

Organization Profile



MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESILIENCE FOUNDATION



Saving lives through
effective, efficient and
affordable healthcare
in resource poor settings



Mission

Saving lives by providing effective, efficient and affordable healthcare in resource poor settings

About MERF

MERF aims to improve access to quality health care services which are equitable, efficient and affordable in collaboration with governments, international organizations and private entities. MERF provides services in health care delivery, capacity building of health workers, health care governance, supply chain management, health management information system and health care policy and planning in order to positively contribute to the health status of the population.

OUR PARTNERS IN SUCCESS



OUR LEGAL STATUS:

SECP Registration: Established in 2015, MERF is registered with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan under Section 42 of Companies Act 2017 (Previously Companies Ordinance 1984).

FBR Registration: MERF is a certified not-for-profit organization (NPO) under Section 2(36) of Income Tax Ordinance 2001 with National Tax Number (NTN) 7212843-0.

Provincial Tax Authorities: MERF is registered with provincial tax authorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Baluchistan and Punjab as withholding agent as per relevant provincial laws.

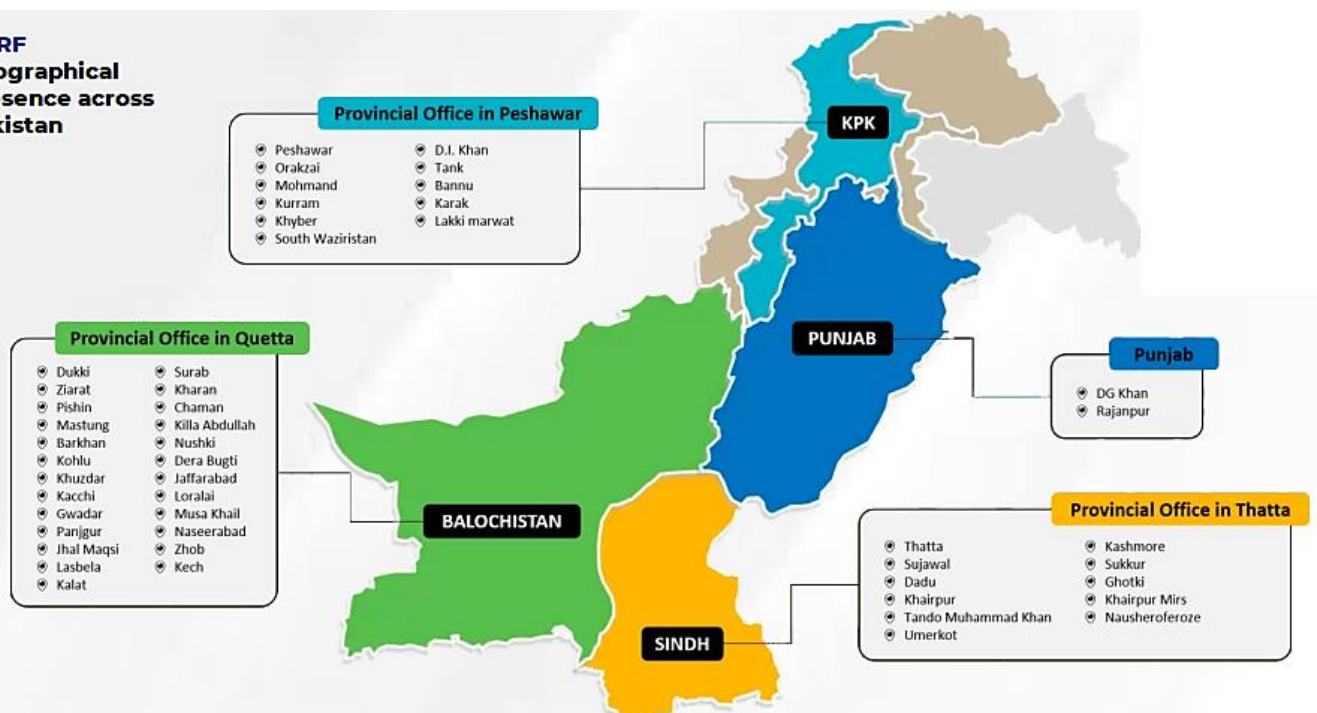
PCP Certification: MERF is certified by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP), which is certification body for non-government organizations working in Pakistan.

EAD MOU for foreign funding: MERF has a valid MOU with Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Government of Pakistan, as per applicable laws for NGOs receiving foreign contribution.

NOCs for working in NMDs - KP: MERF has valid No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for implementation of projects in Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of the KP including Orakzai, Mohmand, Kurram and South Waziristan. Due to valid NOCs for NMDs, NOCs for further locations is processed quickly.

