

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

A publication of Accountability Lab Pakistan

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COVID-19 STATISTICS - KP

Confirmed Cases

137,759



Deaths

4,308



Recoveries

131,626



VACCINATION IN THE MONTH OF JUNE - KP

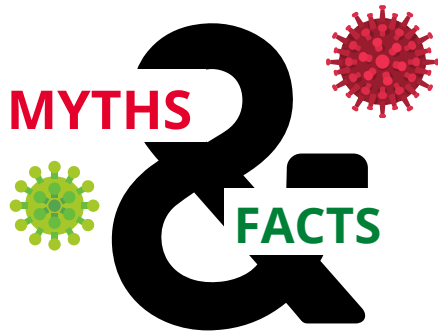
1,309,717



Building COVID-19 Community Resilience with Female Leaders

Accountability Lab Pakistan has recently launched a project on "Building COVID-19 Community Resilience with Female Leaders in District Haripur", with financial support from the Australian High Commission Pakistan under its Direct Aid Program (DAP). The Lab shall implement the project in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Department of Rural Development & Local Government Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project primarily aims to identify and debunk rumors, expose misinformation and conspiracy theories regarding COVID-19 through sharing validated and factual information gleaned from the credible sources of the Government of Pakistan and other organizations like the WHO. The project also intends to convey information to the public on COVID-19 and other important government decisions, community feedback, concerns, and updates with a women-centric lens. The goal is to encourage mass awareness among the community, through capacity building of Women Local Government Representatives and Leaders, who have taken on the responsibility of supporting their communities to fight the pandemic.

CORONAVIRUS



FACT: Pregnant women are at greater risk of developing a severe case of Covid-19.

It has been found that women who are expecting are at a higher risk of contracting the coronavirus and may experience more intense symptoms. This may also put their child at risk, which is why they are advised to strictly follow SOPs, consult with their primary caregivers and respective doctors, and receive the COVID-19 vaccines for protection.

Source: [CDC](#)

MYTH: COVID-19 vaccine is not safe for women who wish to have a baby(ies).

Initially, a largely believed myth was circulated on social media and in communities that the Coronavirus vaccine leads to infertility. This has since been debunked with solid evidence and expert advice, which states that the COVID-19 vaccine does not consist of any ingredients which may lead to such an issue.

Source: [UNICEF](#)

FACT: The COVID vaccines are safe for use.

All approved vaccines have been thoroughly tested and after initial research regarding their side effects and long-term impacts, further testing and observations are still ongoing. The vaccines do not contain any material which is harmful to the body, however individuals who have a history of allergic reactions are advised to consult their doctors.

Source: [WHO](#)

MYTH: There is no form, legal document or waiver to be signed before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Citizens arriving for vaccination must be registered at 1166 or come under the walk-in age group, and receive their tokens for their turns. At the check-in, they will be handed a small card that must be filled in with their details and the choice of vaccine they will be given. There are no other requirements for being signed up for vaccination, any other information is incorrect and is misinforming the public.

Source: [GOP](#)

FACT: COVID-19 is not a form of a bad seasonal flu.

The novel coronavirus is not any form of a seasonal flu, it is a different and a more severe disease. There are multiple different symptoms which patients experience with different intensities. If there is any indication that someone may have COVID-19, the best action to take is getting them tested and isolating them from their families.

Source: [CDC](#)

MYTH: There are home-remedies for COVID-19

No home-remedies or usage of certain ingredients will cure COVID-19. Where the use of vitamins, supplements and better diets will help boost immunity, it does not ensure any form of protection against Coronavirus or a cure for patients already suffering from it. Vaccination is the only medically approved aid present against the coronavirus, but a healthier diet can only help boost your immunity.

Source: [Medical News Today](#)

COVID-19 HEALTH UPDATES

PakVac being used in inoculation in KP

PakVac, which has been produced by the NIH, has now been distributed across the provinces of Pakistan on the basis of their population. More than one hundred thousand single dose PakVac vaccines have been produced, from which KP has received 5000.

