

Bi-Annual Newsletter



April 2025



Quick Updates:



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN IMPACT

After a successful hepatitis C virus (HCV) micro-elimination campaign conducted in the slums of Islamabad, Pakistan, we continue to work with the community through water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) education initiatives in local schools and clinics.



COUNTRY-WIDE ACTION

We are currently coordinating multiple national initiatives across Uzbekistan, including strengthening the sentinel surveillance of respiratory diseases, building capacity in public health emergency management and One Health, and conducting multiple activities supporting the elimination of viral hepatitis, including developing a national action plan and conducting a high-risk micro-elimination campaign.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

*“Health care is vital to all of us
some of the time, but public health
is vital to us all of the time.”*

- C Everett Koop

Today's challenges continue to highlight the critical need for public health professionals and systems across the globe. During this unprecedented time it is crucial to highlight our organization's successes and recognize the efforts of so many wonderful partners worldwide. I have been fortunate enough to work with many talented individuals who continue to teach me new lessons about standing up for public health initiatives that matter and make a difference for those whose lives we touch daily.

Integral Global is proud to deliver this first edition of our newsletter. I started this operation in my garage and today I am happy to see the impact of Integral Global worldwide. Over the past nine years in operation, we have worked in over 19 countries throughout the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and Africa! Our offices in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tanzania continue to thrive. More recently, we have registered our operations in the European Union, allowing us to expand our efforts to serve new partners. While the public health landscape is ever-changing, I am excited to see our team work hard to make meaningful progress and deliver sound initiatives to vulnerable populations.

In the coming year, we are anticipating a lot of changes to public health programming around the world. Some of these changes will be tough, and the public health community will need to work together to find new solutions. Integral Global will continue to maintain our nimbleness and flexibility to adapt our operations. I want to thank all of our funders and partners, who have worked with us over the years. I also want to recognize our incredible team at headquarters and in our country offices, without which all this would be impossible.

While this is a time of change, we look to find new ways to deliver quality programs with ethics, integrity, and sustainability.

Thank you for being part of Integral Global's journey. We look forward to growing our collaboration and making an even greater impact in the years ahead.



NABIL AHMED
DIRECTOR

FEATURED STORY



Online Health & Wellness Toolkit Launched for Bangladesh's Ready-Made Garment (RMG) Factory Workers

FABRIC OF HEALTH TOOLKIT

We have officially launched the digital *Fabric of Health* toolkit in collaboration with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), John C. Martin (JCM) Foundation, and AYAT Education. The launch event convened key stakeholders, including representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO), retailers such as Walmart and Primark, factory owners, and RMG sector leaders.

The toolkit provides access to essential health information tailored to RMG factory workers. It aims to foster a culture of awareness and proactive health management while reducing absenteeism. This initiative addresses the critical need for enhanced health resources in a sector that plays a vital role in Bangladesh's economic landscape. *Fabric of Health* embodies a collaborative effort to integrate digital health solutions into the RMG industry, with the overarching objective of improving worker well-being and promoting the sustainable growth of the sector.

HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

Basic Primary Care

Medical exams, referrals, and prescriptions provided by primary care physicians, gynecologists, and nurses from BIRDEM, BSMMU, DMCH, and AYAT College of Nursing & Health Sciences.

Health Education

Expert-led health knowledge campaigns and access to comprehensive resources designed specifically for factory management and staff.

Assessment

Thorough analysis of worker health concerns to effectively improve outcomes, boost productivity, and inform Worker Wellness Days.

EXPERIENCE THE IMPACT

ACCESS THE TOOLKIT

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS



ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS

In a significant partnership with the Government of Pakistan and Roche Diagnostics, we are advancing efforts toward the elimination of hepatitis C virus (HCV) across the country. A recent ceremony, attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, marked the successful conclusion of a pilot project in the Gilgit-Baltistan province, demonstrating the efficacy of public-private partnerships. With an investment of Rs 68 billion dedicated to rapid screening and treatment, this initiative seeks to eliminate HCV in Pakistan by the year 2030, constituting a critical advancement in enhancing public health across the country.

