

Statement from Minister Population Welfare Punjab
Islamabad 11th July 2017
Family Planning Summit 2017
Pakistan Satellite Event

AOA and Good Afternoon my fellow esteemed guests,

It is an immense pleasure to be here today. It is universally acknowledged that rapid population growth adversely affects the pace and prospect of socio-economic growth. Effective voluntary family planning (FP) services are considered to be cost-effective investment to address this issue. Family planning, not only addresses this challenge, it also results in multiple benefits including the improvement of general family health and overall human welfare.

The global crisis has made it clear that most of the challenges we face today have taken on an increasingly social dimension. Empowering people regarding family planning and reproductive health make them powerful, able and active to participate in socio-economic development. The Punjab Growth Strategy envisions decline in dependency ratio critical to meet rising employment needs and empowerment. It is also recognized that without improved access to Family Planning, important gains made in economic progress would be neutralized.

Punjab, with an area of 25.8 percent of Pakistan is accommodating more than half of the country's population. Gain from demographic dividend in the next two decades can be achieved through investment in education (female education particular), skill development and employment creation along with increase of contraceptive prevalence rate and decline in fertility. Government of the Punjab is focusing on enhancing coverage through expansion of service delivery outlets and access to family planning information through community based workers at village level to attend couples with unmet need for contraception. Provision of free of cost contraceptives and quality FP services is hallmark of Population Welfare Department.

Continuous and uninterrupted supply chain management is ensured and monitored through contraceptive Logistics Management Information System. Improved method mix at all facilities will be ensured. Communication strategy focusing on Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy (HTSP) and behavioral change communication is an initiative of the government.

Another initiative of the government to achieve FP 2020 goals is establishment of Punjab Population Innovation Fund (PPIF) to supplement activities of PWD & Health Department, expand coverage of family planning especially in rural, poor and underserved areas and financing innovative programs of public and private sector organizations. The coordination between all stakeholders including public and private sectors is being strengthened through multi- sectoral program with the technical assistance of World Bank to avail all possible opportunities in the Health System including ante-natal and post-partum family planning through training of outreach workers. Role of Ulema in holding regular dialogue with male community and sensitizing elders and parents is being further strengthened. Social Mobilizers are helping to motivate male members towards increasing the CPR. To address the information and FP service needs of adolescents, Education and Health Centres have been established. The Government believes that Punjab's full potential will only be achieved by improving governance in the public sector for better social sector service delivery.

Punjab remains committed to provide universal access to quality reproductive health care and take steps for youth development and women empowerment. Punjab aims to adopt a multi-sectoral approach by involving all stakeholders in public and private sector in line with Punjab Population Policy, 2017 to capture the Demographic Dividend. Knowledge sharing, innovative approach and strategic partnerships are our route to achieve the FP 2020 goals.