



May 20, 2024

TL2024/0520/1A

Syed Murad Ali Shah,
Chief Minister Sindh
Chief Minister Secretariat
Karachi

Sub: Complaint against Allegations of Misappropriation of Funds Amounting to Approx PKR 16 million During 12 Days of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) Campaign in Karachi by Government of Sindh

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan has received a Complaint against Allegations of Misappropriation of Funds Amounting to Approx PKR 16 million During 12 Days of Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) Campaign in Karachi by Government of Sindh.

The complainant has made the following allegations:

That;

1. The health department, GoS has started a 12 day long Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) campaign during the period 13-25 May, 2024, to vaccinate 8.9 million children between the ages of nine months to 15 years in 249 union committees across Karachi and Hyderabad (**Annex-A**).
2. There is a discrepancy between the number of teams hired by the health department for TCV campaign, in the Central District, Karachi and the actual number of teams deployed in the field, as quoted below:

| | Teams | First Level Supervisors | Second Level Supervisors |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reported Deployment | 1136 | 227 | 46 |
| Alleged Actual Deployment | 960 | 158 | 15 |
| Difference | 176 | 69 | 31 |

3. The discrepancy in the number of teams hired and deployed in the field for TCV campaign in Karachi raises serious concerns of misappropriation of approx. Rs. 16 million, as quoted below:

| | Teams | First Level Supervisors | Second Level Supervisors |
|---|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alleged Reported Amount for Hiring for 12 Days campaign | 70,091,200 | 11,658,720 | 2,362,560 |
| Alleged Misappropriation | 10,859,200 | 3,543,840 | 1,592,160 |
| Total loss to the Exchequer | | 15,995,200 | |

4. Due to the discrepancy in the hiring of team and shortage in actual deployed, the District Health Office (DHO) Central is also engaged in forging the amount of funds utilized under different budget heads such as: transportation, social mobilization, refreshments, waste management, and other allowances.
5. The health department has already removed District Health Officer (DHO), District Central Karachi.

Transparency International Pakistan Comments

Transparency International Pakistan has reviewed the allegations of the complaint, prima facie, the allegations seem correct. Following are TI Pakistan comments:



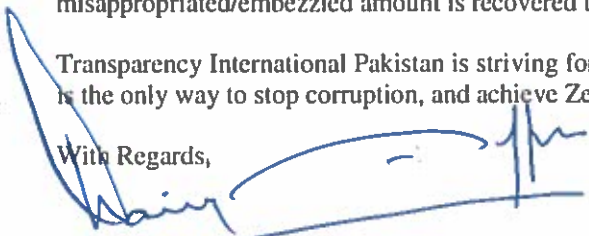
1. The serious allegations of misappropriation of approx. 16 million raises serious concerns about lack of transparency and corruption in the ongoing vaccine campaign program, amounting to a direct loss to the provincial exchequer, and must be investigated.
2. The removal of DHO Central Karachi do not suffice the merits of inquiry, and if allegations are proved correct, the government must initiate inquiry under the applicable anti-corruption laws to ensure that those involved are held accountable and the alleged embezzled amount is recovered.
3. Pakistan is already under spotlight for cases of vaccine preventable diseases. Such alleged corruption scandals will pose mistrust among the donor agencies and international development partners to attract sufficient monetary assistance to address vaccine preventable diseases **(Annex-B)**.

Transparency International Pakistan Recommendations

Transparency International Pakistan requests the Chief Minister to look into the serious allegations of corruption in TCV campaign in Karachi, and if found correct, issue directives for an appropriate inquiry to hold accountable all those involved under anti-corruption laws, and ensure that the alleged misappropriated/embezzled amount is recovered to avoid loss to the exchequer.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across-the-board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption, and achieve Zero tolerance against corruption.

With Regards,


(Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar)
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Chief Secretary, Govt of Sindh, Karachi
2. Minister, Health Department, Govt of Sindh
3. Secretary Health, Govt of Sindh, Karachi
4. DG, Anti-Corruption Establishment, Sindh
5. Registrar, Sindh High Court, Karachi

Note:

This is to clarify that Transparency International Pakistan is not a complainant, it acts as a whistleblower and operate under Article 19-A, of the Constitution of Pakistan which gives the right to public to know how government is being run by public officers. Article 19-A makes the right to access of information pertaining to a public authority a fundamental right, and a three member bench in case of Mukhtar Ahmad Ali vs the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the landmark judgment on 16 October 2023, in CP No. 3532/2023, has declared that

“What previously may have been on a need-to-know basis Article 19A of the Constitution has transformed it to a right-to-know, and the Access to information is no longer a discretion granted through occasional benevolence, but is now a fundamental right available with every Pakistani which right may be invoked under Article 19A of the Constitution”

Health Minister launches typhoid vaccination drive

— May 15, 2024

Newspaper, Regional, Karachi



KARACHI - Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho launched a 13-day Typhoid Conjugate Vaccination (TCV) campaign to target 8.94 million children from one month to age less than 15 years in Karachi division and Hyderabad district.

A total of 249 union committees — the areas affected by the life-threatening bacterial infection in the province — would be covered under the drive. “It’s a crucial step towards protecting the health and welfare of our children and communities,” said the health minister at the inaugural ceremony held at the DHA College & School System.

She emphasised the importance of vaccination in preventing devastating diseases, such as typhoid.

“Vaccination not only saves lives but also reduces the burden on the healthcare system. It is our duty to ensure that every eligible child receives the protection he or she deserves,” she stated.

Home > types support > Vaccine support > Typhoid vaccine support

Typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) support



For funding guidelines and materials, click here for Gavi Support Guidelines; then click on drop-down menu for "Vaccine information & switches"; then: (1) click on Gavi Vaccine Funding Guidelines (français) for details of Gavi's support for TCV; and (2) scroll down to "TYPHOID VACCINE" for TCV application guidance and materials.

Gavi's impact

Approximately 40 million children have been reached with TCV with Gavi support

PREVENTING TYPHOID AND RESPONDING TO OUTBREAKS

Gavi funding for WHO-prequalified typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) became available in 2018. In 2019, Pakistan became the first country to introduce the new TCV into its routine immunisation programme, using a phased approach; Liberia and Zimbabwe introduced nationwide in 2021; and Nepal in 2022. By end 2021, more than 3 million children had been reached with TCV through routine immunisation, and an additional 36 million children aged up to 15 through catch-up campaigns, implemented with Gavi support alongside routine introduction.

RENEWED MOMENTUM

While the COVID-19 pandemic initially slowed the pace of new TCV introductions, a growing body of evidence of the vaccine's high efficacy, the threat of antibiotic resistant strains of *Salmonella* Typhi and data-driven efforts to support country decision-making using available typhoid burden data have helped generate renewed momentum: three additional countries are planning their introductions; and others, including India, have National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG)