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Maternal Wellbeing & Early Childhood Development

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has prioritised mental health within the national development agenda, a distinction shared by only a limited number of countries around the world. The 5Es framework is a strategic roadmap towards sustainable growth and economic stability, focusing on five critical pillars. A key pillar, Equity, addresses the fundamental issues of accessibility, inclusivity, and social justice in healthcare delivery and envisions MHPSS as a key area to focus on creating equitable access to mental health services for all population segments.

A policy dialogue was convened by the Health & Nutrition Sections at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives on the 11th August 2026, in collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan. The aim was to deliberate on maternal wellbeing, including mental health of the mother, as a determinant of early childhood development. The event was attended by key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders including UN organisations, INGOs, and NGOs working on early childhood development & maternal mental health. A panel discussion was also held to highlight the need for a multi-sectoral approach to ensure holistic wellbeing of the mothers including care for their mental health.

The Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit presented the implementation of MHPSS services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, where the Unit is providing technical support to develop Mental Health & Psychosocial Support services, with special emphasis on the needs of women and vulnerable communities.



Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit