

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumours, and fake news, as observed in Pakistan during recent national catastrophes caused by dengue fever, floods, and earthquakes. The situation is no different with COVID-19 as stories emerge on how fake news is being used to manipulate response efforts, spread rumours and misinformation leading to behaviours that are undermining community cohesion, and causing citizens to be unaware of the role they can play in the pandemic response.

With that in mind, The Accountability Lab Pakistan (ALP), with the financial support from the European Union and technical support from The Asia Foundation (TAF) Pakistan, has officially launched the Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC). This campaign debunks rumours, conducts regular fact-checking, synthesizes data, and convenes virtual forums to produce informative bulletins each week. These bulletins include important government decisions, visual materials, community feedback, debunked rumours with verified information, valid concerns, and other questions from the ground around health and other issues. The goal is to support enhanced awareness among the most vulnerable groups in Pakistan (including ethnic minorities, religious minorities, returning migrants, trafficking victims, prisoners, women, internally displaced persons, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, victims of torture, and other marginalized communities), with a focus on the marginalized communities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. These bulletins are translated into Urdu and Sindhi, with audio transcriptions in Pashto. They are shared with stakeholders, local government leaders, media, legal aid centers, community radios, learning centers, CSOs, and humanitarian networks via online and offline means. They are also disseminated through a web-page, shared widely on social media, and are aired on a wide network of radio stations in local languages.

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan

Total Confirmed Cases
600,198

Total Active Cases
18,703

Total Deaths
13,430

Total Recoveries
568,065

Provinces	Active Cases	Confirmed Cases	Deaths	Recoveries
Punjab	8,692	182,576	5,698	168,186
Sindh	3,677	260,661	4,452	252,532
Islamabad	2,785	46,963	520	43,658
KPK	2,669	75,052	2,138	70,245
AJK	760	10,816	317	9,739
Balochistan	120	19,171	202	18,849
GB	0	4,959	103	4,856

Source: <http://covid.gov.pk/stats/pakistan>



Funded by
the European Union



The Asia Foundation



Fact

Myth



Common myths around Covid-19 that have been circulating at the local, national, and international level have come into focus in the past few months of the pandemic.



The COVID-19 vaccines have dangerous side-effects.

MYTH

The first variant is the B.1.1.7 that was first found in the UK. The second is the B.1.351 that was first identified in South Africa, and the third is the P.1, which was first circulating in Brazil, but it was later found in travelers arriving in Japan. WHO is tracking the changes in the virus, how those changes affect transmission, severity and impact or potential impact on vaccines. So far, it has been found that there is increased transmissibility in the B.1.1.7 and the B.1.351 virus variants. An increase in transmission with the P.1 has not been found yet, but that is currently under investigation. In terms of severity, there are some studies from the United Kingdom that suggest that the B.1.1.7 has increased severity. There are studies that are underway that are evaluating the effect of vaccines against these virus variants. According to WHO's latest information, the vaccines still work against these virus variants.

FACT

There are three virus variants of Covid-19 that are circulating currently around the world.



Vaccine developers have reported that some people experience pain where they were injected; body aches; headaches or fever, that lasts for a day or two. These are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate your immune system. However if symptoms persist beyond two days, you should call your doctor. If you have allergies, especially severe ones that require you to carry an EpiPen, discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with your doctor, who can assess your risk and provide more information about if and how you can get vaccinated safely.

Source: WHO, John Hopkins Medicine



Funded by
the European Union



The Asia Foundation

This publication was produced with the financial support from the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Accountability Lab Pakistan and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union

COVID-19 CASES RISE BY 30% IN A SINGLE WEEK



Since the announcement of relaxation in restrictions by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) late last month, the number of COVID-19 cases has gone up by **around 30%** in the country. The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has urged the government to impose the restrictions to avoid chances of a third wave of the virus. However, since the relaxation in restrictions announced on **Feb 24**, the number of cases has been increasing continuously.

