

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

# COVID-19 SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN

## USAID’s Integrated Health Systems Strengthening & Service Delivery (IHSS-SD) Activity



**COVID-19**  
Progress Update

March-June 2020

With funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the IHSS-SD Activity is supporting the Government of Pakistan and Health Departments in all provinces and regions to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The support package was designed primarily around disease surveillance. After receiving USAID’s approval on the COVID-19 focused work plan on March 25, 2020, JSI and its consortium partner Contech International started implementing the following activities across Pakistan:

1. Strengthening Provincial Disease Surveillance & Response Units (PDSRUs)
2. Establishing Districts Disease Surveillance & Response Units (DDSRUs)
3. Building the capacity of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and surveillance personnel in all districts
4. Orienting health care providers on COVID-19 and use of the HealthAlert® smartphone application

### HIGHLIGHTS (MARCH-JUNE 2020)



**Disease Surveillance & Response Units:** Three PDSRUs have been strengthened and 55 DDSRUs are fully operational. Work is underway in 32 additional DDSRUs.



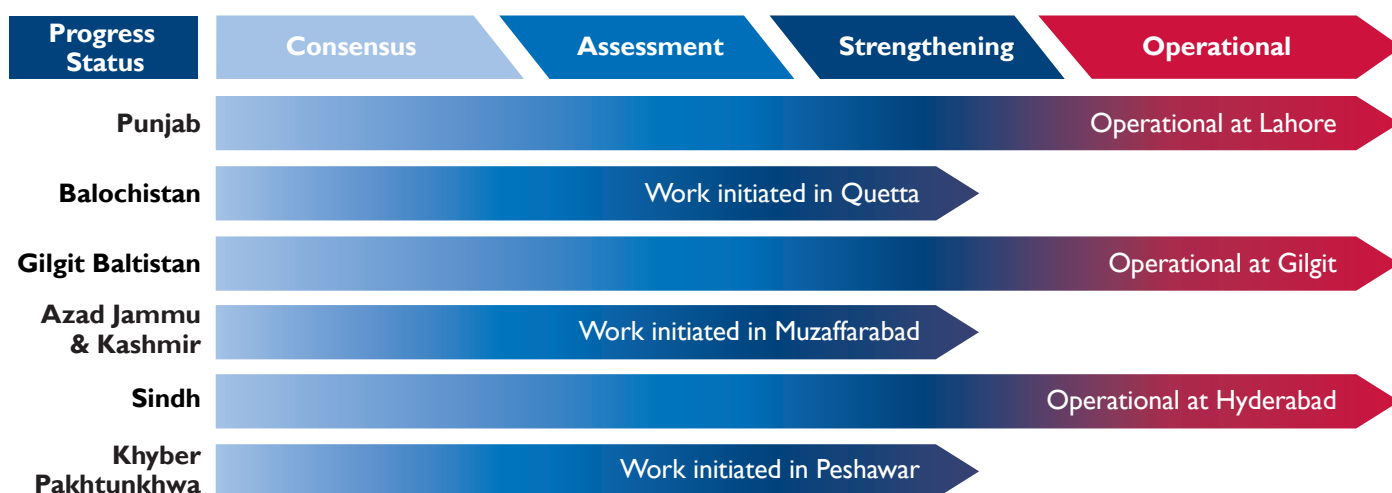
**Rapid Response Teams:** 2,432 RRT members have been trained from 123 districts across Sindh, Punjab, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Islamabad, and Balochistan.



**HealthAlert® Application:** Against the initial target of 12,200, by the end of May 2020, 13,368 health care providers have been oriented on using HealthAlert® for COVID-19 reporting.

### STRENGTHENING OF PROVINCIAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE & RESPONSE UNITS

The IHSS-SD Activity is strengthening the PDSRUs that were established with support from the Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training Programme-National Institute of Health. IHSS-SD is building the capacity of PDSRU staff and establishing linkages between PDSRU and DDSRUs. The project is supporting minor repair work and providing office equipment (audio-visual equipment, workstations, computers, and meeting rooms) to support the COVID-19 response.





### ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT DISEASE SURVEILLANCE & RESPONSE UNITS

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, districts across Pakistan lacked systems for disease surveillance and response. To fill this critical gap, the IHSS-SD Activity started to support the establishment of DDSRUs in all districts in Pakistan. In consultation with district health authorities, the appropriate space for establishing DDSRUs was allocated. IHSS-SD is continuing to provide support through:

- Building the capacity of DDSRU staff and establishing linkages with the respective PDSRUs
- Refurbishing DDSRUs through minor repair work
- Providing DDSRUs with workstations, meeting rooms, audio-visual equipment, computers, and Internet connectivity

