



# COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT

## FIRST REPORT

30-03-2020

Members of Indus Consortium



Sitrep Number:	001	What is the situation?	Spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Pakistan
Period Covered:	March 25 to 29, 2020	Report Prepared by:	Liaqat Ali, Iqbal Haider and others
Report Prepared on:	March 30, 2020	Approved by:	Jamshaid Farid, Chairman, Indus Consortium, Pakistan
When Next Update will be sent?	April 9, 2020	Sent to:	Humanitarian Community and Key Stakeholders
District Covered	Badin, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh		

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## Pakistan scenario

### 1.0 Background:

The world is currently experiencing pandemic of Coronavirus (Covid-19). The virus is part of a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from common cold to severe illness leading to death. COVID-19 is a new variant and no effective vaccine exist till-to-date. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared pandemic on March 11, 2020 and urged all the countries to take preventive measures. There are currently 0.6 million confirmed cases of Covid-19 around the world. The total deaths have exceeded 31,000 as on March 30, 2020 and 177 countries have reported its spread. The virus has disrupted social, economic and political processes at the global level. The world is facing the risk of growth slowdown and if current situation continues, it may be the beginning of global recession.

The pandemic has also impacted Pakistan and since last month, confirmed cases of Covid-19 have come up. The Government of Pakistan has declared national emergency and asked greater collaboration between citizens, civil society organisations and various government institutions.

### 2.0 Key Points of the Previous Report

This is our first situational report and we will report the key points in our next report.

### 3.0 Situational Update

#### 3.1 General Situational Update

The Government of Pakistan has responded to the spread of virus and came up with “[National Action Plan for Coronavirus Disaster \(Covid-19\) Pakistan](#).” Moreover, provincial governments have also come up with their respective trajectory of actions. The financial impact of the disease is evident and increasingly people are falling into poverty trap. In the coming days, we may observe large number of disparate people looking for food and other basic necessities for survival. The coping capacity of ordinary people is eroding very fast. Though Government of Pakistan has not reduced the interest rate at the moment but it is under tremendous pressure from the powerful businesses to reduce the interest rates. The reduction in the rates will result in sudden hike of inflation and the hike would have devastating impact on the already struggling lower and middle classes of the society.

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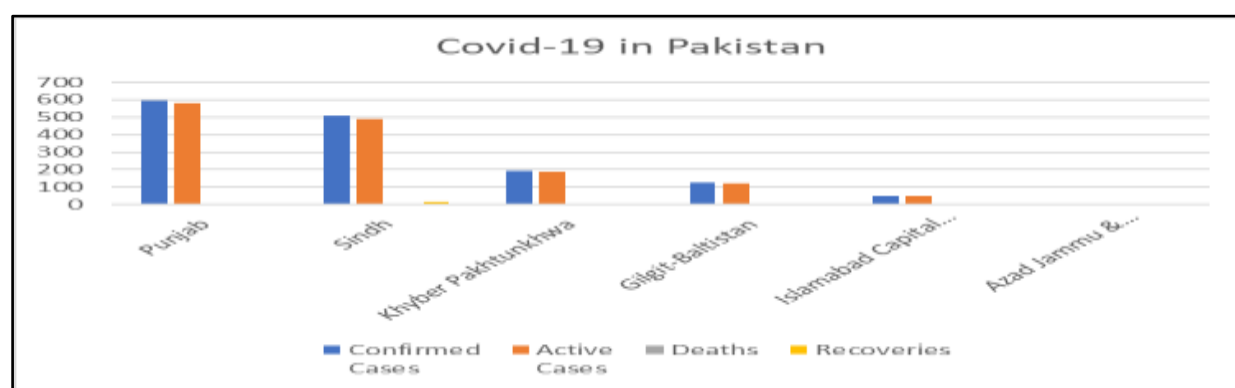
National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has been assigned as the apex body for coordination and planning. NDMA is currently working with the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and is not only extending the support but also in the process of formulating comprehensive national response plan NDMA is currently setting up five more laboratories across the country other than those being set up by the provincial governments. Two of these laboratories will be established in Karachi. This will help double the screening capacity of NDMA. The frontline doctors, paramedics, volunteers, district administrations and institutions working extensively to contain the pandemic of Coronavirus are at the high risk of infection. The Government of Pakistan is providing the safety gears but the pressure on the frontline is increasing.

Pakistan has approximately 1500 confirmed cases of Covid-19. It is expected that the number of confirmed cases will sharply rise once the government is able to undertake testing of all the suspected and vulnerable communities. Sindh and Punjab provinces have 80% of the caseload of Covid-19. The figures are consistent with the demographic proportion because the two provinces constitute about 85% of the total population of Pakistan. The situation on March 30, 2020 is as following in Pakistan<sup>1</sup>:

Table No. 1

Covid-19 Caseload in Pakistan (March 20, 2020)

Area	Confirmed Cases	Active Cases	Deaths	Recoveries
Punjab	593	582	6	5
Sindh	508	487	5	16
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	195	188	5	2
Gilgit-Baltistan	128	123	1	4
Islamabad Capital Territory-ICT	51	48	0	3
Azad Jammu & Kashmir-AJ&K	6	6	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1481</b>	<b>1434</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ndma.gov.pk/>

The member organisations of Indus Consortium are working in Sindh and Punjab provinces since 1993. We have partner communities in rural and semi-urban areas. The mandate of the organisations is primarily humanitarian and we are member of National Humanitarian Network (NHN). We are working in the district of Multan, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Jhang, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan and Vehari in the Punjab province. In Sindh, we are working in district Thatta, Badin and Mirpur Khas.