NOCs for working in Balochistan: MERF has valid No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for implementation of projects in multiple districts of Baluchistan.

MERF Geographical Presence across Pakistan



Our Thematic Areas

Health



MERF focuses on strengthening the public health system to deliver quality integrated healthcare services that addresses the key burden of communicable & non-communicable diseases and problems related to the Maternal, Newborn and Child Healthcare. The major interventions that MERF implemented across its projects include;

- Providing essential curative and preventive services & through primary and secondary healthcare facilities through collaboration under Public – Private Partnerships
- Providing necessary Human Resource (Specialists, Medical Doctors and Paramedical Staff)
- Strengthening health information system

Nutrition



MERF focuses on providing nutrition specific interventions that address the immediate determinants of maternal and child under nutrition. The key interventions include:

Community mobilization and screening of malnourished children and pregnant women

- Supplementary feeding program (SFP)
- Outpatient therapeutic program (OTP)
- Management Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) cases in Stabilization Center
- Promotion of infant and young child feeding practices, multi micro-nutrient supplementation and de-worming

Emergency Response



MERF Emergency Response always collaborative effort at field and facilities level are the core of all efforts during emergencies. MERF ensures that in case of any emergency like floods or epidemics, contingency plans are in place to control infectious diseases and other health issues of concern in emergencies - man made or natural. MERF response include:

- Emergency Medical camps
- Nutrition in emergencies
- Ration & livelihoods distributions
- Cash for Work or Cash Based Transfers

WASH



WASH is essential for children and their families to live healthy lives. Typical diseases and conditions associated with lack of WASH include, diarrhea, malnutrition and stunting. Diarrhea and malnutrition are leading causes of child mortality and morbidity in Pakistan. MERF focuses on the following

- Provision of safe drinking water to communities, schools and healthcare facilities.
- Providing appropriate facilities for defecation including establishment of public latrines.
- Conducting awareness sessions on handwashing, use of latrines and importance of following other hygienic practices.

Research & Studies



MERF has qualified professional and dedicated survey and research teams at the country office as well as at provincial level. This includes health experts, Bio statistician, M&E professional and sector specialist. The team holds hands on experience on SQUEAC, KAP and SMART surveys. Recently the team conducted NNS-17 survey in 11 districts of Balochistan and in 06 districts of KPK

HRD for Health



To enhance training and capacity building in healthcare system MERF has been working to train local staff in the most remote areas of the country. Midwifery courses, nursing diplomas and several other certifications and trainings are conducted to strengthen skills, knowledge and resources that increase from capacity building efforts

Ongoing Projects:

Hospital Services in Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) in 02 DHQ and 05 THQ Hospitals - on Public Private Partnership Basis

The Government of KP through KP health department and KP Health Foundation has taken the initiative of Health System Strengthening (HSS) by engaging private sector organizations on public private partnership basis in NMDs. MERF has made all the hospitals fully functional and is providing free of cost services including general and specialized OPD services, IPD services (Surgical, Medical, Pediatrics, Gynecology & Eye), A&E Services, OT services, Labor rooms, Diagnostic services, pharmacy and EPI services with responsibility of operationalization, management and provision of secondary health services to the general public. More than **1000 staff** is directly managed by MERF in these hospital. The hospitals include:

- DHQ Hospital, Wana, South Waziristan - Awarded in 2022
- DHQ Mishti Mela, Orakzai – Awarded in 2017
- Cat D Hospital, Bazar Zaka Khel, Khyber - Awarded in 2022
- Cat D Hospital, Mola Khan Sarai, S. Waziristan – Awarded in 2020
- Cat D Hospital, Ghiljo, Orakzai – Awarded in 2020
- Cat D Hospital, Dogar, Kurram– Awarded in 2020
- Cat D Hospital, Momad Gat, Mohmand – Awarded in 2020



1,269,494
OPD



1,005,690
Diagnostic Services



150,748
IPD Admissions



48,870
MNCH Services



38,979
Surgeries



14,532
Institutional
Deliveries



5,952
EPI vaccination



Deployed 26 specialists,
59 MOs, 227 paramedics
& 195 staff support staff

Management and operations of 07 hospitals in Sindh on Public Private Partnership Basis

MERF is working with Department of Health, Government of Sindh on Public Private Partnership Model where it is managing 13 health facilities (02 DHQs, 03 THQs hospitals & 08 RHCs) in District Thatta and Sujawal on Public – Private Partnership (PPP) model since 2016. MERF is directly managing **more than 2000 health & support staff** in these facilities in Sindh.

