



# Provincial Disaster Management Authority

Annual Newsletter

January - December 2020

## Message from the Director General

Provincial Disaster Management Authority, PDMA (SINDH), with the beginning of new year 2020, continued on its track for a disaster resilient environment for the people of Sindh. PDMA Sindh primarily focused on the emergency operations against COVID-19 and within the available resources, PDMA Sindh engaged itself into various activities including COVID awareness and countering the pandemic. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) of PDMA Sindh with the help of volunteers and social organizations were activated which played a pivotal role in awareness campaigns on grounds and various media platforms. Early warning system of PDMA played an effective role in raising awareness and serving the people who had recently travelled from abroad and to those diagnosed as COVID-19 positive patients.

Although, during first phase of COVID pandemic, lockdown was imposed by Government but the staff and volunteers of PDMA worked day and night throughout the period in doing whatever that was possible to keep the public safe.

With the help of World Bank Funded, Sindh Resilience Project, PDMA was successful in delivering Ventilators, COVID testing Kits, Mobile X-ray Machines, ICU Beds, PPE's (Personal Protection Equipment) and other items to Health Department GoS and various Districts as per the requirement.

PDMA Sindh also effectively engaged its resources to facilitate the affectees of flooding and relief camps were established in affected Districts which played a pivotal role in facilitating and minimizing the miseries of those who were left homeless due to floods.

PDMA Sindh is thankful to various non-governmental organizations and institutions which came forward in such a difficult time and helped us in serving the masses. PDMA worked very closely with Health Department, NDMA, District Administrations and other line Departments during pandemic and is also thankful for their support in such a needful time.

I once again reiterate and reassure that, PDMA Sindh would leave no stone unturned in service to public and shall do whatever within its available resources to create a disaster resilient environment for the people of Sindh.

*(Syed Salman Shah)*



Syed Salman Shah  
Director General

### **Rescue Operation At Sukkur**

On 3rd of January 2020, a residential building collapsed in Sukkur with the residents inside, in this regard a 20 Member rescue team of Technical Staff (KMC) led by Deputy Director Operations PDMA Sindh Mr. Zulfiqar Thebo, reached Sukkur equipped with manual and hydraulic concrete cutters to take part in rescue operations. Rescue team worked closely with the District Administration and other rescue teams including that of Pakistan Army and was successful in rescuing few survivors.

### **Consulative Meeting with World Food Program**

On 26th of January 2020, a consultative meeting on implementation of Building Disaster Resilience in Pakistan (BDRP) was held at PDMA Headquarters in Karachi. The meeting was chaired by Director (Operations) PDMA Sindh, Mr. Shafique Shaikh and was attended by a delegation of World Food Program (WFP) and various staff members of PDMA Sindh.

### **Minister Rehabilitation Department visits PDMA Sindh**

On 13th of March 2020, Minister Rehabilitation Department, Faraz Dero visited PDMA HQ Karachi in wake of a possible wide outbreak of Corona Virus. During visit, the Minister chaired an important meeting with the staff members of PDMA Sindh on the preparations for outbreak of COVID-19.

Minister Rehabilitation Department directed PDMA Sindh to stay prepared for COVID operations and arrange preventive kits and other necessary supplies to support line Departments.

### **Meeting With Renowned TV Anchor Iqar-ul-Hassan**

On 20th of March 2020, renowned TV anchor Iqar-ul-Hassan called on DG PDMA Sindh Syed Salman Shah at his office. During meeting Iqar-ul-Hassan volunteered his services for the noble cause of fight against Coronavirus and agreed to initiate awareness campaign for Covid-19 along with his team. DG PDMA Sindh Syed Salman Shah thanked Iqar-ul-Hassan for his voluntary services and assured him full cooperation by PDMA Sindh.

### **Community Emergency Response Teams(CERT) of PDMA Sindh engaged in COVID-19 awareness**

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) of PDMA Sindh were engaged in COVID-19 awareness and facilitation of public on the roads of Karachi. In this regard, CERT teams guided the public on maintaining hygiene that is the main solution for countering COVID-19.



### **COVID - 19 Operations**

PDMA Sindh is engaged in COVID-19 Operations to counter the pandemic. In this regard, a large number of supplies including medical beds, drip stands and other PPE's were provided to District administrations for establishment of isolation centers throughout the province.

Mobile Hospitals with the help of state of the art hospital tents were also established in Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas as a back up in case of the rising numbers of patients coming in for isolation.

PDMA Sindh also ensured supplies to various hospitals of the province to protect and save doctors and paramedical staff from the virus. In this regard, a large quantity of masks, PPE's ( including gloves, Tyvek suits, safety goggles, shoe covers etc) were supplied to hospitals throughout the province.

PDMA Sindh also supplied other medical equipment including ventilators, COVID testing kits, ICU Bed, mobile X-Ray units etc to Health Department GoS for installation at various hospitals throughout the province.

### **The Minister for Home and PDMA Balochistan visited PDMA Sindh**

On 5th of August 2020, Minister for Home Department and PDMA Balochistan Mr.Ziaullah, visited PDMA Sindh. Upon arrival, the Minister was received by Secretary Rehabilitation Department Riaz Hussain Soomro and was later given a briefing on functionality and operational capacities of PDMA Sindh.

Minister Home Balochistan thanked PDMA for the warm welcome and the briefing and further assured the cooperation between PDMA's of both Provinces for future aspects.

### **PDMA Sindh in relief operations of collapsed building at Korangi, Karachi**

On 10th September 2020 a residential building collapsed at Korangi, Karachi. A team of PDMA Sindh led by Assistant Director (Operations) rushed to the scene and engaged immediately for the recovery of survivors. PDMA Sindh continued its operations throughout the day and night time.

### **Flood Operations by PDMA Sindh**

The province Sindh is very vulnerable in terms of flooding and this year Sindh received a very heavy downpour due to torrential rains throughout the Province and a large number of people were displaced due to Urban & Flash flooding. PDMA Sindh immediately rushed for the relief of affectees and in collaboration with District Administrations/DDMA's, multiple camps were established in various Districts of the Province for the facilitation of affectees. Other than establishing camps, PDMA Sindh also remained engaged in supplying food rations and other necessary hygiene items to people settled and stranded at remote locations throughout the Province. A large number of relief items including Tents, Ration Bags, Mosquito Nets, Hygeine kits, Dewatering Machines, Boats etc were dispatched to various Districts.

World Food Program (WFP) and various other Organizations stayed in contact with PDMA Sindh and were facilitated accordingly for continuation of their relief Operations without any hurdle.

**Country Director WFP called on DG PDMA Sindh**

On 19th September 2020, Country Director World Food Program Chris Kaye called on DG PDMA Sindh at his office to discuss ongoing relief ops for rains and flood. DG PDMA thanked WFP for their support in relief operations and provision of ration bags for the affectees.

Furthermore, both Organizations agreed upon to continue the cooperation for rehabilitation of disaster affectees.

**Head of Govt affairs/ Director Human Resource Coca Cola (Pakistan & Afghanistan region), called on DG PDMA Sindh**

On 22nd of September 2020, Dr Faisal Hashmi, Head of Govt affairs/ Director Human Resource Coca Cola (Pakistan & Afghanistan region), called on DG PDMA Sindh Syed Salman Shah at his office and handed over 2000 ration bags for the victims of torrential rains and flood.

DG PDMA Sindh Syed Salman Shah thanked Mr Hashmi for the support in hard times and assured him about the transparent distribution of rations amongst affectees.

**UNOCHA Deputy Head of Regional office for Asia & Pacific called on DG PDMA Sindh**

On 30th of September 2020, Mr. Michel Saad, Deputy Head of Regional office for Asia & Pacific UNOCHA called on DG PDMA Sindh Syed Salman Shah at his office . During meeting matters related to recent torrential rains and plans for intervention by UN for Rain affected were discussed.

**National Resilience Day 2020**

On 8th of October 2020, PDMA Sindh observed National Resilience Day at A.K Khan park, Sea View, Karachi. This day is being observed on 8th of Oct every year in commemoration of Earthquake 2005 victims. Secretary Rehabilitation Department Mr. Riaz Hussain Soomro was Chief Guest at the gathering.

The participants of the event observed candle light vigil and 2 minutes of silence to pay homage/show respect to the victims of past disasters while practical demos of rescue & shake out drills were given by Aga Khan foundation.

Chief Guest along with other guests also visited various stalls by different NGOs and took keen interest in rescue equipment and print materials on display. In the end, a walk was held joined by a large number of people present at the gathering. .

