December 2020





Nutrition Sector Working Group

UNICEF and MoHSR&C are Co-

WFP, WHO, UNOCHA and UNFPA are UN partners while local and International NGOs are also technical and implementing Partners

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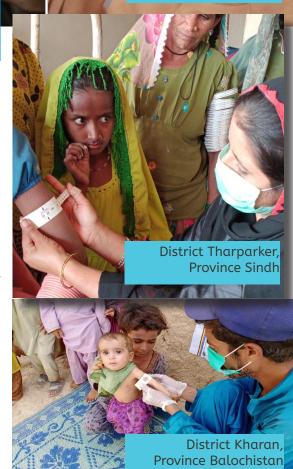
COVID-19(1) Year 2(1)2(1)

2020 has been unprecedented in terms of nutrition programmes in Pakistan. Malnutrition has been already on the rise and the latest national nutrition survey of Pakistan 2018 shows high rates of malnutrition. Including stunting as high as 40% and 17.7% children under five wasted. While 28.9% children <5 are underweight. Within this scenario the COVID-19 pandemic brought huge problems in terms of reaching the malnourished and vulnerable population with heavily low funded nutrition programmes.

Fortunately, the governments at national and provincial levels accepted the serious situation with high dedication. Their leadership proved detrimental in not only sustaining the already established nutrition interventions in different districts of all provinces but together with the continued support of UN agencies and other

partners, we were able to expand the nutrition programme in other areas as well. The best example of this partnership has been massive nutrition awareness initiative throughout Pakistan which included message related to COVID, Breastfeeding and maternal & infant feeding. These messages were delivered through mass media, social media, banners, billboards etc. Focused trainings were developed for the nutrition workers on the safe delivery of nutrition services in all the provinces of the country. Treatment of acute malnutrition continued throughout Pakistan with the provision of multi micronutrients and IFAs.

Emergency data collection was also streamlined to analyze the performance, reach and effectiveness of the different nutrition interventions.



COVID RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Pakistan Nutrition Sector bulletin issue Three covers the COVID emergency response throughout the country.

COVID Response plan included:

- Safety for health providers, clients and caregivers at facility and community
- Treatment of acutely malnourished children and PLW at health facilities/mobile nutrition
- Micronutrients supplementation for children and pregnant & lactating women
- Counselling on Infant Young Child Feeding Social mobilization and community engage-

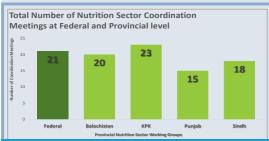
COVID RESPONSE OVERVIEW

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

PUNJAB

BALOCHISTAN

COORDINATION MEETINGS



otal number of coordination meetings held at fede vel during the COVID emergency has been 21. Whi ovincial level coordination meetings ranged from 23 Sindh to 15 in Province Punjab.

EMERGENCY DATA SHARING

Province	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Balochistan	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
KPK	X	Х	Х	Х	X	Х	Х	Х
Sindh	X	Х	X	Х	Х	X	Х	
Punjab		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		

al nutrition sector working groups since the start of e COVID emergency.

COVID RESPONSE OVERVIEW

The evolving pandemic of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Pakistan was first notified on 26 February 2020. The pandemic has spread to all provinces of Pakistan chiefly in the province of Punjab and Sindh. Acknowledgment of emergency and activation of coordination response mechanism initiated in late March.

Ministry of Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (M/O NHSRC), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Departments of Health, PDMAs under the overall efforts of the Government of Pakistan (GoP). Developed the response strategies and the plan with the support of the UN agencies.

Letter for Continuation of Nutrition Services with simplified guidelines for health workers on IYCF, MAM/SAM and SC in COVID-19 were developed and circulated to provincial governments and all partners immediately. HSP was developed and endorsed with a value of 25 million US\$. GHRP Nutrition sector was also developed and submitted (Value US\$ 11.5 million).

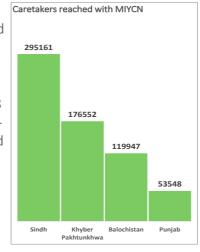
Communication materials including Leaflets, radio spots and short video were developed and endorsed promptly and shared with Provincial Governments and Partners. Later these were translated in Urdu and regional languages to be utilized in the field. Special attention was given to breast milk substitutes by taking NDMA and PDMA were taken onboard. 5w Data entry tool was developed and discussed before endorsement. This tool is being used for analysis of the response in all provinces. FAQs on Food, Nutrition and Breast feeding were also developed for call centres and circulated with partners and provinces.

Provincial Nutrition sector working groups simultaneously started coordinating the emergency response plan. Data sharing was streamlined amid all the difficulties of the pandemic and limitations at the ground

COUNSELLING ON MATERNAL, INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING

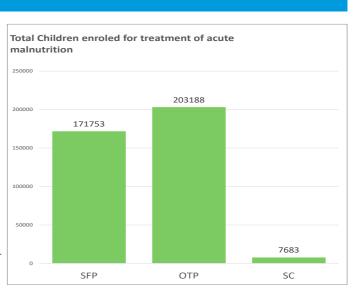
and caregivers were regularly held with all safe practices at nutrition sites and in community. During the period of April till November 2020 a total of 645,208 caregivers were counselled on different topics related to IYCF based on the Simplified Guidelines for the delivery of IYCF in the context of COVID 19- Pakistan, developed by the National Nutrition Working Group.

Counselling session of mothers

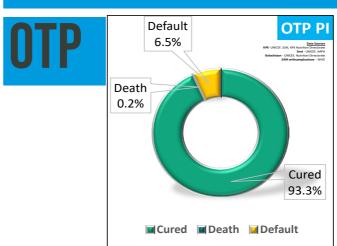


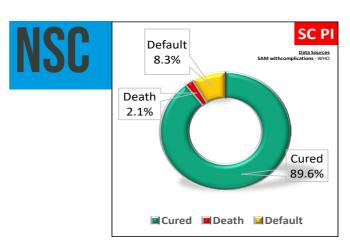
TREATMENT OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

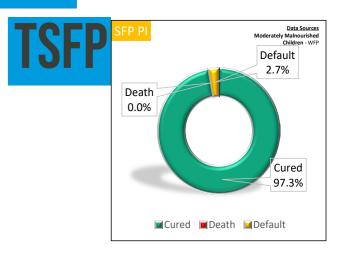
mart lockdown and access to the nutrition sites for nutrition workers and the community had been the biggest limitation to reach our targets during the peak epidemic months. Inspite of all limitations, most nutrition sites remained open even with reduced staff or mobile clinics were setup at different areas where needed to continue the treatment. Approximately 203,188 children under five were admitted in out-patient therapeutic programme and 171,753 children admitted in the supplementary feeding programme in different provinces during the period of Aprril till November 2020. While another 7683 children under five with severe acute malnutrition and complications were admitted in stabilization Centers.



ERFORMANCE INDICATORS







Performance indicators of nutrition programme throughout the country remained well under the sphere standards. Overall, OTP had a cure rate of 93% with a default rate of 6.5%. Likewise TSFPs showed a cure rate of 97% with a small default rate of almost 3%. Stabilization centers showed a cure rate of 89% with default rat at 8%. Default rates varied in different provinces and even within different districts of the same province. Punjab showed the highest default rate of 19% in OTPs which was due to the shortage of supplies at nutrition sites. While Balochistan had a default rate at 11%.

KPK-LINICEE WHO SUN KPK Nutrition Directorate Sind - LINICEE WHO AAPH Balochistan - LINICEE WHO Nutrition Directorate

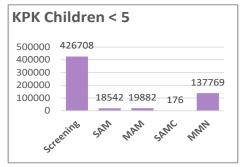
NUTRITION SECTOR WORKING GROUP

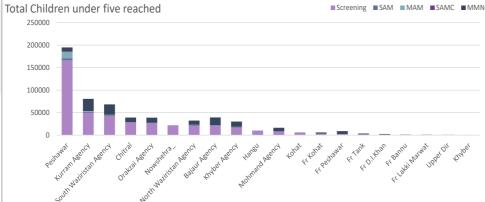
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Reporting Period: April - Novmber 2020



utrition emergency response continued throughout the year in all vulnerable districts of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid the lockdowns and other issues related to the COVID epidemic.





