

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN

A publication of Accountability Lab Pakistan

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COVID-19 STATISTICS - KP

Confirmed Cases

143,213



Deaths

4,444



Recoveries

135,846



VACCINATION IN THE MONTH OF JULY - KP

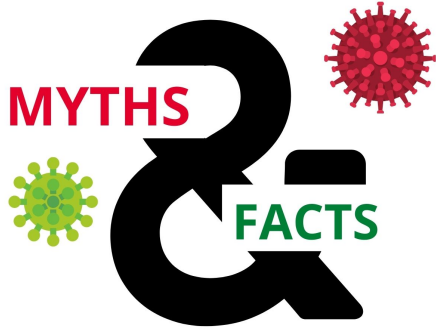
1,309,717



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:** Vaccines for other illnesses cannot provide immunity against Coronavirus.

There are many vaccines present which fight diseases through boosting immunity, however each vaccine provides protection against a specific virus or disease. Just because the flu is a symptom of COVID-19, does not mean the flu shot will help protect against the coronavirus. It is in the best interest of everyone to receive the approved COVID-19 vaccines.

Source: [WHO](#)

MYTH: People with diabetes, blood pressure or kidney issues should not get vaccinated.

People who have a history of medical issues such as diabetes, blood pressure, kidney problems and so on are urged to receive the COVID vaccine. It is important for them to have this immunity, because health complications will make it difficult for their body to recover from Coronavirus. There is no threat found linked to any patients of such medical issues receiving the COVID vaccine.

Source: [CDC](#)

FACT: Following SOPs helps reduce the spread of COVID.

It has been proven overtime that following of COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures, leads to a decrease in the spread of disease. Wearing masks, observing social distancing when outside and frequently washing hands are among the precautionary measures which need to be strictly followed. Additionally, once vaccinated individuals should still adhere to SOPs.

Source: [UNICEF](#)

MYTH: Some vaccines are more effective than others.

Overtime as new vaccines have been introduced and the vaccination process has caught speed, people have begun to develop certain biases against vaccines made by some countries while favouring those made by other countries. All vaccines perform the same task of giving immunity against COVID-19, the differences may be in some of their ingredients and the percentage of their effectiveness.

Source: [AP News](#)

FACT: Patients who have recovered from COVID-19 also need to be vaccinated.

Regardless, if one has previously been infected with the Coronavirus or not, it is mandatory to get the COVID-19 vaccine. This is supported by doctors and scientists, because as of yet there is no concrete evidence proving how long natural immunity from COVID-19 lasts. Additionally, vaccination is so far the only method known to provide protection against new emerging variants of COVID-19.

Source: [CDC](#)

MYTH: Pakistan is out of vaccines.

Misinformation has been spreading over social media that Pakistan has no more stocks of any vaccine available. This is untrue because Pakistan currently has imported stocks of 6 vaccines: Chinese made CanSino, SinoPharm and SinoVac, UK made AstraZeneca, German-American made Pfizer and American made Moderna. Pakistan also has the PakVac vaccine, which is manufactured and distributed locally.

Source: [NCO](#)

COVID-19 HEALTH UPDATES

How to get an immunization certificate after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine

STEP-1 Access National Immunization Management System (NIMS) website through URL given below:

<https://nims.nadra.gov.pk> 🔍

STEP-2 Select Corona Vaccine Certificate button on Homepage

STEP-3 Provide CNIC/Afghan POR number and issuance date

STEP-4 Provide additional information: Passport/CNIC/Afghan POR verified name, Passport number and Nationality.

STEP-5 Accept online Payment method and Terms and Conditions.

STEP-6 Provide Debit/Credit card information on payment tab.

STEP-7 Print payment receipt and continue.

STEP-8 Review information on Certificate and select Download.

OR - walk In to nearest NADRA Office

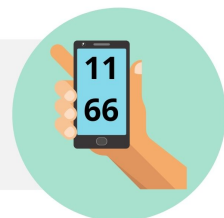
You can visit NADRA office for your Covid-19 vaccination certificate.

Note: You can even get the certificate for your first dose as well, if you have been inoculated with double dose vaccines.

(Source: NCOC)

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.



THE 'PUBLIC VOICE'

How The Digital Divide is affecting education for students away from urban settings

In the times of the pandemic, many segments of our lives have shifted from reality to the virtual medium. While most of these transitions were successful, one, in particular, lagged behind tremendously, that of the education sector, which faces great challenges, especially in Pakistan.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic was an unexpected reality, people and the governments were not ready to cope with the challenges it presented. Of the many benefits of online learning such as staying in the safety of one's home and having access to lessons that would otherwise have been missed, it was assumed that e-Learning was a saving grace in difficult times. Eventually, the decision was made to continue with virtual learning in the coming academic year, which was eventually supported by the Education Ministry and the HEC (Higher Education Commission) as the step forward in the future of Pakistani academics. While those belonging to the middle and upper classes were able to adjust and somewhat thrive in the virtual classrooms, others were finding themselves locked out because of a lack of access to necessary resources. As the visible hurdles became harder and the solutions remained few, the masses began to recognize the signs of Pakistan's deep digital divide.

When we look at the bigger picture, there are improvements being made on a larger scale and initiatives made on smaller community levels, to tackle the gap. One example of the latter part is internet cafes and 'gaming zones' established in low economic or technologically-poorer areas.

The overall state of online education has improved albeit sluggishly over time. While it is impossible to change the personal resources available to every student, there can still be holistic solutions that the administrative parties can propose, which can help facilitate students. Additionally, as people in villages took responsibility for the children around them and shared their resources, the government can similarly help distribute needed paraphernalia or open e-Learning hubs in locations that do not have other possible ways of building such connections. Other steps taken by the government include the introduction of a dedicated TV learning channel and radio school to reach the masses. These were progressive steps taken towards ensuring that the opportunity for education reaches all, and should now go towards a sustainable solution.

In order to directly improve the state of e-Learning, both access, and quality, there has to be a display of willingness to do so by the main stakeholders. Educational institutions must make providing accessible education a top priority, and reduce the discrimination towards children from rural or lower-income backgrounds. Asking for a large amount of tuition fees with yearly increments, not providing financial support during these times, and making unreasonable demands such as forcing students to drop courses if they are unable to join online lectures, are all examples of the insensitivity that exists towards the students from their administration. A lack of regulation over school/university policies coupled with giving a certain level of autonomy to private institutions is costing children their futures, and being swept under the rug by authorities. It should be the responsibility of institutions to provide relief to students, in a way that genuinely aids them.

As COVID-19 tightens its hold on Pakistan in its fourth wave, authorities should prepare themselves to tackle challenges and help their struggling students because e-Learning may stay longer than everyone once expected it to. There are thousands of futures at stake if corrective measures, innovations, and adjustments are not made. It is increasingly becoming evident that the student body is gradually reaching its breaking point, with the added stress of their poor academic progress on top of the impact of COVID-19 in their lives. In order to ensure a successful future for all children of Pakistan, across the board, it is necessary that the government and educational institutions work together. They must take notice of the existing and emerging issues, and finally implement measures which are quick, effective and most importantly, inclusive.

COVID-19 CURRENT NEWS

Vaccination made obligatory for KP government officials.

As a method to encourage vaccination in KPs public, it has been made mandatory for government officials to be vaccinated. In the guidelines, it has also been stated that they must vaccinate their families as well. KP has seen the highest amount of vaccine hesitancy and as a result initially had low statistics for inoculation, however as the vaccination process picked up speed throughout Pakistan, KP followed suit. Official vaccination certificates, which are issued on the NIMS NADRA website, are to be submitted for all members of the family and the officials themselves.

Source: [Samaa News](#)



Photo credit: Visual News Associates / World Bank

Impact of Covid-19 on women with low-income backgrounds

For the larger world population, the pandemic has hit every part of their lives. Where many were able to cope and re-establish themselves, in Pakistan some have continued to be worse off than others due to their socio-economic statuses. One particular group is that of women living in poverty, who were not only stopped from receiving medical aid for pregnancy, family planning and other situations, but were also put under pressure due to the problems emerging in their homes. As there was large-scale unemployment, due to lockdowns and downsizing or closure of companies or businesses, there was a lack of financial resources available which impacted their access to food, water and other life supplies. This shortage coupled with domestic violence, lack of protection for their children and increased risk for loss of life, lead to physical, mental and emotional trauma which added to the existing vulnerability for this group

Source: [Population Council](#)

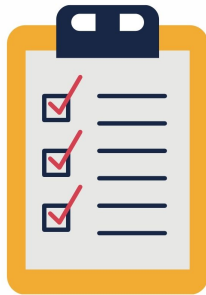
Building COVID-19 Community Resilience with Female Leaders in District Haripur

PROJECT UPDATES



Community Awareness Sessions

28 Community Awareness Sessions were held with 856 participants in the month of July.



Awareness sessions with academic institutions

Awareness Session were held at 11 different academic institutions with a total of 389 student participants

