



## **Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN**

### **Geneva**

### **WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD 148<sup>th</sup> Session (virtual)** **(18-26 January, 2021)**

*Agenda item 12: Immunization Agenda 2030*

**Mr. Chairman,**

2020 has been marked by the unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic. Multitude of eligible children missed out on their routine vaccinations during lockdown, exacerbating existing inequities and putting the marginalized and poorest communities at a greater risk.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In Pakistan, immunization services remained suspended for about two months as a result of which an estimated 1.5 million eligible children missed their essential vaccines doses. However, despite operational challenges, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), Pakistan proceeded to resume immunization services in May, 2020 with strict infection prevention and control measures in place. Apart from resumption of routine immunization services in the fixed sites, Enhanced Outreach Activities (EOA) were commenced across the country and I am pleased to report that so far over **96%** of the missed children have been covered.

Pakistan has further continued making huge nationwide investments to address the chronic gaps in our immunization system and in the next three months we will celebrate the renovation of around 2000 EPI centers and add around 600 new EPI centers. We are further integrating immunization services with the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI), Maternal and Neonatal Healthcare and Nutrition Programme. Forty Super High Risk Union Councils (SHRUCs) are being especially focused to provide a holistic health package to marginalized communities residing in these UCs.

Moving forward, Pakistan, in pursuance of the immunization agenda-2030 goals, is aiming to achieve Universal Immunization Coverage (UIC) by tracking all zero-dose children by extending the mobile phone-based electronic immunization registry (EIR) system and reach all tracked zero-dose children through meticulous micro-planning, conducting enhanced outreach and through expansion of immunization service delivery by engaging private sector and NGOs health facilities.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Pakistan believes that for a safer and healthier world, Immunization programmes across the globe will need to work relentlessly for vaccinating every child and leave no child behind by optimal operationalization of Immunization Agenda-2030. The support of all stakeholders within countries and international partners would remain imperative for our collective success.

\*\*\*\*\*