A total of 426,708 children were screened n vulnerable districts of KPK.

Almost 19,882 children treated for moderate acute malnutrition in SFPs,

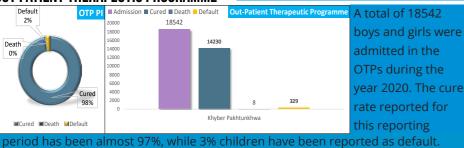
18,542 children treated for severe acute malnutrition in OTPs and another

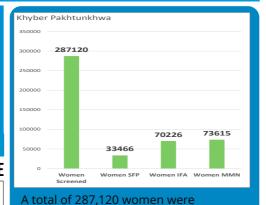
176 SAM children with complications were treated at the NSCs.

The supplementary feeding programme enrolled a large number of MAM children in District of Peshawar, Kurram, South Waziristan, Chitral etc.

While most SAM children were treated in OTPs situated in districts of Peshawar, Khyber Agency, Kurram Agency, North Waziristan Agency, South Waziristan Agency, Orakzai Agency, Bajaur Agency etc.

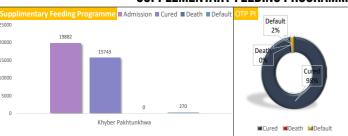
OUT PATIENT THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMME





SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAMME

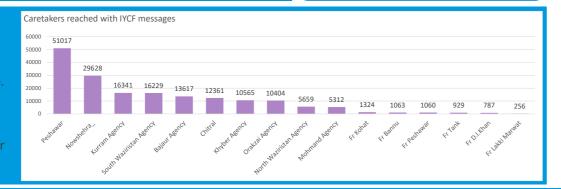
Almost 19,882 boys and girls under the age of five were also treated in the SFPs. Almost 98.3% were cured and 2% were reported



screened and 33,466 treated for acute malnutrition in TSFPs throughout the province in vulnerable districts. More than seven thousand PLWs were provided with IFAs while another 73,615 PLWs were also provided with multimicronutrients.

as default. No child was reported died during the management of malnutrition.

A large number of caretakers were reached with infant and young child feeding practices messages within all vulnerable districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Most caretakers were reached in the districts of Peshawar, Noshera, Kurram Agency, South Waziristan, Bajour Chitral Khyber Agency and Orakzai Agency.



DOCTORS AND PARAMEDICS ORIENTED ON NUTRITION RCCE Messages, DHO Ghalanai, district mohmand

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nutrition C4D Activities in the context of COVID-19

- Nutrition messages in the context of COVID- 19 were shared /disseminated widely on social media (WhatsApp, FB pages and digital news platforms), radio, short videos and printed materials.
- 17.544 million listeners were reached through 25 Radio Channels across KP and NMDs with IYCF/Nutrition RCCE messages.
- 767,368 people reached through different social medial platforms (FB, Local news channel online portals, WhatsApp groups) with IYCF/nutrition RCCE messages
- 52,392 HH reached with nutrition RCCE messages (flyers)
- In collaboration with Public Health Association- KP (PHA-KP) one minutes videos messages on the importance, promotion and continuation of breastfeeding were recorded by women parliamentarians and were circulated widely to create awareness among the masses.

New strategies adopted:

- Joint advocacy by the TWG members helped resume the nutrition services (suspended by KP govt. in some of the districts after notification of SG Health KP on March 18 for suspension of elective services)
- Joint advocacy of the TWG members to stop/take out
 unsolicited distribution of BMS from the relief package.
- Flexibility and alignment of UNICEF resources for use in C-19 response
- Immediate notification of the Nutrition TWG by KP govt. to develop nutrition sector response plan and regular weekly meetings to identify/address nutrition related issues.
- Leveraging of govt. Resources for initial procurement of PPEs for nutrition front line worker

NUTRITION SECTOR WORKING GROUP KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PAGE

