

EPI/Polio Control Project

Location:

District of Swat, Buner and Shangla, NWFP

Duration:

September 2006-September 2011

Counterpart Organization:

- Federal EPI (Expanded Program on Immunization) team and Provincial EPI team
- Quality Control Laboratory in National Institute of Health
- EDO Health of District Swat, Buner and Shangla

**Brief:**

Many children die from vaccine preventable diseases in the world and more than 20,000 children die from measles, which is preventable. Expanded Program on Immunization is one of the most effective interventions to save children. The project has three components, namely routine EPI, EPI disease surveillance and Quality Control Laboratory (QCL). The objective of the project is to vaccinate the children under the age of two in the 3 target districts.

The project is providing technical support and routine EPI through two channels. One is through EPI service provider side and the other is through recipient side which is mothers having young children. For the service providers, the project is providing training on EPI at several levels including Lady Health Workers and equipment such as vehicles and refrigerators to keep vaccine at health facilities. For the recipients, the project is trying to increase awareness of EPI through seminars and media. EPI disease surveillance is important to monitor EPI activity and make policy of EPI. The project is providing training to relevant people like medical doctors on EPI disease surveillance.

In addition to routine EPI and disease surveillance in NWFP, the project covers QCL, which is an important department in National Institute of Health (NIH) for quality control of EPI vaccine.

JICA is not only providing equipment but also dispatching several long term and short term Japanese experts.