8,347,296
OPD Consultations



1,863,060
Diagnostic Services



510,650
IPD Admissions



275,236
MNCH Services



68,009
EPI vaccination



153,553
Surgeries



90,474
Institutional Deliveries



Deployed 39
specialists, 70 MOs,
120 paramedics and
242 support staff



Neo-natal unit



Old equipped Operation Theatre, Kurrum, the Kurrum Hospital is under working



Dialysis Unit

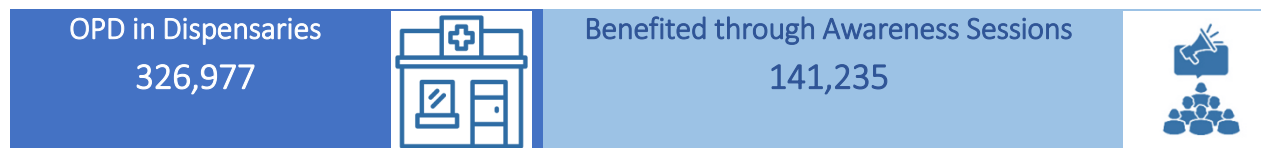


Management of 15 Health Facilities in Peshawar supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Under this project MERF operationalized 15 dispensaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to provide free of cost primary & preventative care services to all patients. The facilities primarily focus on MNCH services - specifically antenatal care, deliveries, postnatal care, nutrition, and immunization services. The provision of this sort of integrated package of health services helps in reaching families that may otherwise refuse OPV during door-to-door polio vaccination campaigns, and will help boost routine immunization coverage in the communities in coverage area.

The project is benefitting the underserved & at-risk communities of the Super High Risk Union Councils (SHRUCs) in Peshawar.

Peshawar has historically been one of the core reservoirs for Poliovirus in Pakistan, and these SHRUCs are Peshawar's poorest areas, as is evident by high levels of childhood malnutrition and lower rates of immunization coverage prevalent in these areas. Prior to this intervention, dispensaries in these union councils were not operational and the local communities were suffering because of lack of other affordable options.



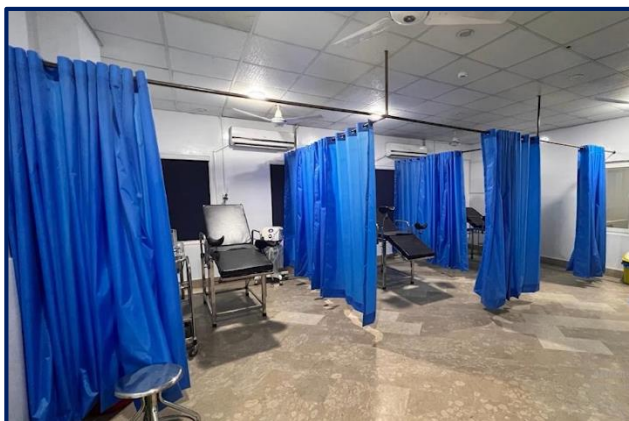
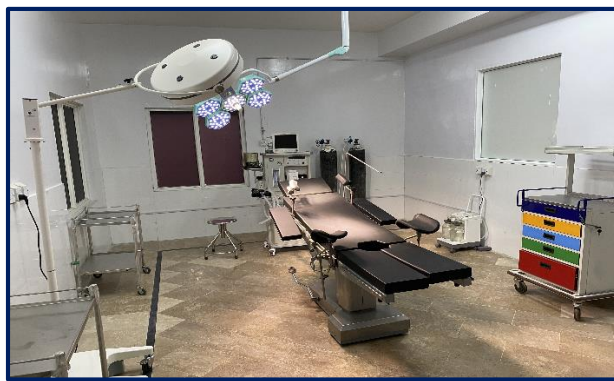
Government General Hospital, Nishtarabad Peshawar

MERF has been managing specialized hospital in Nishtarabad since June 2020 funded by European Union, ECHO through International Rescue Committee (IRC). This was a dedicated COVID 19 hospital that is providing specialized COVID 19 related services to patients of all over the province. It has been converted in General Hospital through World Bank support in 2022. The hospital has been equipped with latest medical equipment having capacity of 110 beds with 50 beds for Isolation, 30 beds for HDU and 20 beds for ICU for critical patients.

With this same initiative, the COVID 19 related specialized services this facility continues with following initiatives beside continuation of other essential services provisions:

- Establishment of state of the art Hepatology Unit to provide management services (diagnostic & treatment) for Hepatitis A, B & C, PCR and Dengue.
- Establishment of latest 24/7 Gyne and Obs center with Incubators, baby warmers, CEmONC and nutrition services
- Availability of skilled Human Resource, essential medicines, and functional equipment.
- Availability of Public Health lab, diagnostics, waste management, infection prevention & control, referral linkages with other hospitals and all necessary support services.
- Mammography service for Breast Cancer early stage detection & screening and social mobilization and awareness

- Availability of quality Covid-19 Health services i.e. Isolation, High Dependency Unit & Intensive care unit for COVID-19 patients.



