of the virus outbreak. My family and I work to collect recyclable items from the dumpsters, especially from around big restaurants. We got to know about the situation from a reporter who came to visit our slums. The reporter and her team gathered a few community members and asked us how we were coping with the virus. To be very honest, we found this quite funny when we were told that the virus is causing deaths.



We believe that all good and bad comes from our creator. If he wills, we will get infected; and if he doesn't, then nothing can harm us. They tried to convince us that by following safety measures and staying in our homes we would be safe. But if we stay home, how can we earn money? For us, I can say that we are not afraid of the pandemic, and will continue to go outside."

(Anonymous - Karachi)



Social Distancing is nearly Impossible

Joseph, a 39-year-old painter, is taking all the measures he can to protect his family from being exposed to the virus. "We have had two coronavirus related campaigns conducted in our area, which has provided many helpful tips for keeping safe. However, members of my colony have mocked and boycotted such awareness campaigns saying that all the precautions are for the rich who have access to clean water and other safety supplies."

Focusing on the area where he lives, Joseph said, "I live in the French colony; this area is crowded, houses are small and the surrounding has a trash-strewn canal. I cannot protect my family. Even if somebody falls ill I would still have to keep them in the same room because we have only one room. Social distancing is nearly impossible."

(Islamabad)

The Impact of COVID-19 on Urban Slums

Left with no Options

"I was a sweeper at a school and have been working there for about 6 years. When this disease came, I heard that the government had announced the closures of schools nationwide. This caused a wave of fear for my family. Soon, I received a call from the institute saying that they no longer required my services as the school was closed upon state orders and that I would only be paid for the few days I had worked in March.



I used to earn Rs. 15,000, out of which Rs. 5,000 was paid as rent as I could not build my own house. I rented a two-room house in the slum. As an alternative, I started to sell vegetables in the slum, but the purchasing power here has declined significantly. My wife and I have applied for the Prime Minister's coronavirus relief fund but received no financial assistance."

(Razaq - Rawalpindi)

What steps can the government take?

During this dangerous time of uncertainty, misinformation about the coronavirus can cost lives. The government helped the public impacted by COVID-19 by providing them with authentic information through various media platforms. During this time when most of us are experiencing isolation and social distancing, and are feeling unproductive, the government can initiate awareness campaigns about how one can utilize his/her time positively and in a productive manner.

Urban slums are uniquely vulnerable to COVID-19. Governments should focus on providing basic needs, including freshwater, sanitation and providing payments for lost work. Governments should ensure that people in slums have their basic needs for shelter and food met by enacting a moratorium on evictions and by providing payments for lost work, freshwater and food, and solid waste removal.

Coronavirus symptoms Include:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Tiredness

Contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at



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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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