



# New Evidence In Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health & Family Planning In Pakistan



## Messages



I would like to congratulate the Health Services Academy and the National MNCH Program for organizing this important

conference examining new evidence on Maternal, Neonatal & Child Health. In the aftermath of the earth quake and floods, it is the need of the hour to implement proven and workable policy grounded in research. This conference will provide an excellent platform to highlight new evidence and emerging trends in MNCH. It gives me great pleasure to see such a wide and varied representation of both national and international partners at this conference. Such forums are an important step toward generating sound health policies that are sustainable —

*Makhdoom Shahab-ud-Din,  
Federal Minister for Health*



Although an increasing number of countries have succeeded in improving the health and well-being of mothers,

babies and children in recent years, the countries that started off with the highest burdens of morality and poor health are not making satisfactory progress. Pakistan's health care system is facing many challenges, including recent flooding and other natural disasters in the recent past. Over the years we have been able to create a reasonable network of health care delivery system in terms of steady improvement, the present health care delivery system in term of medical institutions and personnel. In this regard, a national level conference by the HSA is timely and will address the critical issues facing our health system —

*Dr. Mehreen Razzaque Bhutto,  
Parliamentary Secretary Health*



Maternal, neonatal and Child health has been and will remain an important health focus

in developing countries like Pakistan. Indeed, its importance is reaffirmed in Pakistan's continued commitment to meeting its Millennium Development Goals relating to MNCH. However, with the very real issues of flood recovery in the foreground, only innovative and crosscutting policy approaches will allow us to achieve our targets in this challenging time. I extend my sincere felicitations to the Health Services Academy, the National MNCH Program and their partners for making this important event possible —

*Khushnood Akhtar Lashari,  
Federal Secretary for Health*



I welcome the initiative by HSA and the National MNCH Program to

hold a conference to examine new evidence in MNCH & FP. The transition from policy to implementation is a difficult one. The challenges faced vary with geographical location and in relation to health infrastructure. Operationally, a policy that is informed by this understanding and is developed with the flexibility to allow for this can smooth implementation considerably. This conference provides an excellent opportunity to further this very aim, I wish the organizers all the success —

*Rashid Jooma, Director  
General Health.*

## The Organizers



Health Services Academy is organizing two days national conference on Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Family Planning, in collaboration with major stakeholders from the government, partner organizations, academia, NGOs, and civil society organizations.

Health Services Academy is working for the improvement of MDGs 4 & 5 by generating evidence and incorporating them in MNCH related policies. The main purpose of the conference is to help improve maternal and child health outcomes in Pakistan by providing a platform to subject experts for sharing of scientific knowledge and experiences and by facilitating professional development in maternal, newborn health and family planning issues. The specific focus of this conference will be the issues and lessons learnt after the recent flood and earthquake relief activities with MNCH context —

*Dr. Assad Hafiez,  
Executive Director, Health Services Academy.*



The National MNCH Program is the collaborative body for holding this event. The over arching goal of the National Program is to improve accessibility of quality MNCH Services through development and implementation of an integrated and sustainable program at all levels of the health care delivery system.

This conference is an effort to bring together the researchers to deliberate on evidence created and illustrated, to share the experiences of service provision during complex emergencies and to deliberate on how various evidences produced can be main streamed into the MNCH Program for achieving MDGs 4 & 5 —

*Dr. Farooq Akhtar, National Program  
Manager, National Maternal Neonatal & Child Health Program.*





## Conference Objectives

### The conference intends to

1. Gather researcher, program managers and policy planners to discuss the relevant evidences produced MNCH and FP in Pakistan for the past one decade.
2. Share the experiences of the provision of services during complex emergencies such as floods and earthquake.
3. Develop an inventory of operational research conducted in MNCH and FP.
4. Discuss and deliberate how various evidences produced can be mainstreamed in the MNCH Program for attaining MDG 4 and 5.

## Conference Themes

### 1. Complex Emergencies

In the near past, Pakistan has faced many challenges in terms of natural disasters (earthquake in 2005 and recent floods in 2010). Pakistan is also facing insecurity situations in sensitive parts of the country. In Pakistan, the world's largest internal migration has taken place due to earth quake and floods, worsening Pakistan's health state, particularly for mothers and children. Majority of these displaced women are expecting mothers and young children.

HSA is providing a platform to share the experiences of the experts including health care practitioners working closely with displaced families in what is considered to be the largest humanitarian and displacement crisis in recent times.

### 2. Family Planning

According to the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (2006-2007), a quarter of all fecund women in Pakistan have an unmet need for family planning. That is, 14 per cent want to limit births and 11 per cent want to delay them, see PDHS. Much empirical evidence reveals that a range of obstacles other than physical access to services prevents women from using family planning.

The conference will address the current situation in Pakistan, the potential for improvement, and means and ways through which a significant change can be brought in meeting family planning needs.

### 3. Human Resources

In view of the complex emergencies that Pakistan has to face time and again, a closely related issue is crisis in availability of human resources for health. Pakistan's current volume of human resources is not sufficient to meet health care needs of the population and the problem has becomes more acute in situations of displacement and emergencies.

The conference will provide current evidence relating to human resources, discuss issues and challenges and explore opportunities/potential to overcome them.

## The Way Forward



- Advocate MNCH and FP through awareness raising campaigns at different levels to get needed momentum so the issue could become high on everybody's agenda at political, policy, programmatic and donor's support levels.
- Tailor messages for different audiences, focusing on equity and human rights, as well as the economic and social benefits of saving women's lives.
- Increase stakeholder participation and promote collaborations to address MNCH and FP issues in an integrated manner.



## Messages from the Partners

### Save the Children UK

In year 2000 Pakistan along with other world governments committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)-eight targets to eradicate poverty and development. MDGs 4 and 5 are specifically focused on child survival, calling for a reduction in child mortality by two thirds and reduction of maternal mortality by three quarters between 1990 and 2015 respectively. Although Pakistan has made steady progress, current levels of reduction of mortality are insufficient to meet the MDG targets. Save the children believes that with determined actions particularly reaching children and mothers from poor and marginal communities, it is possible to prevent these needless deaths every year.

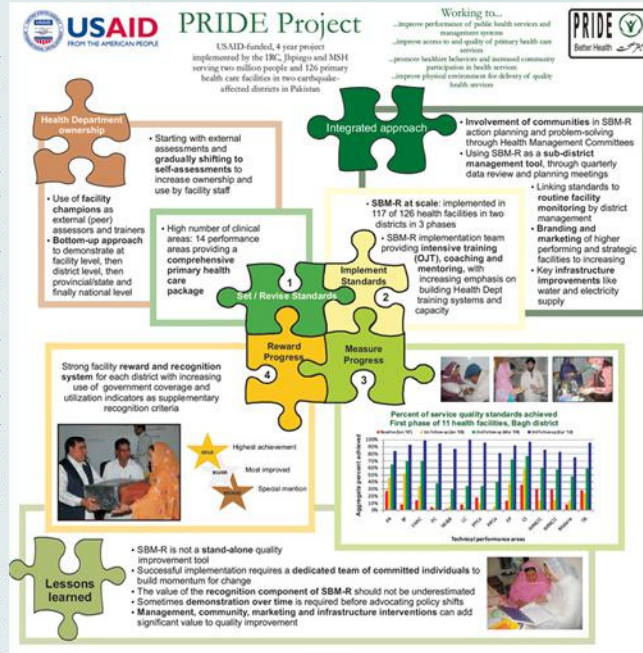
National MNCH and FP conference is one such good opportunity to generate evidence for policy change in order to strengthen health systems and make them equitable and responsive to the needs of the population and address the issues of health financing in Pakistan.

Save the Children has initiated a global Campaign titled the EVERY ONE Campaign, which aims at addressing under five child mortality. In Pakistan the Campaign is focused on strengthening primary health care, increasing immunization coverage and spreading awareness about preventable causes of death, among other objectives. The movement recognizes that a comprehensive approach to child mortality through tackling inequities is imperative to help make a positive and sustainable change. Unraveling this approach, it means that universal access to essential services, equitable distribution of public resources for child survival and transparency and accountability are the elements which this movement is based on and strives to achieve.

But to tackle such an ominous task, Save the Children seeks to work in partnership with other entities and via other platforms such as this conference. I take this opportunity to implore civil society, NGOs, academic and research institutions, the media and communities to join hands and take a step forward in making a tomorrow possible for all children.



Mohammed Qazilbash,  
Country Director,  
Save the Children UK



### UNICEF

#### Investment Case in Pakistan

In response to growing need for strengthening health systems in Pakistan, to make it more efficient, and equitable to accelerate the progress of MDGs, investment cases approach has been initiated By the Govt. of Pakistan supported by UNICEF and other development partners.

Investment cases demonstrate how health systems may be adjusted to achieve national health and development targets and reach the most vulnerable more quickly and more efficiently. Reducing health disparities to achieve the MDGs with equity is therefore the principal long-term objective for the province and district specific exercises. The medium-term objectives are to support evidence based planning for health and nutrition strategic plans, building planning capacity at district level to strengthen decentralized planning and management for health, increase national and sub national capacities to absorb and leverage funding. Outcome of completed investment cases can play a significant role in terms of feeding the results in Health Planning process in their district and provinces, that would lead to anchoring the process of evidence based, decentralised planning and budgeting with an equity focus

**Pakistan's** Provincial investment case in Punjab, Sind, AJK and 2 districts of Punjab will provide insight on how to adapt planning processes and health systems strategies to accelerate MDGs 4 and 5 progress, by removing health system bottlenecks and introducing low cost high impact evidence based interventions at different levels of health system.

Punjab District Investment cases are guiding towards decentralised, need based differential planning to reach the most deprived and vulnerable communities, addressing intra district disparities. DICS also help District health teams for appropriate financial allocation and productive absorption of district funds.

Several interventional themes emerge clearly from the aggregate findings of provincial and district Investment cases in Pakistan:

1) Strengthening community-based service delivery, coupled with good referral systems and inclusion of evidence based interventions especially community based maternal and new born care packages, is the most cost-effective way to rapidly expand services among the most vulnerable.

2) Building demand for existing clinical services, particularly preventive and reproductive health services, must be a top priority to increase the efficiency of the overall systems. Effective and strong C4D is the crucial need.

3) In order to build demand, the quality and consistency of primary care and delivery services in particular must improve. Promising strategies include revised and equity-driven human resource policies, task shifting, strengthened monitoring and evaluation systems, standardized and updated (pre-service and in-service) training programs.

### Save the Children US

It gives me immense pleasure for writing about the MNCH-FP Conference organized by Health Services Academy (HSA). It is in fact a needed initiative especially in the context that 2015 is not far away when along with other countries Pakistan will also be adjudged for improvement on the front of MNCH-FP as per commitments made in 2000 by being signatory to MDGs.

Since 2000, the country has witnessed several important inputs for improving the health status of mothers, newborns and children. The efforts have been on several fronts including health system strengthening, improving demand, enhancing capacity and quality and generating evidence for better strategies.

The MNCH Conference has provided a venue for getting together the different experiences and putting up policy recommendations to those at the helm of affairs. Undoubtedly, such efforts can come handy in bringing the national wisdom together and providing it an interface with the policy community. Save the Children, has always been appreciative of such initiatives and rendered assistance where needed to support the cause of MNCH in Pakistan.