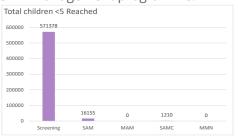
KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

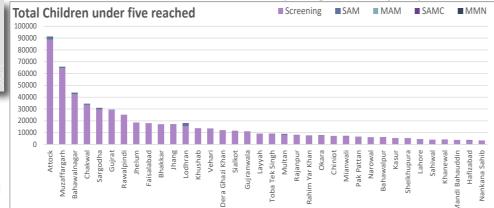
- 749 Nutrition Service providers were trained on safe delivery of nutrition services in the context of COVID-19
- 49,880 children reached through capacity building initiatives on safe delivery of nutrition services in the context of COVID-19.
- 19,105 SAM children were treated in covid-19 response year 2020. 163 OTP/IYCF and outreach services are continuing in 13 drought and nutrition emergency affected districts of Balochistan Province
- UNICEF supported six Breastfeeding corner and nursery care room established by Provincial Nutrition Directorate in different places of Balochistan (Quetta City Court and Session court, Quetta Airport, Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta, Provincial Assembly Balochistan and University and Balochistan). (Inauguration report is attached.
- 6.7 million community population were reached through, mass media, (radio, TV, cable) and mobile messaging campaign for Nutrition /IYCF and IPC awareness.
- UNICEF Balochistan have provided financial support to Provincial Nutrition Directorate (Department of Health Balochistan) for establishment of Nutrition Media Cell in Nutrition Directorate Office.

Important meetings, seminars and workshops

- Global breastfeeding month was celebrated all through the month of August. IEC material such as banners and RCCE flyers on optimal infant and young child feeding were printed and provided to partners in the field.
- Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated in all nutrition sites across KP and NMDs. 106 sessions were held in the HF where 1,184 participants were reached.
- 5 orientation sessions conducted on COVID -19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and 160 frontline workers/ nutrition staff were oriented in these sessions in August and September 2020.
- Global Iodine Deficiencies Disorders Day was celebrated in all nutrition sites across KP and NMDs. Sessions were held in the HFs and nearby schools to create awareness.
- One-day Orientation session held on ECD for the nutrition assistants of District Peshawar in October 2020.
- Provincial consultation on development of National Maternal Nutrition strategy held in November 2020.
- Provincial Consultation on development of Nutrition Business Investment Case held in December 2020.

jab government together with the partners continued delivering nutrition services throughout the province during 2020. There had been serious issues related to stock outs in many districts which caused default rates to rise within the SAM management programme.





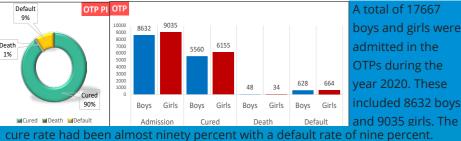
A total of 571,379 children were screened for malnutrition throughout the province during the reporting period. Almost 16,155 children treated for severe acute malnutrition in OTPs and another 1210 SAM children with complications were treated at the NSCs.

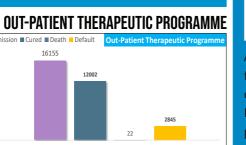
The out-patient therapeutic programme enrolled a large number of SAM children without complications in Attock, Muzafargarh, Bahawalpur, Chakwal, Sargodha, Gujrat, Rawalpindi, Jehlum and Bakhar etc. Children were also provided with multi-micronutrients in most of these vulnerable districts of province Punjab.

70000

20000

OUT PATIENT THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMME





The cure rate had been almost eighty one % with a default rate of nineteen per-



A total of 66,875 women were treated for acute malnutrition in TSFPs throughout the province in vulnerable districts. More than five thousand PLWs were provided with IFAs while another 22,12 PLWs were also provided with multimicronutrients.

66875

PLWs SFP PLWs IFA

Reporting Period: May - September 2020

Caretakers reached with IYCF messages ¹⁴⁰⁰⁰ 12534 10000 6000 , though the stay of the contact of

181,425/- caregivers/ mothers of children provided with IYCF counseling through IPC by Health Facility staff, and 3,877,647/- caregivers reached through IPC by LHWs in communities.

