

In Brief

May 2020

This research is part of the [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\) Global Health Research Unit on Improving Health in Slums](#), which focuses on access to healthcare in seven slums in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan. Since June 2017, we have geospatially mapped each site with community members, surveyed households and health facilities about healthcare use and service delivery; and engaged with stakeholders to understand local and national policy-drivers, questions and concerns relevant to the healthcare provision. Now, we are focusing with stakeholders, on healthcare in a COVID-19 context.

The project is led by the University of Warwick, UK, in collaboration with: African Population Health Research Centre, Kenya; Aga Khan University, Pakistan; Independent University, Bangladesh; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Birmingham, UK; Lancaster University, UK; and Keele University, UK. **Principal Investigator (PI), COUNTRY PI:** Dr. Romaina Iqbal.

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COVOICES: Pakistan

Community perspectives on health in slums at the time of COVID-19

As global efforts continue in the fight against COVID-19, it is essential for decision-makers to understand the needs of communities and health workers and how these are changing over time. In Karachi/Pakistan, we are in contact with community - leaders, residents and local health workers of a community. Through weekly phone updates, we are exploring community's perspective in the current COVID-19 context with regard to healthcare access for common ailments & COVID, sources of health information, challenges & solutions on the ground, & practices to contain COVID. In this brief, we present key messages from the week ending May 1st, 2020.



Key Findings

1. People are aware of significance of hand-washing & its proper technique.
2. Social distancing is not being observed; people are roaming on the streets.
3. Curative services are available, preventive services are limited, if any.
4. Food security is a big issue especially for pregnant women & children. Television is the main source of information.
5. Children are roaming on streets without any learning opportunity; most parents are incapable to properly guide them.

Recommendations

1. Television, being the main source of information, need to take lead in educating people about importance of social distancing & its protocols
2. NGOs need to work with government to develop a strategy to re-start routing preventive services specially immunization & ante-natal care
3. Targeted food supply initiatives for families having pregnant women & under 5 children

Thank you to all who are participating.

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Site maps are available to support decision-making. Please contact Narjis Rizvi to discuss site maps

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