We look forward to a thriving relationship with HSA in future also



Dr. Amanullah Khan  
Sr. Director Health and Nutrition  
Save the Children  
Pakistan Country Office

### Agenda of Hope

#### "Serving Right To Life"





Conference Organizing Committees	
Patrons	Makhdom Shahb-ud-Din (Federal Minister of Health) Khusnood Akhtar Lashari (Federal Health Secretary) Dr. Rashid Jooma (Director General Health)
Conveners	Dr. Assad Hafeez (ED, Health Services Academy) Dr. Farooq Akhtar (Program Manager, National MNCH Program)
Advisory Committee	Prof. David P. Southall, Prof. Ghazal Mehmood, Prof. Mehmood Jamal, Prof. M. Ashraf Sultan, Dr. Nabila Ali, Prof. Sadiqa Jafarey, Prof. Tabish Hazar, Dr. Zeba Sathar, Prof. Zulfiqar Bhutta
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Fund Raising Committee	Coordinator: Dr. Humayun R. Rathore Dr. Samina Naeem Khalid, Mr. Ansar Noor, Ms. Amna Khawar
Catering Committee	Coordinator: Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan/ Mr. Majid Shahzad Mr. Jakhani, Mr. Zia Ullah But
Poster Committee	Coordinator: Dr. Fatima Bajwa Dr. Farah Naz Memon, Dr. Ayesha Chowhan, Mr. Asmat Ali Gill
Inquiries and Complaint Committee	Coordinator: Dr. Mariyam Sarfraz
Stalls Committee	Coordinator: Dr. Rozina Khalid Ms. Aashifa Yaqoob, Mr. Nadeem Kayani, Mr. Zia Ullah But, Mr. Mahboob-ul-Haq, Dr. Iram Faiz
Media & Communication Committee	Coordinator: Dr. Rukhsana Khan Dr. Arslan Mazhar, Ms. Aashifa Yaqoob, Dr. Faiza Haq
Security Committee	Coordinator: Mr. Muddasir Mushtaq Mr. Saeed Iqbal, Mr. Waqas Shabbir, Mr. Sajid Maqbool

## Health Services Academy

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Conference Coordinators			
Day 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2010		Day 2 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2010	
Inaugural	Dr. Saira Tariq Dr. Samina Naeem	Plenary II	Dr. Mobina Fatima Mr. Muddasir Mushtaq
Poster Session	Dr. Fatima Bajwa Dr. Omer Najam	Scientific Session IV	Dr. Rozina Khalid Dr. Fatima Bajwa
Plenary I	Dr. Samina Naeem Ms. Maaida Awan	Scientific Session V	Dr. Maryam Sarfraz Dr. Arslan Mazhar
Scientific Session I	Dr. Arslan Mazhar Mr. Muddasir Mushtaq Dr. Bharat Kumar	Scientific Session VI	Ms. Aashifa Yaqoob
Scientific Session II (UNFPA)	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Dr. Tufail A. Bhatti	Panel Discussion IV (USAID)	Dr. Samina Naeem Mr. Majid Shahzad
Scientific Session III (Save the Children, UK)	Dr. Faiza Haq Rep. Save the Children	Panel Discussion V (Packard)	Dr. Maryam Sarfraz Rep. Packard
Panel Discussion I (Save the Children, USA)	Dr. Fatima Bajwa Dr. Qudsia Uzma (Save the Children, USA)	Panel Discussion VI (Unicef)	Ms. Saadiya Razzak Ms. Maaida Awan Dr. Samia Rizwan (Unicef)
Panel Discussion II	Dr. Ayesha Khan Ms. Saadiya Razzak	Concluding Session	Dr. Rukhsana Khan Dr. Arslan Mazhar Dr. Mariyam Sarfraz
Panel Discussion III	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Dr. Sabrina Zaka Dr. Fatima Bajwa Dr. Sadique Lohar Dr. Abid Shah Dr. Aziz Ullah Memon		

## National Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Program

Agenda of Hope,  
Serving Right to Life



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