

FDI Information Resource Centre: *Enhancing Stakeholder's Access to Immunization Information by a State of the Art Knowledge Management Hub at FDI*

Healthcare workers, academia, researchers, policy makers, managers, local communities and a score of other programme stakeholders require information for effective decision making.

'There is plenty of evidence that access to the right information at the right time can mean the difference between life and death'.

The said phenomenon served as a catalyst for Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazi to envision & establish an Information Resource Centre (IRC) at the Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C), Government of Pakistan.

Dr. MA Kazi, DG, FDI defines FDI's IRC is a knowledge management hub that contributes towards reduction of morbidity and mortality caused by vaccine preventable diseases by getting medical and health knowledge to those who need and apply it.

The content of this information gateway is multi-sourced and multi-plat formed. FDI's Information Resource Centre contain information both in hard and soft forms acquired from federal, provincial and district level Expanded Programme on Immunizations (EPIs), PEI Emergency Operations Centre (EOCs), Government Inline Departments (MNCH, LHW Programme etc.), WHO and UNICEF Provincial Offices, Civil Society Organizations and many other stakeholders are pooling in valued content.

Special Secretary Health, MoNHSR&C, Mr. Mirza Nasir Ud Din Mashhood Ahmad, considers FDI's Information Resource Centre as a great accomplishment as this information repository is pivotal for the Government of Pakistan for making informed decision to reach out general public for immunization interventions be it routine or in campaign mode in the EPI arena.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a proud partner of FDI in this initiative. Dr. Palitha Mahipala, WHO Country Representative in Pakistan during his visit to the IRC commended the vision of DG, FDI after observing collection, storage, analysis, sharing, archiving and display of information in such an organized manner. Dr. Palitha assured FDI of a continued support in this regard.



Dr. MA Kazi, DG, FDI and Dr. Palitha Mahipala WR WHO in FDI Information Resource

FDI Information Resource Centre is a strategic initiative that will cater for medical students, researchers, journalists, policy makers and various other stakeholders by offering them content in hard/physical form such as FAQs, Manuals, IEC Materials, Pictures, Brochures, Newsletter Insertions Leaflets, Annual Reports, Sample of Souvenirs, Diaries, Planners, Case Studies and many other literature.

Additionally, an online portal is being established to access e-copies of all the above mentioned resources also future goals include that this web portal will be used to support online research and information needs of stakeholders. Following are some salient services users will be able to access through the web portal.

Online discussion forums, infographics, Databases for various resources, Downloadable health information materials, E-Learning, Website Linkages, Training directory, Documentaries, IEC Material Designs for reprinting, mapping and other distance learning interventions.

All donors and development partners are onboard with FDI when it comes to the Information Resource Centre. Delegates from GAVI, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, Gates Foundation, World Bank, CDC, JICA have visited the IRC. Dr. Abdullah Fadil, Unicef Country Representative in Pakistan during his visit congratulated the entire team of FDI behind the initiative and stated that this initiative will definitely directly and indirectly help the children of Pakistan.

According to Dr. MA Kazi, this is just a beginning as his future vision foresee transformation of this IRC from a room to a library pattern set up in FDI premises that provides a range of information services to the community and this all will be possible due to constant leadership of MoNHSR&C.