FDI Providing Monitoring and Evaluation Support to all Provinces: *Recently a Team of Federal Monitors visited Azad Jammu & Kashmir to ensure Effective NEIR Trickle Down Trainings*

Information Management is one of the key priorities of Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi, DG, FDI, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination, Government of Pakistan. In this regard, a recent accomplishment of FDI in collaboration with WHO is the rollout of the National Electronic immunization Registry NEIR. DG, FDI nominated a team for AJK to monitor the Information Management system NEIR. M&E is the key component of the Federal Directorate of Immunization FDI. This time around the focus on teams remained on NEIR and the joint report from all 7 field monitors clearly backed the fact that The National Electronic Immunization Registry (NEIR) is a powerful tool designed to enhance the performance of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) by facilitating the monitoring of individual immunization schedules and maintaining a record of immunization histories. It aims to improve both coverage and efficiency of the immunization program.

Feedback from the monitors further depicted that NEIR has been implemented successfully through an Android-based mobile application utilized by all vaccination staff. This application enables the registration and recording of vaccine beneficiary data at an individual level, including children and women. It assists in tracking and vaccinating zero-dose and defaulter individuals, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

The best part is, to ensure data security and accessibility, NEIR will be fully hosted on Government Servers in FDI, Islamabad, with limited access granted to end users. The data collected through the NEIR App will be accessible to provinces through a dashboard and admin access, facilitating data-driven decision-making and efficient program management.

First time in Azad Jammu & Kashmir Implemented the NEIR app which will effectively support primary healthcare workers in data collection Capacity development of the vaccinators all the effectiveness of an intervention to increase knowledge of NEIR and their features. Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, Provincial Program Manager, EPI extended a special thanks to Dr. MA Kazi, DG, FDI for envisioning this information management tool and supporting EPI AJK.

Mr. Ali Muhammad M&E officer and Dr. Sardar Zafar DHO Athmaqaam

My name is Ali Muhammad, one of the Fed Monitor and my assigned monitoring destination was DHQ Atmaqam Neelam is 250 km away from Islamabad and 110 km from Muzaffarabad. it is very close to the Line of Control LOC, during the rainy season there are many chances of landslides beyond Muzaffarabad, this whole area is hilly and difficult road networks, On 23rd May, I reached Atmaqam after 8 hours from Islamabad to monitor a 2-day training on NEIR with the District Health Management team.. Since the NEIR application is being implemented for EPI data collection, it was very important for all participants to understand and participate fully in this training, which was no less than a challenge.

My observations revealed that Master Trainers and the participants are very much owning the said Information management tool which is an evidence to a fact that NEIR represents a significant step towards strengthening immunization programs nationwide, optimizing coverage, and ultimately safeguarding the health of communities by ensuring comprehensive immunization for all.

The rollout of NEIR will commenced in March, 2023 starting with the KP Province, followed by AJK, GB, and Balochistan. Punjab, currently utilizing its own software named Electronic Medical Record (EMR) with an EPI module, will be engaged in discussions by a team from FDI and WHO to explore possibilities of linkage between the systems, ensuring seamless integration and data exchange.

A comprehensive report was submitted capitalizing on the information acquired by all Federal Monitors and valuable feedback from EPI, AJK GB techies and based on the recommendations FDI and WHO staff is working for improvement and innovations.