GILEAD SCIENCES

We are leading Gilead Sciences' Getting to Zero Cryptococcal Meningitis Deaths initiative, working with four countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve care for people with advanced HIV disease (AHD) and cryptococcal meningitis (CM). In Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, and Eswatini, we are working to increase healthcare workforce capacity, develop more reliable monitoring and evaluation systems, and improve the availability of essential resources. Our strong partnerships with health ministries and local organizations will enhance service delivery, ultimately reducing preventable death from AHD and CM.



SAFETY & SECURITY

Building CBRNE Capacity for Emergency Medicine Physicians, First Responders, Toxicologists, and Poison Control Center Staff

In partnership with Emory University and the Middle East and North Africa Clinical Toxicology (MENATOX) Association, we are leveraging new relationships in the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa to build the capacity of emergency medicine physicians, first responders, toxicologists, and poison control center staff to respond to global chemical, biological and radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats.



BORDER HEALTH & SECURITY

We work to strengthen countries' capacity to adhere to the International Health Regulations (IHR) and Global Health Security (GHS) core competencies, including in high-risk contexts like points-of-entry (POEs). Currently, we are enhancing POE staff capacity in the Eastern Mediterranean Region regarding border health emergency response. Recently, we supported a training organized by Border Health Services-Pakistan (BHS-P) and the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination (MoNHSRC).



ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

In collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Pakistan, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea, Pakistan's National Institute of Health (NIH), and other government representatives, we recently led the revision of Pakistan's Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) National Action Plan for the animal sector. Livestock veterinarians, laboratories, academics, national and provincial government staff, and the private sector personnel developed new activities and recommendations.



ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION



NSTOP PROGRAM

Since 2021, we have been at the forefront of Pakistan's National Stop Transmission of Polio (NSTOP) program. Our dedicated team of NSTOP officers delivers comprehensive technical and operational support to bolster routine immunization initiatives. We take great pride in our team's presence in all of Pakistan's regions, ensuring a strong foothold, especially in endemic districts with the greatest disease burden where polio eradication efforts have been most challenging. We look forward to continuing our commitment to protecting the health of Pakistan's children and communities.

INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY

A key component of our initiatives surrounding vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) is enhancing integrated service delivery (ISD) by expanding access to specialized healthcare services. Across Pakistan's South Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, we are working with the Alkhidmat Foundation to offer routine vaccination with a focus on children and antenatal care to support women throughout their pregnancies. In addition, we provide primary healthcare services to address the general health needs of the community, ensuring accessible and coordinated care for all.



GENERAL UPDATES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration in the EU

We have officially opened our new office in the European Union, allowing us to expand our global footprint to reach new partners and stakeholders. For more information, please email nabil@integralglobal.net.

Professional Training Courses

With the support of our partners, we have developed a package of public health courses, including:

- Global health programming for vulnerable populations
- Public health emergency management and informatics
- Illness cluster management
- Chemical incident investigations
- Standardizing case definitions
- Biosecurity and One Health preparedness
- HCV screening, testing, treatment, data collection, and reporting

Social Media Expansion

In addition to our LinkedIn, you can now follow us on Instagram and Facebook for project updates, staff highlights, public health news, and more!



Educational Opportunities

We continue to support educational opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students. This year, our HQ team guided a Miami University public health student, Ms. Lily Mayer, to gain proposal development experience through a global health practicum. Lily was tasked with completing a project proposal for an HCV micro-elimination project in Uganda, collaborating with a former IG employee based in Kampala. During her time in Atlanta, Lily presented her project to our team and CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH).