**Tsunami Awareness/Early Warning System**

PDMA Sindh with assistance of NDRMF is in process of establishing Tsunami awareness/early warning system for the coastal areas of the Province. In this regard, PDMA Sindh organized a consultative meeting of stakeholders on Tsunami Awareness Project at PDMA HQ Karachi on 27th of October 2020. Representatives of UNDP, Pakistan Meteorological Department, NED University & Pakistan Red Crescent Society participated in the meeting and presented ideas and methodology of establishing an effective Tsunami Awareness mechanism.



## **Stockpiling of Relief Items**

Sindh Resilience Project (PDMA) was already engaged in activity related to stockpiling of relief items for PDMA Sindh. During COVID - 19, SRP(PDMA) immediately supplied relief items including tents (Hospital tents & Washroom Tents) to PDMA Sindh which were very useful in establishment of Isolation Centers and other medical facilities.

## **Early Warning System**

Sindh Resilience Project (PDMA) has developed an early warning system through Short Messaging Service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response (IVR/ Robo Calls). This activity played an important role during Corona Emergency duties for PDMA Sindh as awareness IVRs were sent to vulnerable areas and SMS's containing COVID awareness and precautionary measures were also sent to vulnerable population.

In addition, such SMS's were also sent to airline passengers who had travelled from abroad and to COVID-19 positive patients regarding SOP's and contact information etc incase of deterioration of their health.

## **COVID - 19 Emergency Response**

Sindh Resilience Project ( PDMA Component) with the help of World Bank, initiated COVID - 19 Emergency response. During COVID operations SRP(PDMA) supplied state of the art Hamilton ventilators, PCR Machines, Testing Kits, Defibrillators, Masks, Mobile X-Ray units, ICU Beds and ICU patient Monitors to Health Department, Government of Sindh.

In addition to these, a large number of other items including Tyvek Suits, ICU Beds and other Personal Protection Equipment and Sanitizers were also supplied to Health Department and PDMA Sindh.

During pandemic lock down, SRP(PDMA) remained functional throughout the period and played a vital role in supporting PDMA Sindh and other line Departments in fight against Corona Virus.

Furthermore, a mobile application namely COVID Assessment was also developed for PDMA Sindh which has been launched on Google Play Store facilitating public for self assessment of Corona Virus and furnishing Corona suspect data to concerned line department i.e Health Department GoS.

## **Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)**

PDMA Sindh through World Bank Funded Sindh Resilience Project(PDMA Component) is organizing CBDRM trainings throughout the province to train the communities on countering disasters as first responders. The first stage of such trainings has been concluded while the training of the trainers is underway which shall help in strengthening individuals to the capacity of being trainers themselves so as to transfer such knowledge and methods amongst various sections of the society.

## **Building codes awareness**

In order to minimize the losses due to building collapses, its is mandatory to follow the prescribed building codes of the Government. In this regard, on 13th of November 2020, a consultative meeting with line departments on Building Code awareness as a preemptive measure for conceptualization before initiating the trainings on Building Code awareness throughout the Province.

A large number of participants from various Cantonment Boards, SBCA, ABAD and PDMA Sindh attended the meeting and presented their ideas/ concepts as a way forward for conducting the trainings.



Sukkur: Rescue Ops at collapsed building in Sukkur



Karachi: Consultative meeting with WFP



Karachi: Minister Rehabilitation Department chairs meeting at PDMA HQ



Karachi: DG PDMA meeting with TV anchor Iqrar ul Hassan



Karachi: CERT teams of PDMA Sindh during COVID Operations.



Karachi: CERT teams of PDMA during COVID Operations.



Karachi: Minister Home & PDMA Balochistan visit PDMA Sindh



Karachi: PDMA Sindh Rescue ops at collapsed building in Korangi



Badin: PDMA Sindh relief camp during flooding



Karachi: DG PDMA Sindh meeting with Country Director WFP



Karachi: National Resilience Day 2020



Karachi: Consultative meeting with line Departments on Tsunami awareness Project

## Sindh Resilience Project (PDMA Component)



Karachi: Hospital Tents supplied to PDMA Sindh



Karachi: Ventilators supplied to Health Deptt GoS through PDMA Sindh



Karachi: Trainings on Community Based Disaster Risk Management



Karachi: Trainings of Trainers as a part of CBDRM Program



Karachi: Training Session of Disaster Risk Management



Karachi: Consultative meeting with line Departments on Building codes awareness