The provincial economies of Punjab and Sindh have significantly contracted (more than 40%) during the last two years. Therefore, people's capacity to absorb external shocks was already at the lowest point. The recent spread of Coronavirus completely slowed down the economic activities and the impact on the poor and vulnerable communities is very high.

### **3.2 Situational Update of Indus Consortium**

The member organizations of Indus Consortium undertook a rapid appraisal of the situation. We have identified the following issues in our working districts in Sindh and Punjab provinces:

1. The lock down situation is affecting people's lives and livelihoods of almost all the citizen especially the daily wagers, labor etc.
2. Poor population residing in urban slums and squatter settlements is more vulnerable than their rural counterparts. They are on their own without any support network.
3. While government's is primarily focusing on corona's public health dimension, attention towards social and economic implications is weak.
4. Civil society is largely clueless, largely driven by their fears to go to field and getting themselves infected by the virus.
5. The affected population is not concentrated in one place, they are scattered. Thus, making it a unique humanitarian crisis where identification of the affected people is challenging.
6. Many of us are caught in thoughts that our past experiences and existing expertise do not match with the requirements of this situation and we are irrelevant with the current situation.
7. The government's response is conventional, bureaucratic, top-down with no concern for community participation and consultation.
8. The international and national lock downs have severely impacted the supply chains. The stocks are depleting at district level.
9. The harvest of wheat crop, country's main staple food, has begun in Sindh and is about to begin in rest of the country. The villages to city movements have largely been curtailed, which may raise wheat crisis in the coming days.

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10. The untimely and heavy rain fall may affect the wheat crop to achieve the national target.
11. Fake news is wide spread. Though government is addressing it but it has no effective community-based mechanism to spread the accurate news.
12. The Government of Pakistan, through its functionaries (NDMA, PDMA, health department etc.) is responding the situation through divisional and district administrations
13. Pakistan National disaster management funds has approved 50 million dollars as a grant to NDMA
14. Government is also requesting 4 billion grants from various multi and bi-lateral donors
15. Quarantine facilities have been established at all division as well as district levels to deal such potential cases.
16. The Government has allowed 70 INGOs to start COVID-19 response
17. EAD also provide more space to NGOs for COVID 19 response
18. UN also steps up efforts to support COVID-19 response in Pakistan
19. The following information was obtained from the district governments for their key activities in their respective districts:

**Table No. 2**

### Key Activities of District Governments

District Muzaffargarh	District Rajanpur
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chlorination spray in City and town level at public places</li> <li>Indus Hospital as Quarantine 78 patients are under observation</li> <li>Isolation wards at DHQ and THQs level</li> <li>Awareness campaigns</li> <li>Registration of people for Relief package</li> <li>Following the instruction by PDMA, NDMA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chlorination spray in City and town level at public places</li> <li>Danish School declared as Quarantine with the capacity of 200 beds</li> <li>Isolation wards at DHQ and THQs level</li> <li>Awareness campaigns</li> <li>Registration of people for Relief package</li> <li>Following the instruction by PDMA, NDMA</li> </ul>
District Multan	District Layyah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine for 3000 patients is operational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District administration has set up quarantine for 50 patients at Bahaudin Zakariya's hostels/campus</li> <li>Education department has initiated a survey to identify potential COVID-19 patients</li> </ul>

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20. The Government of Pakistan made operational environment very difficult for local and international NGOs since 2015. At the moment, majority of the local NGOs have limited or no resources. They are mainly operating through volunteers. The donors have not yet opened up resources for the civil society organizations. Though we have shortage of resources, but we decided that each member organization will plan different activities as the first step within the available resources. The following are the achievements of our consortium member organizations:

- a. A Coordination Skype call meeting of local NGOs of District Rajanpur was called to build the coordination mechanism was hold 27-03-2020.
- b. An online Database for the registration of poor, needy and daily wagers has been developed and 850 families have got registered till 28-03-2020.
- c. Help Foundation provided data of 500 families to the district administration Rajanpur; these families have received Food items by the district administration on 27-03-2020.
- d. A planning meeting of core team of Help Foundation has been done to prepare an activity plan and their implementation strategy.
- e. The female volunteers of Help Foundation are providing their voluntarily services at home in the preparation of "Masks," the raw material is being provided by the organization.
- f. Hand washing facilities have been installed on 03 public places in Kot Mithan town.
- g. Doaba Foundation is continuously in touch with the administration, and coordination meetings at district levels in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Jhang and Rajanpur.
- h. Doaba Foundation was able to mobilise small funds from the existing projects for awareness raising through radio in local language in South Punjab.
- i. Doaba Foundation has also started public awareness; using IEC material (i.e.pan flexes, etc.), social media work and mobile phone messages
- j. Doaba Foundation started radio promos; audio messages with collaboration of district governments, PDMA and District Malnutrition Addressing Committees (DMACs)
- k. Doaba Foundation provided masks through Disable Persons Organizations (DPO) to the vulnerable communities and especially among persons with disabilities.
- l. The local communities (especially the disable persons) are conducting awareness session on preventive measures against COVID-19
- m. After the complete lockdown in Sindh Province, the staff of LHDP has limited access to offices, while they are also facing problems in movement within its active districts.
- n. Mirpur Khas office of LHDP has been inactive and all staff is working from home, while the some of the staff in Badin district have limited access the office.
- o. LHDP requested the district government to provide letter for the movement of its key staff for the purpose of response activities in district Badin.
- p. The district administration is in continuous coordination regarding the situation at local level and also asked for support from LHDP
- q. LHDP has recently provided more than 30 volunteers as the members of relief committees at UC level for the purpose of government's response activities in district.
- r. LHDP also developed the Radio Messages with support of district administration and local health department, while the information material on preventive measures is also developed and disseminated among communities in district Badin and Mirpur khas.
- s. LHDP has initiated coordination with its current partners/donors for the financial support for the relief and awareness activities.

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### 3.3 Indus Consortium's planned actions

We have planned the following activities till April 7, 2020 in the districts of Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, Jhang, Layyah, Multan, Muzaffargarh and Vehari in Punjab province and Badin, Thatta, Mirpur Khas in Sindh Province:

1. Develop a coordination mechanism with district /local administrations and civil society in the districts where the organization is based and working.
2. Develop a rapid assessment report that could guide our actions.
3. Reach out to and mobilize START Network and National Humanitarian Network (NHN) for collective action.
4. Develop corona outbreak response, which should be designed to have three main phases involving short, medium and long term activities.
5. As the government at the instant is focusing on corona's public health dimension, attention towards social and economic implications is weak. This gap must be fulfilled by the civil society organizations.
6. Bring in the right based approach to this crisis and the corona response.
7. Constitute Corona Surveillance and Coordination Committees (S&CCs) in rural communities and urban neighborhoods. Help them develop ToRs and interact with the government authorities.
8. Reach out to prospective donors and philanthropists (Muslims will be distributing Zakat in April).
9. Develop a dry food package that could be funded by Zakat.

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10. Make use of some available funds to develop hygiene kits for distribution among the poor and vulnerable population, at least Soap, Mask, Gloves and installation of hand washing facilities in neighboring or slum areas.
11. Farmers of organization's project area will be supported for harvesting of wheat through the agriculture machinery pool centers.
12. Training of staff of on health safety measures and protocols.
13. Continuously monitoring the situation and response accordingly.
14. Media work; radio messages
15. Disability inclusive COVID response awareness and preventive messages translation into local and sign language to reach out persons with disabilities
16. IEC Material dissemination
17. Establishing and maintaining at least 20 public washing facilities with local resources
18. Distribution of COVID 19 sensitive hygiene kits. The kits will include face masks, gloves, hand washing soap, hand sanitizer. The exact number of kits depends on available funds.
19. Disinfection of public places along with the government departments.

### **3.4 The planned actions of other stakeholders (especially civil society organisations)**

The government for the instant is much focussed on the health issues, however the other organizations are observing the situation and looking for their relevancy with the current situation. Moreover the Government of Pakistan has also relaxed some policies for NGOs i.e. NOC, MOU with EAD and Banks to accept foreign contribution in the accounts of NGOs under COVID-19, which will enhance the motivation of the civil society organizations and improve the enabling environment to response COVID-19 in all over the Pakistan.

The civil society is still unable to mobilise its efforts and it needs more support from the government and donors.

### **4.0 Request for Immediate Support**

1. We request for supportive policy and operational environment for civil society organizations from all ministries and departments of the government. Government must create enabling environment.
2. Funding to mobilize human resources and activate operational capacity.
3. Staff safety training and safety equipment including gears, etc.
4. Technical support for rapid "situation and need assessment"
5. Health and Hygiene support to vulnerable communities (NFI and messages)
6. Food Security support to the vulnerable ultra-poor families (Food items and cash distribution)
7. Improve the coordination of relevant stakeholders.

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### General Contact Information:

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9	Dr zulifqar soomro	03332616989	Not Available	District Government	Badin city, District Badin
10	Dr Talib Thebo	03468492809	Not Available	District Government	Talhar, District Badin
11	Dr Gulab Kashmiri	03013571652	Not Available	District Government	Matli, District Badin
12	Dr Ahmed Khatti	03453691056	Not Available	District Government	Golarchi, District Badin
13	Control Room DC Office	02339290253	Not Available	District Government	District Mirpur Khas
14	Salamat Ali Memon	02339290071 03003064490	Not Available	District Government	ADC 1, District Mirpur Khas
15	Dr. Dilbar Mari	03332336815	Not Available	District Government	District Focal Person health, District Mirpur Khas
16	Dr. Atta Ullah	03337071709	Not Available	District Government	DCCR, District Mirpur Khas

**=== The End ===**

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