(Source: Dawn)



Image courtesy: Reuters

THE 'PUBLIC VOICE'



While one of the most promising and appealing steps taken by the government of Pakistan was the digitization of government services, during the unprecedented times of a global pandemic, the uncritical embrace of technology for dissemination of information and services along with the lack of availability of digital services in certain areas of Pakistan creates a hierarchy in terms of access to information. Disparate access to the internet is a multilateral issue, the causes for which stems from various reasons such as infrastructure unavailability, gender disparity, and the economic and digital literacy divide.

Roughly 161 million people in Pakistan cannot access the online services being given by the government regarding information on COVID-19. In a situation like this where a major portion of the population is unable to access and/or navigate through digital media, the digitalization of the government services available causes the further marginalization of the vulnerable population.

More importantly, the current vaccination campaign relies highly on the usage of mobile phones. Although the process is quite simple and uncomplicated, the primary information regarding what number to text and what is to be texted is communicated and disseminated largely online and on social media platforms. Taking into account that, according to a report published by the Datareportal in 2020, only 17 percent out of the total population uses some sort of social media platform which indicates that the digital gap, all the same, remains extensive and is a contributing factor to the slow rate of the process of vaccination in Pakistan.

The digital revolution in a developing country like Pakistan is undoubtedly a time taking process, although the rate is accelerating immensely in the current time. Nevertheless, until a time is reached where the digital gap is minimized as much as possible, the concerns of the marginalized communities cannot be overlooked.

COVID-19 CURRENT NEWS

State of Violence against women in KP during COVID-19 Pandemic.

The problem of gender-based violence reached an all-time high during the COVID-19 pandemic. Where official reports estimated a 45% increase in the number of cases, unofficial figures are said to be much higher. KP has a long history of domestic violence against women, and before 2021 did not have any solid legal framework against it. In January 2021, the much-delayed bill to prevent domestic violence was passed. Additionally, observation of welfare resources and female shelters showed the disproportional availability of aid which must cater to over 35.5 million women.

Source: [Arab News PK](#)

Pakistan records the lowest number of daily cases in eight months.

As of June 22nd, Pakistan officially has recorded less than 1000 positive cases for COVID-19. The last time such a low number was seen was in October 2020. This shows the impact of the restrictions, implementation of SOPs, and vaccination campaigns throughout the country. Pakistan was predicted to be one of the worst-hit countries when the pandemic began but has shown resilience and great efforts to protect itself. The third wave has slowed down its spread and the overall levels of immunity have improved due to mass vaccination taking place. At this rate, Pakistan will be able to recover and stay protected from future waves, if maximum vaccination is done throughout the country.

Source: [The News](#)

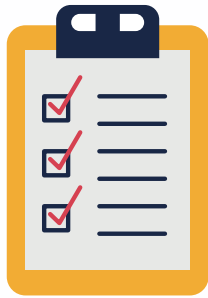
REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

Registration - SMS your CNIC number to **1166** from any mobile number (that may not necessarily be yours) or visit nims.nadra.gov.pk

Citizens (18+ years) - After having confirmation of your registration, just walk into the nearest vaccination center in your district along with your original CNIC and confirmation code already received from 1166.

Building COVID-19 Community Resilience with Female Leaders in District Haripur

PROJECT UPDATES



Project Launch Ceremony

A formal launch ceremony of the project "Building COVID-19 Community Resilience with Female Leaders in District Haripur" was held on June 10th, 2021 in Afaq Hotel Haripur. Stakeholders from district administration, local government & rural development department, social welfare department, education department, representatives of different CSOs and women leaders participated in the event.



Training workshops for Batch-I and Batch-II of women leaders held at Haripur

Two-day training workshop for the first batch of 25 women leaders on Countering Misinformation was organized in Haripur on June 15th and 16th, 2021.

In an another event, a two-day training workshop for the second batch of 25 women leaders on Countering Misinformation was organized at Haripur on June 29th and 30th, 2021.



Awareness Sessions held

Seventeen (17) Community awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 in 9 targeted UC of district Haripur have been organized at village level. 521 women from 17 villages/communities were sensitized on how to counter misinformation in their communities along with challenges that women are confronted to because of COVID-19 and possible role women to mitigate those challenges.