PLWs



MEFTING WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE REPRIORITISATION OF NUTRITION IN CONTEXT OF COVID-19 IN LAHORE

The Provincial Nutrition Coordination group has been instituted through IRMNCH& nutrition program and provides coordination and oversight to ensure continuity of Nutrition services in COVID-19 scenario. 14 meetings held so far, with initially meetings held weekly in first two months, and later fortnightly and monthly basis.

Nutrition Sector aligned all of its interventions with the Multi Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, Punjab Health Sector Strategy, the Punjab Health Sector Plan, and the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) for Primary Health Care. Direct support is being provided to IRMNCH&N Program in development of policy documents, capacity building for implementation of interventions and communication related to nutrition.

Furthermore, multisectoral Nutrition Communication Strategy & Nutrition specific Communication Package has been drafted. This will be finalized in coming guarter and will pave the way for effective C4D and SBCC on nutrition for families and caregivers for children in Punjab. The ECD communication package (parenting package) was implemented in three districts of south-Punjab, with 5,411/- facility and community-based staff of IRMNCH& Nutrition program trained on delivery of SBCC for ECD services.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

- 1. Number of sites which are safe for service providers and patients (this is 1716 sites will remain the same on daily basis)
- 2. New Number of mothers and care givers at high risk of infection supported with IYCF and hygiene promotion =1,168,101
- 3. New Number of children treated for SAM without complication in a safe environment at health facility
- 4. New Number of children treated for MAM without complication in a safe environment at health facility = 133,300
- 5. Almost 53,548 caretakers were sensitized on the maternal and child optimal feeding practices.
- 6. A total of 11,627 health facility staff from 36 districts were trained on IYCF. These staff included LHS, LHVs, Nurses, medical officers and other health care providers.





DIALOG WITH ULEMA AND KHATEEB ON WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE EARLY INITIATION AND EXCLUSIVE BREAST FEEDING

lmost 16155 boys

nd girls under the

ge of five were

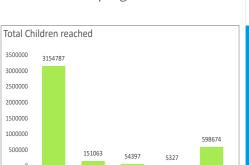
he OTPs. These

ncluded 8232 boys

also treated in

and 7927 girls.

indh government leadership proved high dedication during the tough times of lockdowns and other problems during the year 2020. Nutrition programme



Reporting Period: April - October 2020 Children under five reached in Nutrition Programme Applied to the state of the sta

A total of 3,154,787 children were screened in all vulnerable districts of province Sindh. A total of 54,397 children treated for moderate acute mal-OTPs and another 5,327 SAM children with complications were treated at the NSCs.

The supplementary feeding programme enrolled a large number of MAM children in districts of Tharparker and Umerkot. While most SAM children were treated in OTPs situated in districts of Khairpur, Badin, Sanghar, Shikarpur, Mirpurkhas, Ghotki, Tharparker, Thatta and Larkana etc.

PLWs reached in Nutrition

Programme

31364

■ PLWs SFP ■ PLWs IFA

Almost 1303341 PLWs were screened

treated for acute malnutrition in TSFPs

throughout the province in vulnerable

districts. While large number of PLWs

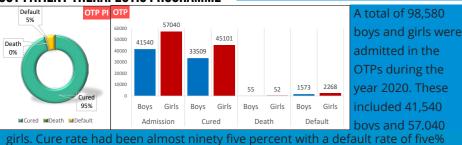
(397,779) were provided with IFAs in all

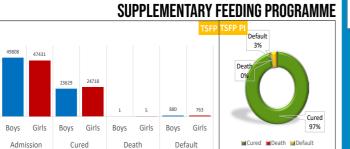
the targeted districts of province Sindh.

and a total of 313.64 women were

397779

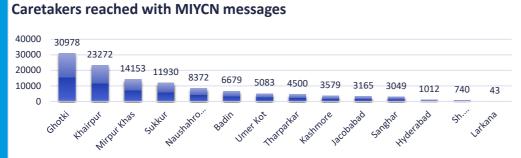
OUT PATIENT THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMME





The cure rate had been almost ninety seven % with a default rate of three percent

