

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION: FOR A HEALTHY PAKISTAN TODAY AND A PROSPEROUS PAKISTAN TOMORROW

Death rates of children under-5 in Pakistan are among the highest worldwide

**Communities
vote for
politicians
that are
Champions
of Health**

- ✚ One child out of 11 born in Pakistan dies before turning 5 years (child mortality is 87/1,000 births)
- ✚ Childhood immunization can easily prevent one third of these deaths
- ✚ Only 6-9 children in every 10 (56%-88%) are fully immunized
- ✚ Pakistan is one of three countries (Afghanistan and Nigeria) where Polio persists despite expensive Polio campaigns.

Overinvestment and Underachievement: Additional Funding is Not the Solution!

- ✚ Between 2005 and 2008, **funding increased** (up from USD 154 million) **BUT routine immunization coverage remained static**. For polio the coverage actually decreased!
- ✚ In 2008, Rs 1.4 billion (USD 234 million) were spent on childhood immunizations
- ✚ Proper immunization records are maintained for less than 30% of vaccinations by facilities or vaccinators
- ✚ Inaccurate immunization records lead to billions of rupees in losses per year.
- ✚ Polio can be successfully eliminated **only** by improving **routine child immunization** and reaching more than 90% children



**POOR MANAGEMENT, NOT UNDERFUNDING IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR LOW IMMUNIZATION RATES**

In 2008, out of Rs. 1.4 billion

- Rs 650 million were spent on extra campaigns
- Rs 624 million were spent on routine immunization

ACTION POINTS: WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Review District Immunization Coverage

- ✚ Check whether vaccinators have accurate records for the number of eligible children in their union councils, especially in poorest communities
- ✚ See if vaccinators and Lady Health Workers (LHWs) are working together and referring to each other and if their records of children match one another
- ✚ See if campaigns improve immunization rates and evaluate how the improvement is compared to the money invested
- ✚ Keep a track of immunized children through a surveillance system

2. Push for Management Reform

- ✚ Ask Government officials to present quarterly targets, actual results and costs to Parliamentary Committee on Health
- ✚ Find local solutions to improve performance by using village committees, local government and performance incentives
- ✚ Political emphasis on effective and efficient management of campaigns is needed, otherwise campaigns are a drain on national and provincial resources

4. Electronic Records Save Money for Other District Priorities

- ✚ Innovative yet low cost electronic recording systems can reduce costs of additional campaigns by promoting efficient monitoring and supervision and allow districts to use saved funds for other development priorities
- ✚ Estimated savings could be Rs. 9 billion (USD 100 million) per year

3. Engage the Communities, Parents and Households to be Active Participants

- ✚ Politicians can increase demand by helping communities place a greater importance on immunization
- ✚ Make parents and communities realize that immunization is good for their children

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