Completed Projects:

Social mobilization and community outreach activities to promote routine/essential immunization in 15 target districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Under this UNICEF funded program MERF will identify and strengthen the existing community-based entities and will engage them with stakeholders engaged in immunization at both Union Council and district level for effective community engagement and community mobilization in order to enable the communities to increase demand for immunization services in target 15 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. MERF will develop evidence-based plans for each target union council focusing on gender equality, health systems strengthening and capacity building in order create convergence for enhancement of vaccination coverages. MERF will also disseminate key messages on COVID 19 preventive measures and SOPs during ACSM interventions.

- Project will carry out rapid social mapping/profiling to assess and address social and behavioral issues in target districts and use the information for evidence-based planning and implementation of community engagement interventions.
- Project will identify factors for zero dose, missed newborn birth dose, and defaulters. Also, existing or establish new community structures/committees will be identified to utilize them to create demand for routine immunization services and address refusals within communities. Identify refusals for routine immunization and polio for referrals to EPI centers.



- Human Resource engaged in social mobilization and community outreach for improved uptake of the essential immunization at both district and union council levels will work in close coordination with department of health and community level influencers to as fulcrum for identification of determinants and then awareness raising through IEC material placement and dissemination, Public Service Announcements (PSAs), social networks like WhatsApp, for effecting social change in target union councils.



Vaccination Defaulters identified in social mapping

Total beneficiaries in 15 districts of KP = **14,807**



Zero dose/defaulters referred by MERF team

Total beneficiaries in 15 districts of KP = **12,771**



Zero dose/defaulters children vaccinated

Total beneficiaries in 15 districts of KP = **4,395**

Ongoing Project:

Stunting Prevention in Balochistan under Benazir Nashonuma Program funded by WFP

MERF is implementing Stunting Prevention Programme in Balochistan under Benazir - Nashonuma Stunting Prevention Programme supported by World Food Programme. In 14 most needed districts of Balochistan.



Through the Nashonuma Stunting Prevention Programme, BISP has designed a Conditional Cash Transfer intervention to increase the uptake of health and nutrition services by its beneficiaries

through facilitation centers (FCs) established under the Programme. MERF is responsible for operationalization and management of FCs, ensuring provision of health and nutrition services to the beneficiary and outreach activities to ensure maximum coverage.

Nutrition Emergency Response in Flood Affected Districts of Sindh funded by UNICEF

This recent project in districts of Dadu, Qamber Shahdadkot, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Jacobabad and Kashmore in Sindh have been outlined to improve the access of severely malnourished children to life saving interventions through implementation of simplified approaches for wasting management and to avert the compromised nutritional status besides improving the access of vulnerable children (boys and girls), adolescent girls and PLW to nutritional supplements and information needed to preclude the risks associated with malnutrition.



Nutrition Integrated Flood and Calamity Hit Response in Districts of Balochistan funded by UNICEF

The project incepted in district of Jhal Magsi, Khuzdar, Pishin, and Kachi in Balochistan focused on already prevailing malnutrition issue become severe due to floods and remote locations in province.



Strengthening Local Civil Society and Community-based Organizations and their Capacity in the Nutrition Sector in Sindh funded by EU & IRC

The 24-month action “Strengthening Local Civil Society and Community based Organizations and their Capacity in the Nutrition Sector in Sindh” funded by European Union (EU) aims to address malnutrition in five (05) districts of Pakistan's North Sindh, including Kashmore, Ghotki, Sukkur, Khairpur, and Nosheroferoze. The action will improve local civil society organizations' capacity to lead policy dialogue, improve facility-based treatment, and increase community outreach for nutrition. It will map out Civil Society Organizations in the target districts, select them based on criteria, and enhance their nutrition programming capabilities. The action will work closely with the government health department and nutrition actors to improve nutrition-related skills, supply chain management, and establish connections between community outreach health workers and community committees. By the end of the action, local CSOs will be able to advocate for policy changes, develop and implement nutrition-sensitive programming, and enable communities and outreach health workers to effectively screen and refer malnourished children to outpatient therapeutic programs. The IRC and partners will collaborate with AAP, UNICEF, and WFP to address gaps in nutrition service delivery and outreach coverage. The action will target CSOs, CBOs, health staff, community outreach workers, and caregivers, with the ultimate beneficiaries being under 5 children, Pregnant and Lactating Women, and caregivers who will benefit from the awareness and nutrition service delivery component.