A total of 116,555 caretakers were eached with infant and young 40000 within all vulnerable districts of





LARGE BILLBOARDS WERE PLACED IN IMPORTANT LOCATIONS THROU OUT THE PROVINCE WITH MESSAGES REGARDING THE INFANT AND YOUNG

1. Coordination:

a. AAP-H and UNICEF co-chaired 18 virtual Nutrition Working Group Meetings from 17th March 2020 to 9th December 2020. In NWG meetings.

b. UNICEF supported Taskforce Secretariat for AAP for Provincial Multisectoral coordination meetings. All eight AAP sectors, UN agencies, development & CSO partners participated and shared progress, challenges in implementation and way forward to enhance coordination and complementarity at district & village level.

2. Capacity Building:

a. From March to December, 9738 staff members including 225 master trainers were trained/ oriented on simpli fied guidelines and infection prevention measures.

b. 47 district managers/logisticians from AAP and partners are trained on 3 day Supply Chain and Warehouse Management training completed in Sept 2020.

C. From January to November 2020, UNICEF supported capacity building trainings in collaboration with AAP, SOGP, PPHI and PPA on BFHI & LM. 18 Tertiary and Secondary Care hospitals and 126 Primary Healthcare Facilities staff providing pre-natal, natal and postnatal care were trained. In five batches 130 master trainers and 1154 staff members. 383 Community Midwives in 4 districts were also trained on BFHI and Lactation Management.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

- d. Two TV shows (PTV and Sindh TV) were conducted and reached to approx. 0.5 million people.
- e. Global Breastfeeding activities were conducted in all 29 districts of Sindh. Billboards, banners and posters were used to aware population on IYCF messages.
- f. Three videos and 4 animated messages on IYCF in context to COVID were also disseminated through partners on social media and websites and were accessed estimated 20,000 people.
- g. From 30 March to 19th December, 792,143 PLWS and caregi ers were counselled on IYCF practices.

3. Service delivery:

a. Following COVID-19 IPC guidelines and SOPs, nutrition services were provided through 1057 OTP sites and 20 nutrition stabilization centers. (data available on dashboard)

b. UNICEF supported DoH and partners in responding drought, COVID-19 and rain emergencies and signed project agreements with DG health office, PPHI, HANDS and Shifa Foundation.



ommunication plan was developed to increase awareness mong population on IYCF practices.

- **a.** Radio and TV messages were developed on COVID and IYCF and aired on FM Radio channels, more than 21 million people (10.07 million through radio & 11.13 million people through cable TV).
- b. Development & printing of messages in Urdu and Sindhi and distribution through partners. AAP-H with support of UNICEF, distributed 360, banners, 20,000 flyers and 5000 posters on Infection Prevention Control Measures.
- **C.** 128,000 flyers, 2000 posters and 290 banners were printed both in Urdu and Sindh and sent to all partners for dissemination and display at Health facilities and key sites like BFHI hospitals.

of Ghotki, Khairpur, Mirpur

Badin, Umerkot, Kashmore and

Imost 97,239 boys

and girls under the

ge of five were

SFPs. These in-

also treated in the

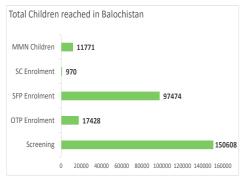
cluded 49,808 boys

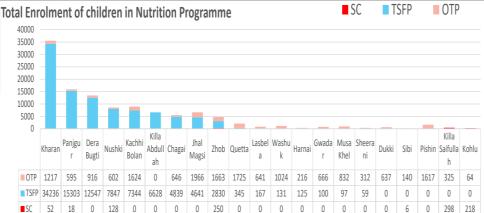
and 47,431 girls.

Reporting Period: April - November 2020



utrition emergency response continued throughout the year in all vulnerable districts of the province of Balochistan. Targets were met inspite of its sparse population and large distances in the province.