Conferences

World One Health Congress

Cape Town, South Africa

Rep: Dr. Farooq Tahir (One Health & Biosecurity Specialist)

World Hepatitis Summit (WHS)

Los Angeles, California

Rep: Dr. Hassan Mahmood
(Country Lead, Pakistan)

MENATOX Conference

Muscat, Oman

Rep: Nabil Ahmed, Jenna Buttolph, and Mercer Winer
(HQ Team)



PUBLICATIONS

Drs. Muhammad Hakim & Aslam Pervaiz: Prevalence and associated factors of parental refusal rates for routine immunisation: a cross-sectional study in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan-2024. *BMC Public Health* (2025).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-21388-1>

Dr. Malik Mamoon Munir: Supervisor incivility, emotional exhaustion and nurses' job neglect: the moderating role of resilience and professional calling. *International Journal of Organization Theory & Behavior* (2025).
<https://doi.org/10.1108/IJOTB-01-2023-0029>

Dr. Malik Mamoon Munir: Mitigating Counterproductive Work Behavior in Traffic Police: The Role of Organizational Justice, Job Crafting, and Mindfulness. *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal* (2025).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10672-025-09534-8>

Dr. Malik Mamoon Munir: Human resource practices, organizational commitment, and knowledge-sharing intention: An empirical evidence from a cultural perspective. *Knowledge and Process Management* (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.1002/kpm.1778>

Drs. Huma Qureshi & Hassan Mahmood: Overview of Hepatitis C Elimination Efforts in Pakistan and the Launch of Prime Minister's Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C. *Journal of the Pakistan Medical Association* (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.47391/JPMA.24-97>

Drs. Huma Qureshi & Hassan Mahmood: Prevalence of hepatitis and HIV in Pakistan. *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal* (2024).
<https://doi.org/10.26719/2024.30.10.689>

Dr. Farooq Tahir: Evaluation of AMR usage supply chain and monitoring in the livestock and poultry sector of Pakistan. *Veterinary Sciences* (2025).
<https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci12030215>

DONATION CAMPAIGN

We are proud to announce a new opportunity for you to create impact. With your support and contributions that go directly to the field, we can continue to expand our work and improve lives.

**DONATE
HERE!**

Building Private Facilities for Female Vaccinators in Pakistan



Our female vaccinators supporting Pakistan's polio elimination program often work long days without access to gender-sensitive facilities, leading to health issues like dehydration, UTIs, and mental strain. Cultural norms further limit their ability to rest in shared spaces, making workforce retention challenging. To address this, we would like to build private washrooms and break rooms at 10 key sites, each staffed with a female attendant for upkeep. These flood-resistant facilities will create a safer, more supportive work environment for our female staff.

Goal: \$15,000

Establishing a Community-Based Emergency Response System in Iraq



Sulaymaniyah, in Iraq's Kurdistan Region, faces limited emergency response capacity, leading to preventable deaths. In partnership with Shar Hospital, we hope to train 20 local residents in CPR, AED use, and wound care to act as community-based first responders. A WhatsApp group will connect the team with emergency calls to improve response times. Over nine months, we will conduct a community awareness campaign to promote the system and basic response measures. This pilot will serve as a model for expanding in additional high-need areas.

Goal: \$10,000

Promoting Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) among Children in Pakistan



Pakistan's limited access to WASH infrastructure and knowledge of safe WASH practices fuels infections like typhoid and cholera. We are currently empowering schoolchildren in Islamabad's urban slums to advocate for safe practices through engaging activities on handwashing, personal hygiene, and safe water use. These lessons extend beyond the classroom, promoting healthier habits within families and communities. IGH has implemented WASH programs in 31 schools and aims to expand to 20 more, strengthening disease prevention efforts across Islamabad.

Goal: \$10,000

Expanding Health Services and Education in Bangladesh's RMG Factories



Limited access to health persists in Bangladesh's ready-made garment (RMG) factories. In partnership with AYAT Education, we support local trade unions to promote factory worker health and well-being. Now in its sixth year, the program aims to expand care offered during factory-based Worker Wellness Days (i.e., vision testing, HPV vaccination, mental health counseling), while also enhancing health education with a mobile-friendly version of the RMG Factory Worker Health & Wellness Toolkit, featuring offline access, voice functions, and personalized recommendations.

Goal: \$15,000