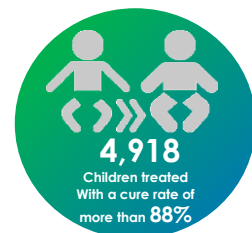


Completed Project:

EU Programme for Improved Nutrition in Sindh (PINS) - Nutrition Stabilization Centers

MERF as IP of Action Against Hunger (ACF) is implementing EU PINs nutrition specific component in District Thatta and Sujawal and has established Nutrition Stabilization Centers in DHQ Hospital Makli Thatta and THQ Hospital Sujawal. The objectives of the project are

- Treatment of Malnutrition
- Referral system for follow up of children
- IYCF for preventive work at facilitates specially for children with MAM
- BCC for improved nutrition



ECHO- HIP 2016 - Health and Nutrition Services

MERF responded to ECHO HIP 2016 call and was awarded contract as implementing partner of Malteser International to provide health and nutrition services to TDPs and host population of KP including Newly Merged Districts. Under the project, MERF provided Primary Healthcare Services with a focus on maternal, newborn and child health in 15 HFs and CMAM Services (Screening, SFP, OTP & referrals to SC) in 09 HFs of KP. The project was successfully completed in December 2017.

Ongoing Project:

Health and Immunization for Flood Response in Thatta & Sujawal districts of Sindh

The overall aim of this UNICEF funded project is to provide standardized Primary Health Care (PHC) services at community and health facility level to targeted population of selected UCs of Thatta and Sujawal district of Sindh. This action is contributing to reduce maternal and under five morbidities, mortalities, and disabilities with improved access to life saving health and nutrition services, including essential PHC, Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), health & hygiene promotion, therapeutic, preventive and promotive nutrition.

The interventions are in line with the core commitment for children in emergencies. During this partnership MERF team ensuring the participation of women and girls in all phases of program planning and implementation. The project is now contributing to address the specific health needs of women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health care. The teams will be supported to provide the safe and dedicated areas with the privacy to ensure the breastfeeding and waiting areas by providing support to establish mother-baby spaces for pregnant/lactating mothers along with social and behavioral change within the communities.



Integrated Humanitarian Assistance for Vulnerable Afghan Refugees and Emergency affected population (I-HAVE) in Balochistan & Sindh funded by ECHO through IRC

MERF, with support from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and International Rescue Committee (IRC), is providing comprehensive emergency obstetric care, emergency referrals, and nutrition services in the far flung districts of Chaman and Killa Abdullah of Balochistan. The purpose of this project is to facilitate people of these targeted districts in both the provinces through providing cash assistance, child protection and psychosocial support for prevention of Gender based violence. This MR will extend lifesaving and early recovery assistance to flood affected communities (both Afghan refugees and hosts communities fulfilling the criteria) through integrated protection, health, Cash for Work (CfW) and education services. in Khairpur and Dadu in Sindh children identified and screened as SAM or MAM, administered BMG dose and Penta-3, IYCF and maternal nutrition sessions conducted.

The intervention is aligned with IRC's recent Early Recovery Needs Identification (ERNI) findings. Response interventions are prioritized by the National and PDMAs and Global Humanitarian Standards (Sphere standards, IASC MHPSS, GBV, INEE and Child Protection Minimum Standards).

Balochistan:

Total number of beneficiaries reached in Killa Abdullah and Chaman

[Local beneficiaries= 366,264 Afghan beneficiaries= 232,908]

Sindh:

Total number of beneficiaries reached in Khairpur & Dadu

[Male = 57,936 Female =140,676]



599,172



198,612

Completed Projects:

Pakistan floods 2022 - Emergency Response:

Pakistan has received unprecedented monsoon rainfall since the start of the monsoon season. Heavy rains have resulted in urban and flash floods, landslides, and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) across Pakistan, particularly affecting Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Sindh Provinces.


Nationwide, 80 districts have been officially notified as 'calamity hit' – 31 in Balochistan, 23 in Sindh, 17 in KP, six in GB and three in Punjab. Many more districts without an official declaration are also reportedly impacted. Around 33 million people have been affected by the heavy rains and flooding, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). 637,000 people are living in relief camps, while many more are displaced and being hosted by other households (OCHA-06 September 2022).

MERF immediately started responding to the emergency and activated its emergency response protocols. MERF is responding to Floods Emergency in the following way;



- General Food Distribution supported by World Food Programme
- Humanitarian Action (Medical Camps) for the Flood Affected Communities of Balochistan supported by SIDA/IRC
- Medical Camps and Rehabilitation of Health Facilities supported by ECHO/IRC
- Medical Camps in KP


29,300
People Reached


15,308
Patients treated
through 48 Medical Camps


13,993
Food Distribution Beneficiaries



Cash Based Transfers (CBT) for flood affected families of Balochistan funded by WFP:

Improve the food security and livelihoods situation of flood-affected communities by restoring their livelihoods and building resilience through agriculture and community infrastructure support. MERF supported households in Naseerabad district of Balochistan Province. Each selected beneficiary received PKR. 12,000/- unconditional cash assistance, in close coordination with WFP.



A total of **7,985** people were registered for CBT
6,109 people received Cash for Work

Nutrition Promotion, Preventive & Community level treatment services in flood affected districts of Punjab (DG Khan and Rajanpur) funded by UNICEF:

This project aims at two district of South Punjab already identified high number of malnourished children and also worst affected due to 2022 floods. MERF addressed the issue with key achievements with visible changes in the indicator highlighted below:

Indicators	South Punjab Districts					
	DG Khan			Rajanpur		
	Targets	Achievement	%Age	Targets	Achievement	%Age
Children screened	81,925	79,903	98%	151,765	139,795	92%
SAM identified	4,096	3,753	92%	7,588	4,851	64%
MAM identified	8,193	6,102	74%	15,177	8,514	56%
SAM Received RUTF	4,096	3,300	81%	4,096	3,912	96%
Children Received MNP	48,583	4,745	10%	90,000	6,058	7%
PLW screened	46,987	40,788	87%	87,042	105,801	122%
MAM identified	5,638	11,029	196%	10,445	20,240	194%
PLW received MNT/IFA	46,987	17,976	38%	87,042	60,107	69%
Total Session Participants	24,768	42,289	171%	45,882	144,086	314%









Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme in Dadu and Qamber Shadadkot of Sindh funded by WFP

The overall purpose of this humanitarian response focusing on nutrition is to contribute towards reducing maternal and child mortality, morbidity and disability with improved access to life saving nutrition services including therapeutic food, and to ensure enhanced community engagement for gender responsive nutrition mainstreaming in flood affected target districts of Sindh



Total MAM (Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition) beneficiaries:

37,034

 Boys  Girls  PLW	10,755	10,334	15,944
 Sessions MIYCN, health & hygiene counselling sensitization to communities, PLWs/ child caregivers	4,480		
 People reached with MIYCN, Health and Hygiene -related materials & sensitization sessions	89,600		
 Number of community-based mother & father support groups established	264		

COVID -19 Hospital, Nishtarabad Peshawar under KPHCIP

MERF has been managing specialized hospital in Nishtarabad since June 2020. This is a dedicated COVID 19 hospital that is providing specialized COVID 19 related services to patients from all across the province. It has been established by MERF with support of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) funding through International Rescue Committee (IRC) in June, 2021. The hospital has been equipped with latest medical equipment and has capacity of 100 beds with 50 beds for Isolation, 30 beds for HDU and 20 beds for ICU COVID 19 patients.

- The hospital is providing the following services,
- Quality Covid-19 Health services i.e. Isolation, High Dependency Unit & Intensive care unit for COVID-19 patients.
- COVID Vaccination services for the community.
- Establishment of state of the art Hepatology Unit to provide management services (diagnostic & treatment) for Hepatitis A, B & C.
- Establishment of CEmONC and Breast Cancer Screening Unit in the hospital
- Availability of skilled Human Resource, essential medicines, and functional equipment.
- Availability of Public Health lab, diagnostics, waste management, infection prevention & control, referral linkages with other hospitals and all necessary support services

Under ECHO funding for COVID-19 Emergency Response, MERF in collaboration with International Rescue Committee (IRC) is responding to the emergency in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 and strengthen the existing capacities of health system in Pakistan. Under the project, MERF; Supports 03 isolation facilities, one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan to manage suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.



- Has establish 03 Intensive Care Units (ICU) in Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar for managing complicated cases. In Peshawar, 100 bed hospital equipped with Ventilators, BIPAP machines and centrally oxygen linked ICU beds is managed by MERF.
- Has strengthen designated laboratory services in Peshawar, Quetta and Karachi to screen and confirm COVID-19 cases through provision of PCR Tests. Moreover, PCR Labs have been established in Peshawar and Karachi.
- Provides Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) during COVID -19 outbreak response.
- Mass Sensitization through risk communication and awareness activities.



Key Indicators	Numbers
PCR Test Done	152,277
Covid-19 Patients Treated – Isolation ward	1186
Covid-19 Patients Treated – HDU/ICU	1497
Call Log Home Isolation Services/Treatment	10279
Psychological First Aid (Only PFA)	8093
Individual Reach during Awareness/Sensitization session	42675



Augmenting COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage in District Peshawar, KP



The aim of this project is to enhance COVID -19 vaccine coverage in district Peshawar to save lives of vulnerable population by improving their immunity against COVID-19 through support of International Medical Corps (IMC).