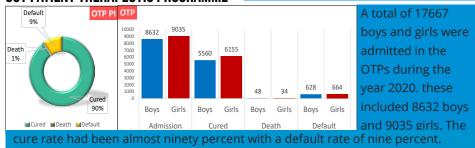


A total of 278,251 children were reached through different nutrition interventions throughout the province. These included 150,608 children screened, 97,239 children treated for moderate acute malnutrition in SFPs, 17,428 children treated for severe acute malnutrition in OTPs and another 970 SAM children with complications were treated at the NSCs. The supplementary feeding programme enrolled a large number of MAM children in Kharan, Panjgor, Dera Bugti, Kachi, Kila Abdulla and Chagi. While most SAM children were treated in OTPs situated in districts of Dera Bugti, Washuk, Kharan, Pishin.Kachhi Bolan, Zhob, Quetta, Jhal Magsi etc.

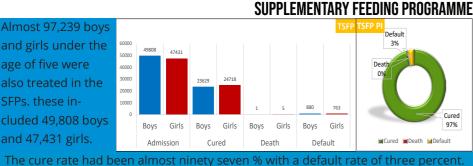
70000

20000

OUT PATIENT THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMME



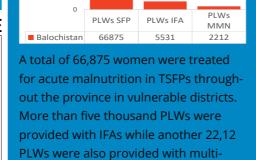
AUDDI FILFILTI DV FFFDINA DRAAD I III



Caretakers Reached through IYCF

25000 21714 20469

20000 ing practices in vulnerable



Almost 222222 caretakers were reached with maternal, infant and young child feeding practices in vulnerable districts throughout the province of Balochistan. Most care

TRAINING SESSION AT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

749 Nutrition Service providers were trained on safe delivery of nutrition services in the context of COVID-19

49,880 children reached through capacity building initiatives on safe delivery of nutrition services in the context of COVID-19.

19,105 SAM children were treated in covid-19 response year 2020. 163 OTP/IYCF and outreach services are continuing in 13 drought and nutrition emergency affected districts of Balochistan Province.

UNICEF supported six Breastfeeding corner and nursery care room established by Provincial Nutrition Directorate in different places of Balochistan (Quetta City Court and Session court, Quetta Airport, Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta, Provincial Assembly Balochistan and University and Balochistan). (Inauguration report is attached.

6.7 million community population were reached through, mass media, (radio, TV, cable) and mobile messaging campaign for Nutrition /IYCF and IPC awareness.

UNICEF Balochistan have provided financial support to Provincial Nutrition Directorate (Department of Health Balochistan) for establishment of Nutrition Media Cell in Nutrition Directorate Office.



PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY HEALTH INAUGURATING THE BREAST FEEDING CORNER AT THE QUETTA AIRPORT

15000

5000

6955 6201 6049 4936 4546 4466 3725 3175 1659 1432 1361 450



THE NATIONAL NUTRITION WORKING GROUP WAS ACTIVATED IN MARCH 2020 IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISES THROUGH-OUT THE COUNTRY. LIKEWISE PROVINCIAL NUTRITION WORKING GROUPS WERE ALSO ACTIVATED AT THE SAME TIME, WITH MEETING FREQUENCY RANGING FROM BI-MONTHLY TO MONTHLY IN THE VARIOUS LOCATIONS. AT NATIONAL LEVEL, THE GROUP IS LEAD BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND LEADERSHIP AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL IS PROVIDED BY THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT AGENCIES WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND ACTING AS CO-LEAD AT NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL FORUMS.

THE NUTRITION OBJECTIVES OF THE NNWG PARTNERS ARE TO AS FOLLOWS

- * MAKE NUTRITION SITES SAFE FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS AND THEIR CLIENTS
- * CONTINUE TREATMENT OF MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AT HEALTH FACILITIES
- * MICRONUTRIENTS SUPPLEMENTATION FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN
- * COUNSELLING ON INFANT YOUNG CHILD FEEDING
- * SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONTACT US



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DISCLAIMER

The data used in narrative form or graphs has been provided by the respective provincial Governments and the partners and reflect the situation in previous months. The depiction and use of boundaries geographic names, and related data shown on maps and included in this bulletin are not warranted to be error free nor do they imply judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries by the United Nations.