The NCOC data showed that there were 1,176 cases on Feb 27 and 1,163 on March 1, but the number suddenly went up to 1,388 on March 2 and reached 1,634 on Tuesday, March 9. For the first time since December, Islamabad and Rawalpindi reported the highest numbers of deaths and new cases on Thursday. In Rawalpindi, nine people died of the virus and 36 people tested positive while in Islamabad 231 new cases emerged and one death.

If you think you or someone you know is infected with COVID-19, you can call the following government helplines by province:



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT I OR SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY HAS CORONAVIRUS?

DON'T PANIC

There are government helplines you can call for help

FEDERAL		1166
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA		1700
PUNJAB		0800 99 000
SINDH		021-99203443 021-99204405
BALUCHISTAN		081-9241133-22 0334-9241133

whatsapp



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
www.nhsrco.gov.pk



Source: Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC)



Funded by
the European Union



The Asia Foundation

This publication was produced with the financial support from the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Accountability Lab Pakistan and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa began administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to **28,000 frontline health workers** on Saturday, March 6. According to the health department, they had begun giving the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to the health workers three weeks after the administration of the first one. They said they had **28,000 jabs** reserved for the second dose of frontline workers, who were being given that in their respective centers throughout the province.

The officials said following the announcement by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan that the Chinese-made Sinopharm jabs can be given to the people aged **over 60 years**, the health department had asked health professionals in the private sector to get themselves vaccinated **free of charge**.

Mild Symptoms include:



Severe Symptoms include:



If you have COVID-19 symptoms contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at



1166



Funded by
the European Union



The Asia Foundation



According to a recent report, **47 incidents of violence** against women were reported in Baluchistan during 2020. In these incidents, **16 women lost their lives** and seven were subjected to **rape**. **33 incidents** of violence against women were reported in just four districts of the province — Quetta, Sibi, Turbat and Gwadar. The investigation report for 2020 revealed that overall **2,297 incidents** of different natures, including human rights violation, murders, women harassment, in **25 districts of the province** (Dawn).

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S DAY (MARCH 8)



Women have been disproportionately affected in the last year during the coronavirus pandemic. Already facing disparity in salaries and job opportunities, they have been hit harder financially during the economic crisis faced by most nations and businesses. While playing a major role in battling this pandemic as front-line and health sector workers, scientists, doctors and caregivers, *“they get paid 11 per cent less globally than their male counterparts”*, according to the UN. Data collected for analysis of COVID-19 task teams from **87 countries** found **only 3.5%** of them had **gender equality**.

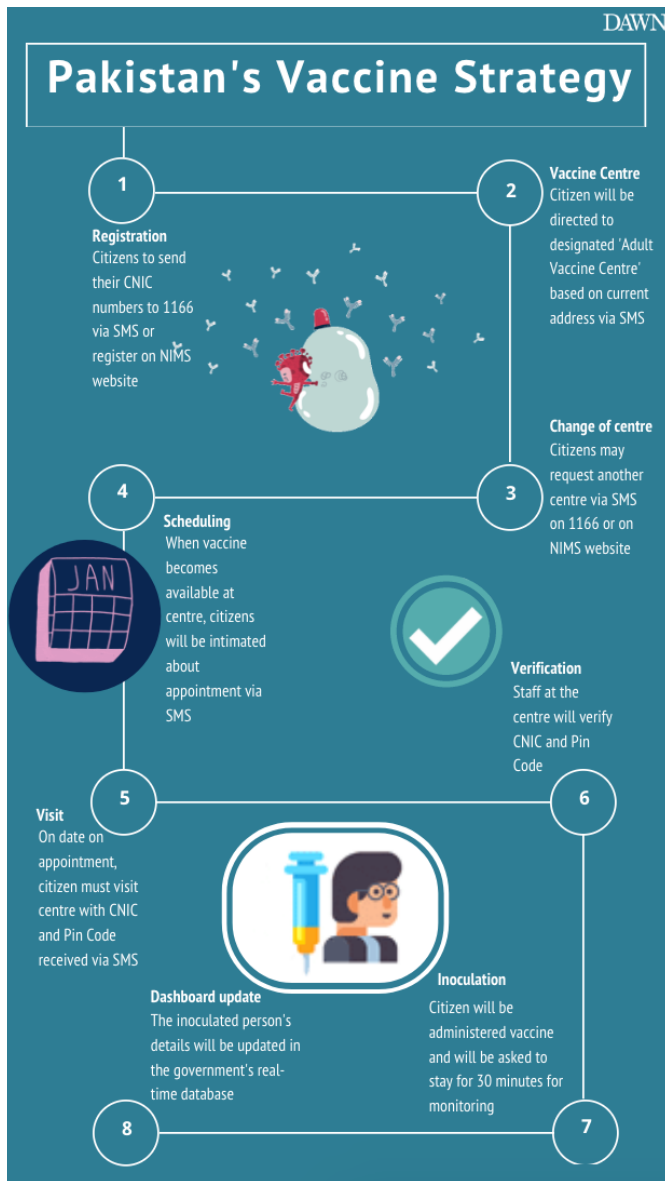
Many women, even in educated and urban households, do not have a say in matters related to themselves, be it their own health, education and marriage. In fact, equal rights to men is a far fetched dream for many, what they wish for is just that the injustice and oppression they face should stop. Things will not change in the real sense by just focusing on women and girls — what is needed is to focus on the men and boys, **making them treat women** in a better way. It is said that don't teach your daughters to be careful, teach your sons to be respectful. So the basic need is not just to **make women aware of their rights**, but to make men understand that they have to let women have these rights (Dawn).



Funded by
the European Union



The Asia Foundation



Source: Dawn

The minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umer has announced that vaccination of people **over 60 years** would start from **March 10**.

"Vaccination of people 60 years and older will be starting from Wednesday the 10th of March. Vaccinations will be done in reverse order by age. Which means the oldest person who has registered will be vaccinated first. Full details will be issued tomorrow," Mr Umer tweeted.

So far, Pakistan has vaccinated healthcare workers below 60 years of age, and the next stage is **for citizens above 60**.

Senior Citizens (above the age of 60) can SMS their **CNIC no** (13 digits without spaces and dashes) to **1166** from any mobile no or visit nims.nadra.gov.pk. Vaccine Centre and date will be then communicated to them.



Funded by
the European Union



The Asia Foundation

Where can I get tested?

Islamabad	National Institute of Health Park Road, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad
Karachi	Agha Khan University Hospital, Stadium Road, Karachi, Sindh
Hyderabad	Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Liberty Market Roundabout, Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad
Khairpur	Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences, Gambat, Khairpur, Sindh
Peshawar	Hayatabad Medical Complex Phase-4 Phase 4 Hayatabad, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
Mardan	Chughtai Lab Mardan point, near Allied Bank, Shamsi Road, Mardan, KP
Haripur	Excel Labs, TMA Plaza Shop No. 6, Near Girls Degree College Circular Road Haripur, KP
Lahore	Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital, 7A Block R-3 M.A. Johar Town, Lahore, Punjab
Multan	Nishtar Hospital Nishtar Road, Justice Hamid Colony, Multan
Rawalpindi	Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Range Road, CMH Complex, Rawalpindi, Punjab
Quetta	Fatima Jinnah Hospital Bahadurabad, Wahdat Colony, Quetta
Muzaffarabad	Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), Ambore, Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir
Gilgit	District Headquarters Hospital, Hospital Road, Gilgit, GB

For more cities visit the [COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform](#)

To receive our
regular updates
through WhatsApp

1. Add our number **+27 60 080 6146** as a contact.
2. Send the word **"Pakistan"** as a message on WhatsApp.



Funded by
the European Union



The Asia Foundation

This publication was produced with the financial support from the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Accountability Lab Pakistan and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union