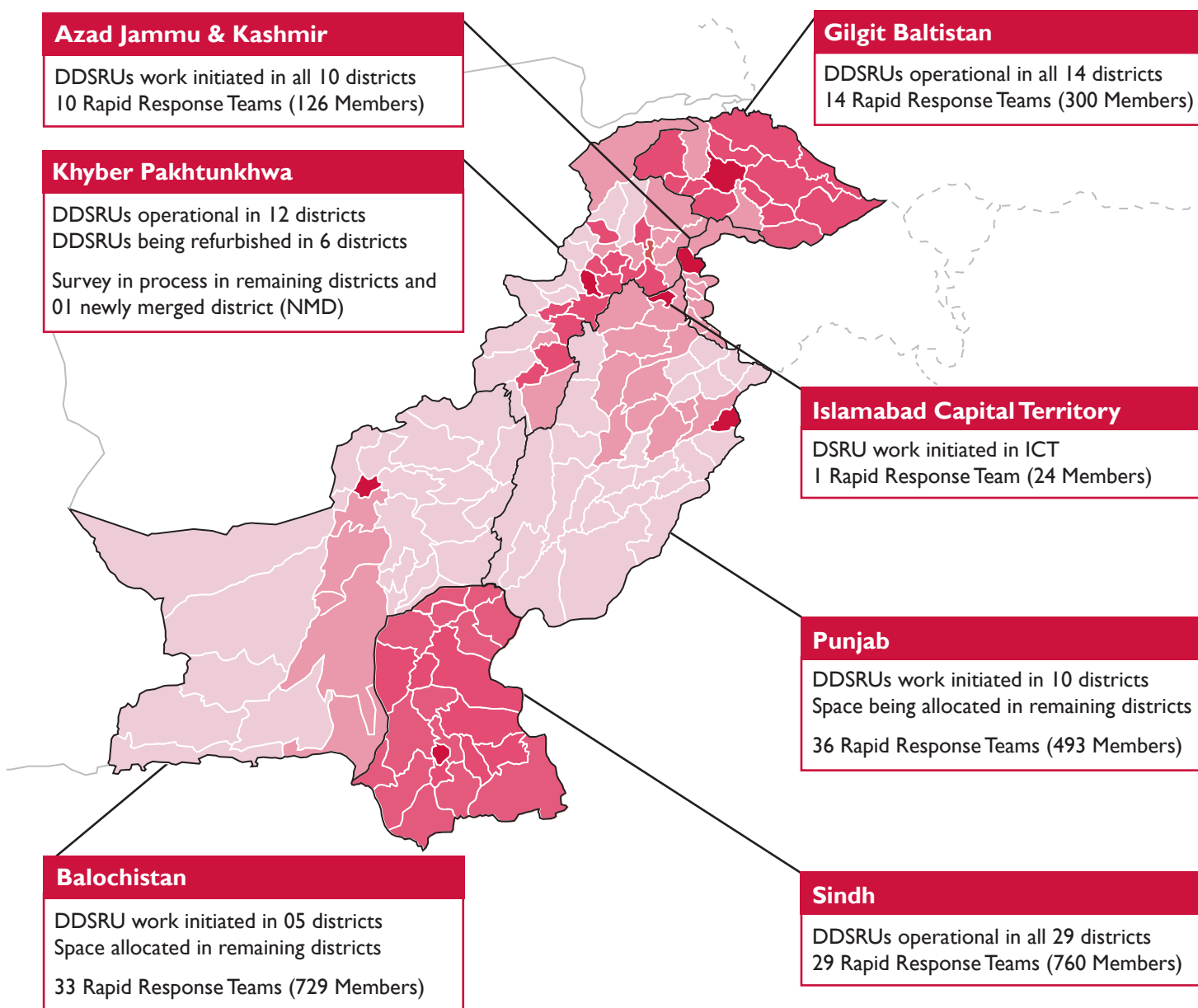


### CAPACITY BUILDING OF DISTRICT RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

The IHSS-SD Activity supported provincial and regional governments to train RRT in all districts in Pakistan. By the end of May 2020, 2,432 members of 123 RRTs had been trained by master trainers, who were trained through support of the National Institute of Health. Trainings will soon commence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Training focuses on:

- Case definition, management & surveillance; active case finding and contact tracing; sample collection, storage and transportation
- Infection Prevention & Control and use of PPE; risk communication & community engagement; safe burial practices
- Analysis of daily reports and alerts

Fully Operational
  Work Initiated
  Under Consensus
  Provincial Unit





## ORIENTATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS ON THE USE OF HEALTHALERT® APPLICATION FOR REPORTING ON COVID-19

Through IHSS-SD Activity support, health care providers have been equipped with HealthAlert®, an easy-to-use smartphone application. Against the initial target of 12,200, by the end of May 2020, 13,368 healthcare providers have been oriented on the use of the HealthAlert® application for reporting on COVID-19. This includes 8,285 private sector providers, who have historically not been included in building surveillance networks. Health care providers are using HealthAlert® every day for generating COVID-19 alerts, which DDSRUs and RRTs use to respond to suspected cases. HealthAlert® provides:

- Real-time Reporting on COVID-19
- Zero Reporting
- Access to National Guidelines on COVID-19
- A web-based dashboard of COVID-19 infections

Public & Private Sectors      Private Sector

