

**District Haripur: Refresher Training**

To integrate mental healthcare in primary care, 36 primary care physicians in Haripur were trained to manage common mental disorders. Following remote supervision for 6 months, a 3-day refresher training workshop was conducted from 21st - 23rd April, 2026 to reinforce clinical competencies and ensure standardized quality of care.

The trainings are supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through their implementing partners Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and International Medical Corps, in Pakistan. The SSARC team visited the training venue to directly engage with participants and obtain first-hand feedback on their training experience – outside of any formal evaluation process administered by the implementing team.



Participants valued the refresher training in terms of strengthening confidence, reinforcing knowledge, improving their ability to identify and manage common mental health conditions in practice, and making them more comfortable in applying psychosocial support strategies and managing cases. They appreciated the supervision process, prompt response from supervisors, and effectiveness of WhatsApp groups for peer-led learning and support. The refresher also improved their understanding of the app and its role in monitoring.



The number of cases received via the mhGAP-HIG-PK app from Haripur was much lower than from Kohat. Though participants found the app user-friendly and appreciated its potential as a supportive clinical tool, its routine use in practice remained limited due to heavy workload and busy clinical practice. Some participants were also reluctant to use the app for data entry, fearing poor performance evaluation from supervisors. In addition, loss to follow-up among patients was reported as a major challenge, linked to cultural factors and poor treatment adherence, which further affected continuity of care and entering follow-up data on the app.

The refresher training helped share experiences, address misconceptions, overcome technical glitches to use the app, and motivate the doctors to continue the practice of submitting clinical data for monitoring and evaluation of the service.

**Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit**