

Report
FOURTH NATIONAL MHPSS COORDINATION MEETING
29th June 2026
Peshawar

Organized & reported by
Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit
Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Islamabad

In collaboration with
Directorate General Health Services, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Supported by
International Medical Corps, Pakistan through
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Pakistan

Fourth National MHPSS Coordination Meeting

The 4th MHPSS National Coordination Meeting was held on 29th June in Peshawar, which was chaired by Mr. Khaliq ur Rehman, Provincial Minister for Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

This meeting also marked the conclusion of the one-year pilot implementation of the MHPSS services in the districts of Haripur and Kohat. The report on the pilot implementation of the MHPSS services was presented by the Mental Health Strategic Planning & Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, who led the pilot implementation. The pilot was implemented in collaboration with the Directorate of Public Health, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The pilot project was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Pakistan and their implementing partners: International Medical Corps and Handicap International in Pakistan.



Left to right:

Dr. Asma Humayun, MHSP&C Unit
Dr. Humera Seemab, Public Health Directorate
Dr. Muhammad Asif, MoPD&SI
Mr. Khaleeq ur Rehman, Health Minister
Mr. Bakhtiyar Ahmed, IMC
Ms. Sanam Younis, SSARC, GIZ

Participants of the meeting

The meeting was attended by key national and international stakeholders, both in-person and online. Governmental partners included representatives from the Directorate General Health Services, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Health Section, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives; Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination; the Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees; Department of Health, Gilgit Baltistan; and Balochistan Institute of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; District Health Office, Kohat.

In addition, representatives of the German Embassy, teams from SSARC project, GIZ; International Medical Corps, Handicap International, International Organization for Migration (UN-IOM), UNHCR, Relief International, University of Peshawar, Pakistan Red Crescent Society; Islamic Relief; and SHARP also attended the event.

The Meeting brought together government representatives, development partners and implementing organizations to review progress, strengthen coordination, and discuss the scale-up of MHPSS services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Participants acknowledged the strong collaboration of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MoPD&SI) & the DGHS, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with GIZ, International Medical Corps (IMC), and Handicap International (HI) to implement a comprehensive and coordinated MHPSS service.



The meeting agenda was as follows:

Fourth National MHPSS Coordination Meeting

Monday June 29, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Serena Hotel, Peshawar

11:00 a.m.	Welcome Tea
11:30 a.m.	Arrival of the Chief Guest
11:40am	Role of German Development Cooperation <i>Helene Paust, German Embassy</i>
11:50am	Role of MoPD&SI <i>Dr M Asif, Health Section, MoPD&SI</i>
12:00 a.m.	Pilot implementation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa <i>Dr Asma Humayun, National Technical Advisor, MHSP&C Unit</i>
12:20 a.m.	MHPSS Scale-up Plan in KP <i>Directorate of Public Health, DGHS, KP</i>
12:40 p.m.	Presentation of MHPSS Pilot Implementation Report <i>MHSP&C Unit to Health Department, KP</i>
12:50 p.m.	Remarks by the Chief Guest <i>Mr. Khaliq ur Rahmen, Minister of Health, KP</i>
1:10 p.m.	Vote of thanks <i>Mr. Bakhtiar Ahmad, Country Director, IMC</i>
1:20 p.m.	Group photo
1:30 p.m.	Lunch

Proceedings of the Meeting

1. [Role of German Development Cooperation](#)

The meeting commenced with the remarks from Ms. Helene Paust, Deputy Head of Cooperation from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation. She reaffirmed BMZ's commitment to support the Government of Pakistan in strengthening access to public MHPSS services for vulnerable populations and highlighted that the key component of their support fostered the close collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Planning and the provincial government. She further reinforced the importance of sustained collaboration among government and development partners to institutionalize MHPSS through coordinated planning, standardized implementation, and sustainable systems for long-term service delivery.

2. [Role of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives \(MoPD&SI\)](#)

Dr. Muhammad Asif, Chief Health, Planning Commission, reiterated the Ministry's agenda to integrate MHPSS into national development frameworks, as it did by including in the 5Es Framework and Uraan Pakistan, with ongoing efforts to embed mental health into broader national policies and planning. He reflected on the development of the digital and context-specific MHPSS model in 2021 to address workforce shortage and service gaps. He stated that the Ministry has prioritized mental health as a national development agenda with implications for human capital, productivity, education, social protection, disaster resilience, and economic development. He further emphasized the importance of sustaining the KP pilot and using the lessons learned to develop an incremental roll out plan across the province.

3. [Pilot Implementation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#)

Dr. Asma Humayun, National Technical Advisor on Mental Health from the Mental Health Strategic Planning and Coordination Unit, who led the pilot implementation, presented the findings from the MHPSS pilot implemented in the districts of Kohat and Haripur. The pilot demonstrated the feasibility of implementing an evidence-driven, digital, multi-tier MHPSS service model within the public health system, linking community, primary healthcare, and specialists through an integrated referral pathway.

The implementation successfully established a trained workforce comprising 400 Hamdard Force members, 10 clinical psychologists, 76 primary care physicians, and 3 specialists. The workforce was supported by a centralized digital MHPSS portal integrated with a learning management system (LMS) and 3 mobile applications. The digital platform enabled real-time case management through ongoing supervision, ensured documentation and effective monitoring and evaluation for reporting.

Overall, 855 cases were referred from the communities by the Hamdard Force at Tier 1. These cases were assessed and managed by the clinical psychologists at Tier 2. At Tier 3, the trained primary care physicians reported 627 cases they managed, under supervision where needed. Pilot findings highlighted substantial unmet mental health and psychosocial needs within the community, particularly among women and young adults. It has also demonstrated the effectiveness of a trained community workforce to identify individuals with unmet MHPSS needs without access to care. The MHPSS system facilitated service delivery through evidence-based

pharmacological and psychosocial interventions, helped integrate mental healthcare into primary healthcare services and established referral pathways between the community, primary care and specialist services.

The outcome of the pilot highlights the importance of structured supervision to maintain service quality, data collection and a strong monitoring and evaluation system. The pilot has provided evidence for identifying service needs, social determinants, diagnostic categories and interventions offered to help develop the programme further. Overall, the findings provide robust evidence to support scale-up of the MHPSS model, not just across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but in other provinces as well.

4. MHPSS Scale-up Plan in KP

Dr. Humera Seemab, Director of Public Health and Dr. Haroon Latif, Deputy Director, Public Health, expressed their commitment and presented their efforts to develop a sustainable plan to roll out MHPSS services to other districts. Dr. Haroon mentioned that the Health Department is committed to pursue a plan for phased expansion across the province, and that a concept note is currently being processed. The planned priorities of the department include workforce expansion, integration of the digital system for monitoring outcomes, strengthening referral pathways, and incorporation of MHPSS in the KP Health Policy (2026–2030). The department also highlighted their efforts to collaborate with the MHSP&C Unit to notify a Technical Working Group for mental health legislative reforms.

5. Remarks by the Minister for Health

The provincial minister for Health, Mr. Khaleeq ur Rehman, underscored the growing importance of mental health as a core component of the healthcare services and shared the commitment of the provincial government to strengthen MHPSS services through evidence-based policies and effective coordination with all partners. He acknowledged the growing burden of mental health conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, driven by prolonged conflict, terrorism, and climate-related emergencies. He emphasized that strengthening the capacity of primary healthcare physicians through training is critical to improving access to quality mental healthcare in Pakistan. He reaffirmed the Health Department's commitment to building the capacity of the primary healthcare workforce as a key strategy for reducing the mental health treatment gap and expanding equitable access to services. Lastly, he applauded the efforts of the MHSP&C Unit and implementing partners and in achieving the successful milestone in developing the mental health system in the province, which laid the foundation for the entire country.

6. Vote of Thanks

Mr. Bakhtiyar Ahmed, Country Director of International Medical Corps, Pakistan, thanked all participants for their engagement and reaffirmed the importance of continued collaboration among government and development partners in achieving this significant milestone and advancing MHPSS in Pakistan.