Specific objectives/results of the intervention include the following:

- Improved access of registered individuals to vaccination services through static and mobile vaccination facilities.
- Enhanced knowledge and attitude of hesitant individuals and communities by enabling them to access scientifically accurate information on COVID-19 vaccination.



Project achieved quite good coverage of the vaccination across Peshawar district beside awareness and advocacy through outdoor media like billboards and banners throughout the city at strategically selected locations. As of November 2021, following number of people are vaccinated through the program in Peshawar District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

Direct beneficiaries supported by vaccine response (Vaccination & Awareness Sessions) 247,913		Indirect beneficiaries (Outdoor media campaign) 1,813,780	
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ECHO - Strengthening Healthcare and Nutrition in Emergencies (SHiNE)

This 14-months program is designed to strengthen primary healthcare services and nutrition for vulnerable populations of 2 Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP); namely, South Waziristan and Orakzai and will strengthen the response and coordination among humanitarian actors in Pakistan. IRC will work in partnership with MERF and Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF). The project contributed towards achieving the following results:

- Increased accessibility and availability of essential, lifesaving and quality health care services for beneficiaries in targeted districts
- Improved nutritional status of children < 5 and Pregnant & Lactating Women (PLW) through Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) programs in the targeted districts.
- The response to humanitarian and development needs in Pakistan is strengthened through improved coordination, advocacy, and information and knowledge management.



Key Interventions	Number of Beneficiaries (District Orakzai & South Waziristan)
OPD Consultations (Specialized & General)	61,117
MNCH Services (ANC & PNC Visits)	4,532
Institutional Deliveries (Normal/ NVDs)	170
Nutrition Intervention (Children and PLW screening , OTP Admissions, SFP & NSC Admissions)	21,654
Participants - Health, Nutrition & IYCF Awareness Sessions	5,209

COVID-19 Response – Risk Communication & Community Engagement

MERF responded to COVID-19 emergency at its initial phase with support from UNICEF. The challenges posed by spread of COVID-19 required an effective response. Risk communication and community engagement were key components of preparedness and response plan on COVID-19. Therefore, as the virus started spreading in the month of March in Pakistan, UNICEF designed a community awareness and engagement project in selected districts of KP with high incidence of COVID-19 cases. The main objectives of the intervention were to:

- Ensured that the outbreak of COVID-2019 is contained through timely response.

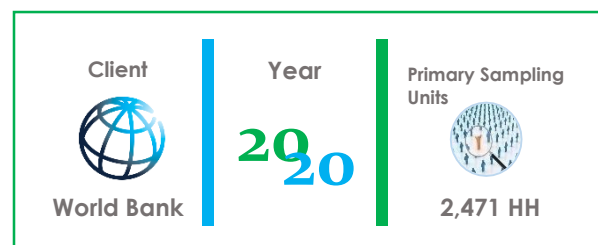


- Provided support to high-risk district health authorities / Departments of Health to prioritize risk communication and community engagement activities and its implementation.



Quetta Urban Survey

The Quetta Urban Survey being carried out by MERF is a multi-purpose household survey that aims to obtain detailed information on the quality of living and access to basic services and infrastructure in urban spaces. This includes a range of themes such as water and sanitation, solid waste management, urban poverty, gender issues, labour market participation and economic empowerment, domestic and international migration, as well as individual aspirations.



National Nutrition Survey 2018

MERF as implementing partner of The Aga Khan University carried out data collection under National Nutrition Survey 2018 in 31 districts of Balochistan and KP including NMDs. The project was completed in February 2019.



KAP and SMART Survey in Balochistan

The survey was conducted in 16 districts of Balochistan on behalf of Department of Health, Government of Balochistan with funding and direct supervision of UNICEF. The surveys were aimed to assess malnutrition and its risk factors which contribute towards the high malnutrition rate. A total of 23,000 HHs were covered in the survey and it was completed in 2017.



Home based Workers Survey in Balochistan:

Home-Based Workers Survey conducted by MERF under The World Bank grant in two districts of Baluchistan namely Quetta and Kharan from Nov 2021.to Jan 2023. MERF teams surveyed door to door for data collection in both the district under very difficult conditions to access the livelihoods and other reverent indication to fulfil the objective of this survey.



Health Skills training for (erstwhile) FATA women

Completed in 2018, the program trained 320 women from (erstwhile) FATA in 06 months' health skills training program through skills centers located in Khyber. The training course comprised of Maternal Health, Nutrition, Family Planning/Birth spacing, Child Health, Immunization and Home-based Care for common illnesses.



Nursing Degree Programme for (erstwhile) FATA Women

In order to meet the shortage of female health workforce in (erstwhile) FATA, MERF under its skills development program with support from FATA-DA is implementing a 04 years nursing program recognized by Pakistan Nursing Council for FATA women. Under this program, 100 female students (Fata residents) were selected who are now undergoing a 04 years nursing program. The program will be completed in September 2020 and would provide much needed health workforce in the region.



Community Midwifery Course for (erstwhile) FATA Women

Under its skills development program with support from FATA-DA, MERF selected and trained 100 female students who were residents of (erstwhile) FATA in 18 months Community Midwifery Course recognized by Pakistan Nursing Council. The project was completed in 2018.



Capacity Building for Rational Use of Drugs

This training aimed to provide policy document for rational use of drugs requires that patients receive medicines appropriate to their clinical needs, in doses that meet their own individual requirements, for an adequate period of time, and at the lowest cost to them and the community.

Special Mega Projects:

Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) Mass Distribution - 2022

LLIN mass distribution campaign aims to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality through achieving universal coverage, and consistent and correct use of LLINs by the households in the targeted districts.

MERF partnered with the Directorate of Malaria Control- DoMC (Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination), Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHHN) and under the slogan of 'Zero Malaria Starts with Me'.

The campaign ensured that 100% of the targeted households mobilized through Social & Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) using mass media: radio, SMS, social media outreach, IEC material outreach to participate in the campaign and that correct Social & Behavioral Change (SBC) messages are passed consistently during each phase of campaign.

Over **7500 volunteers and field staff** were involved in door to door campaign at filed level and distribution points in 18 targeted districts.

The campaign covered **1,129,285 households** (HH) living in the target districts during the HH registration and for net distribution.

The Government of Pakistan is conducting a mass distribution campaign of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) in 18 targeted districts in Baluchistan including worst flood affected districts, 2 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one in Sindh. These districts have been selected on the basis of their high endemic status. The aim of the campaign is to ensure maximum protection of individuals from mosquito bites by distributing bed nets free of costs, to all families in rural areas of the selected districts.



A total of **2.9 million** LLINs distributed under this campaign in following district across 3 provinces:

Province	Districts	Number of LLINs
Balochistan	15 districts	1,676,584
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	02 districts	699,888
Sindh	01 district	549,169
Total	18 districts	2,925,641

Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) Mass Distribution - 2023

MERF with support from Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) with funding from The Global Fund, in collaboration with the Provincial malaria control programs and Federal Directorate of Malaria Control (DoMC) targeting **13,195,600 people** by distributing **6,125,000 nets** in **20 districts** of Balochistan, Sindh and KP.

MERF will conduct door to door Household Registration (HHR), Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) and mass distribution through mobile and fixed Distribution Points (DPs) in selected districts under this mass campaign.

Over **14,000 volunteers** and personals are involved in mass distribution after macro and microplanning of this nationwide campaign and trainings and capacity building of staff involved at Federal, Provincial, Districts and Union Councils. levels.

Our Team

MERF has a dynamic and vibrant team of over **2500** professionals led by leadership with decades of experience and expertise in humanitarian and development sectors in public health, hospital management, emergencies, nutrition, WASH and other thematic areas in programs implementation and monitoring, financial management, supply chain management and administration. This number includes women workforce in administrative as well as at field and facilities level positions representing an improving gender balance. These are the staff that are directly hired by MERF while MERF is also managing more than **2000 government staff** that are seconded to MERF under PPP model. Similarly, MERF is also managing HR roster that include more than **14,000** professionals and volunteers. MERF's leadership believes in delegating tasks to team members, which allows them to focus on improving workplace functions and productivity. MERF team is strongly committed to their work and follows strategic and sectoral need approaches.

MERF Team Over the Years	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Staff	412	196	827	349	956	371	1324	465	1754	754
Total	608		1176		1327		1789		2508	

The Leadership



Dr. Syed Shah Miran
Chief Executive Officer



Sayed Ghalib
Director Operations



Dr. Khurram Awan
Director Health Programs



Faisal Riaz
Director Finance



Dr. Aurang Zeib
Emergency Response Coordinator



Tariq Mehr
Sr. Manager Grants, Compliance & Audits



Sardar Asad
Senior Manager-Logistics



Fozia Naeem
Senior Manager-HR

Financial Portfolio

MERF has a sound financial management system, policies and procedures. There is a clear segregation of duties with clearly defined authorization threshold. The system ensures that the financial information and documentation is accurate, complete and as per best industry practices.

