

Leaving No One Behind
“National Assessment of Ehsas Cash Grant Program”



July 2020

AwazCDS-Pakistan: Established in 1995 and is registered as not for profit organization with registrar joint stock companies under Societies Registration Act 1860 and enjoys special consultative status with United Nation's Economic & Social Council (UN ECOSOC). AwazCDS-Pakistan's core mission is to develop integrated and innovative solutions in cooperation with partners at all levels to secure the future of marginalized communities especially by creating rightful spaces and choices of life. For more information please visit www.awazcds.org.pk.

Ujala: is national network for creating rightful spaces & choices of life. Ujala is comprised of 50 civil society organizations working together for the rights of children, women, young people, person with special abilities & transgender communities through grassroots mobilization and suggesting legislative reforms in the country regarding Gender Based Violence, Life Skills Based Education, Youth Friendly Health Services, Early Age Marriages and issues related to Stigma & Discrimination. Network is being managed by Awaz Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services.

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Background:

COVID-19 outbreak was first time experienced in the Wuhan City of China at the end of December 2019. Different steps have been taken worldwide for the control of COVID-19. Even with less resources Pakistan also taken rigorous measures like designed special hospitals, laboratories for testing, quarantine facilities, awareness campaign and lock down to control the spread of virus.

According to the Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan, the confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan has risen to 277,402 as of 30 July.

Since the outbreak of Corona Virus, Ujala network¹ under the aegis of AwazCDS-Pakistan decided to contribute in difficult economic and health pandemic period by running different awareness raising campaigns to educate communities on COVID-19. To provide the financial assistance to deprived segment of the society, Ehsaas Emergency Cash program was launched by the Prime Minister on April 1, 2020 in the context of the economic hardship being experienced by the vulnerable due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis. The financial help under the program was meant to help poor buy rations so that they don't go hungry during lock down period. The program covered 12 million families; PKRs 12,000 per family was given and worth of PKRs. 144 billion were successfully distributed.

Other emergency responses were also designed, financed and implemented by many people in their private capacity as well as on behalf of hundreds of thousands of NGOs and other private sector organizations across the country.

In this regard AwazCDS-Pakistan and its 44 partner organizations working together in 44 districts across the country including A J & K and Gilgit Baltistan under its Ujala Program decided to divert its resources in to Ujala Corona Emergency Response Program. Apart from mass sensitization campaign through the display of 550 banners, 150 Op-eds', 150 radio programs, Ujala Partners also did Tehsil level survey with 100 target group in each of their respective districts. The target group was comprised on Women headed families, Person with special abilities, Religious minorities and transgender community, the target group was initially planned with 25 persons against each category from each district. Therefore, altogether 4400 surveys were planned.

Finally, 44 Ujala partners carried out Tehsil level survey in their respective district headquarter to collect basic data on some of the basic indicators included information of Ehsaas Cash Grant Program, its process and challenges faced by them. We also tried to understand how much vulnerable groups are aware from Corona virus, their economic challenges, status of behavioral changes, inclusion of most vulnerable groups of society and if elected representatives have played their role in educating and facilitating public. A comprehensive survey format was developed and a half day online capacity orientation on how to conduct the survey was given to all the district focal points of partner organizations.

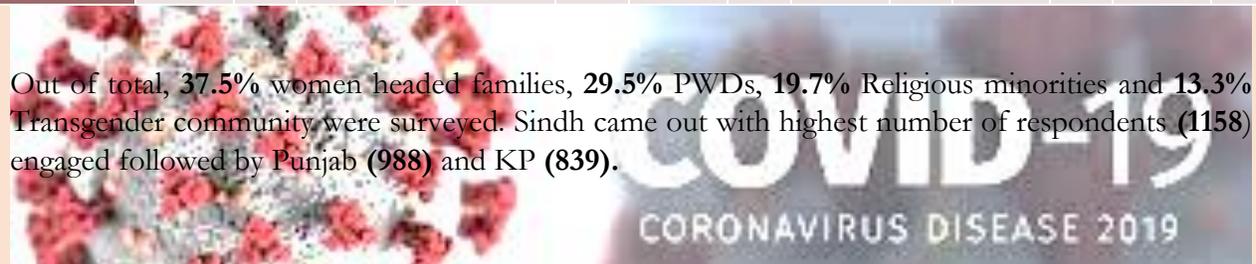
¹Ujala is national network for creating rightful spaces & choices of life. Ujala is comprised of 50 civil society organizations working together for the rights of children, women, young people, person with special abilities & transgender communities through grassroots mobilization and suggesting legislative reforms in the country. Network is being managed by Awaz Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services.

The report is based on 3,997 responses received from 44 districts (Annexure-a) including 10 districts from each of the four provinces and 02 each from Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

Province and category wise data is given in Table 1:

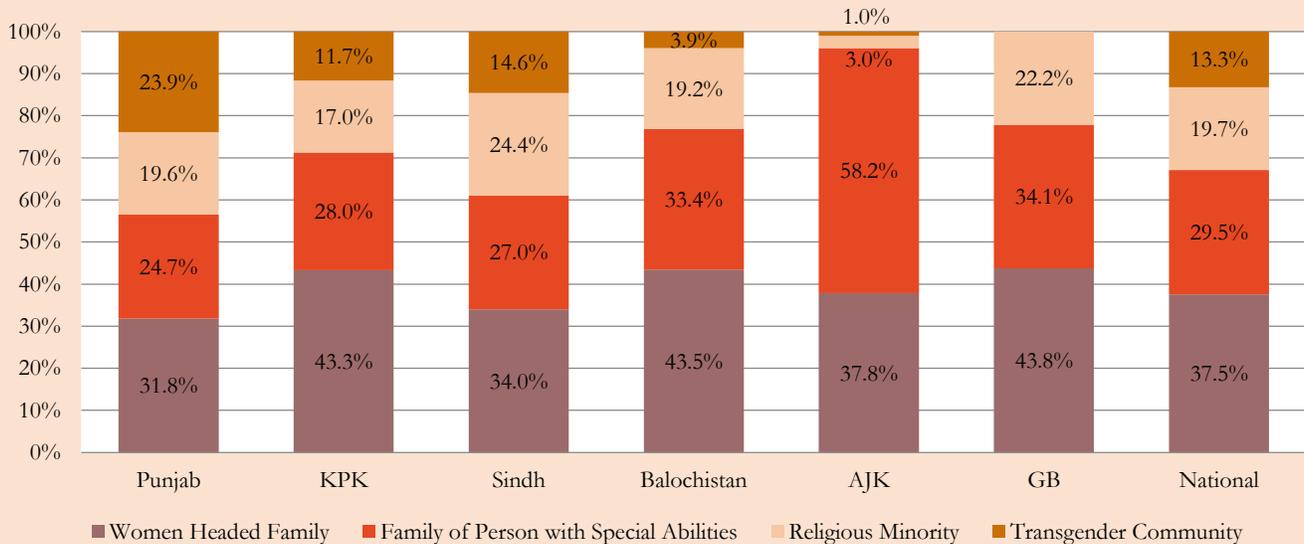
Table 1:

	Punjab		KP		Sindh		Balochistan		AJK		GB		Total	
	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Women Headed Family	31.8%	314	43.3%	363	34.0%	394	43.5%	276	37.8%	76	43.8%	77	37.5%	1500
Person with Special Abilities or family member	24.7%	244	28.0%	235	27.0%	313	33.4%	212	58.2%	117	34.1%	60	29.5%	1181
Religious Minority	19.6%	194	17.0%	143	24.4%	282	19.2%	122	3.0%	6	22.2%	39	19.7%	786
Transgender Community	23.9%	236	11.7%	98	14.6%	169	3.9%	25	1.0%	2	0.0%	0	13.3%	530
Total	100.0%	988	100.0%	839	100.0%	1158	100.0%	635	100.0%	201	100.0%	176	100.0%	3997

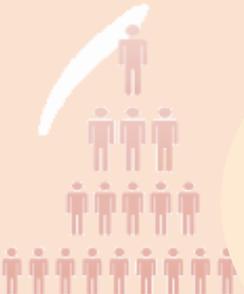


Out of total, **37.5%** women headed families, **29.5%** PWDs, **19.7%** Religious minorities and **13.3%** Transgender community were surveyed. Sindh came out with highest number of respondents (**1158**) engaged followed by Punjab (**988**) and KP (**839**).

Category wise distribution



Key findings on Ehsas Cash Grant



90.73% women headed families, **93.48%** PWDs, **91.86%** Religious minorities and **89.06%** Transgender out of total respondents from the respective categories shared that they are aware of Government's Ehsas Cash Grant Program.



97.02% participants comprised on all four categories shared they deserve to be a part of this program.



57.40% women headed families, **78.07%** PWDs, **77.07%** Religious minorities and **93.80%** Transgender registered their names in Ehsas Cash Grant Program themselves from their own phone numbers.

Out of all four categories, **70.72%** respondents told that they received timely response from Ehsas Cash Grant. **67.66%** respondents shared they have received validation from them but only **27.01%** have received cash grant.

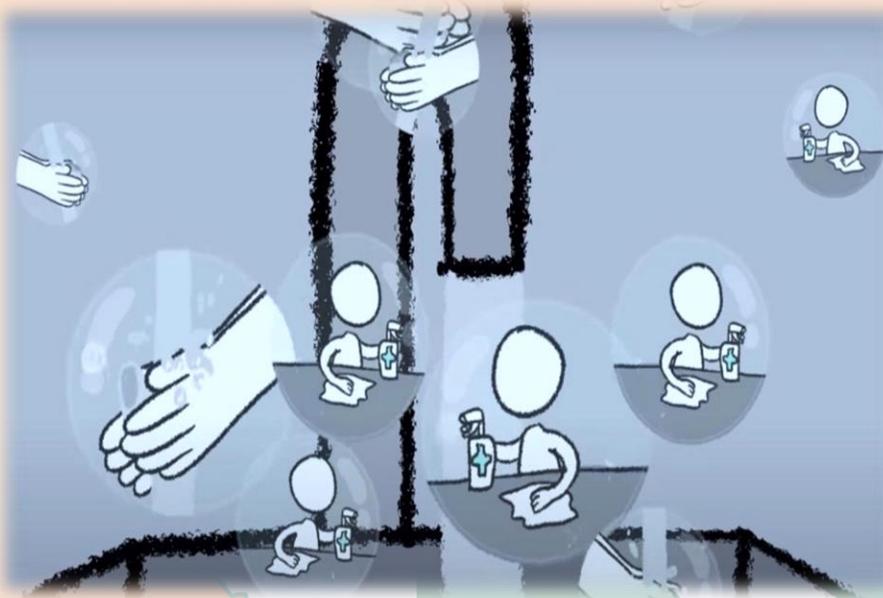
Out of all four categories, **91.45%** respondents expressed that they received complete amount of PKRs 12,000/- as per Government's promise. But only **32.97%** respondents were happy from the cash amount as they think this is minimum amount being provided in this difficult time.

Out of all four categories across 44 districts, **31.70%** respondents shared they have received relief package other than Government Ehsas Program and out of that %, **89.34%** respondents received ration in form of relief support.



Out of total 100%, **51.74%** respondents expressed that they came to know about other relief programs from their friends and community

Level of sensitization among masses on COVID-19

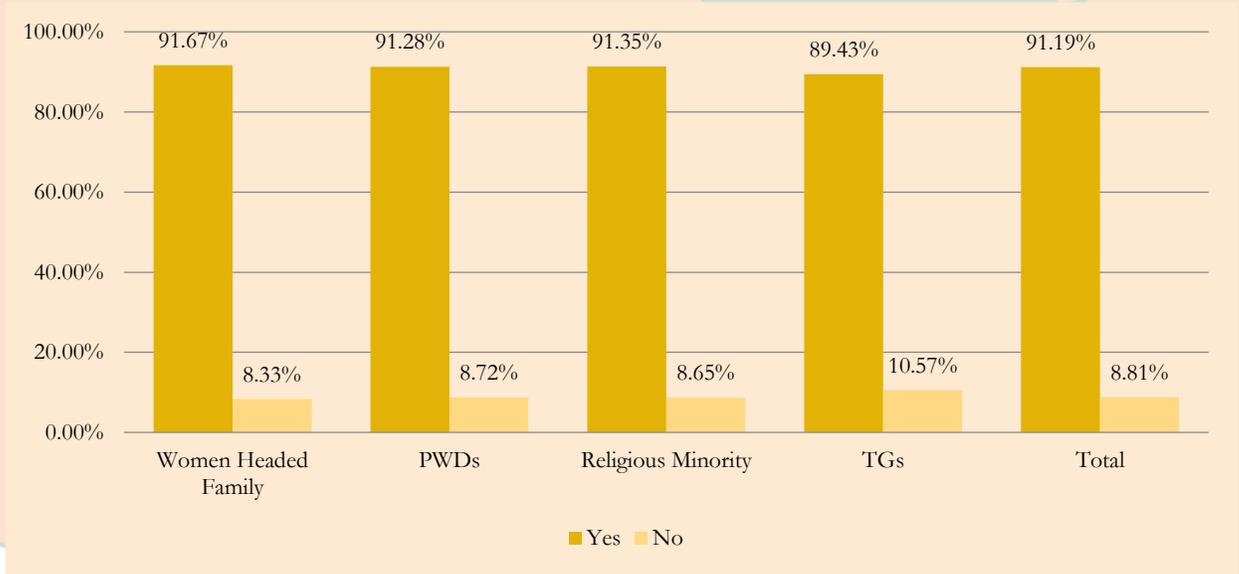


94.07% Women headed families, **96.27%** PWDs, **97.07%** Religious minorities and **94.03%** Transgender community were aware of Corona Virus. In a total of all four categories, **78.83%** people were having this understanding that Corona virus spread by shaking hands, hugging, eating, offering prayer etc. with infected person. Whereas only **70.03%** people think that Corona virus is death taking disease.

When respondents were asked about the number of isolation days if corona test comes positive. So only **55.04%** respondents choose the correct option of 14 days' while respondents of category "women headed families" had least % of choosing correct option with only **46.13%**. Interestingly, **68.75%** respondents of all four types think that they can also be infected by corona virus and only **43.58%** disagreed that corona virus attacks on people of a certain age. In general, respondents were aware of symptoms and precautionary measures needs to be taken in case of corona virus.



From the total respondents, **71.92%** stated that they got information on COVID-19 majorly from TV followed by social media, radio, newspapers with **19.35%**, **17.25%** and **13.51%** respectively. Remarkably, Transgender people were with highest % with **31.87%** who got information with social media compared to rest of three categories.



Out of 3384 respondents, **91.9%** said that they have faced economic changes at family level due to corona virus. From all four categories, **64.70%** respondents stated that they are facing economic distress/ less income whereas, **52.55%** shared they became unemployed due to economic situation in COVID-19.



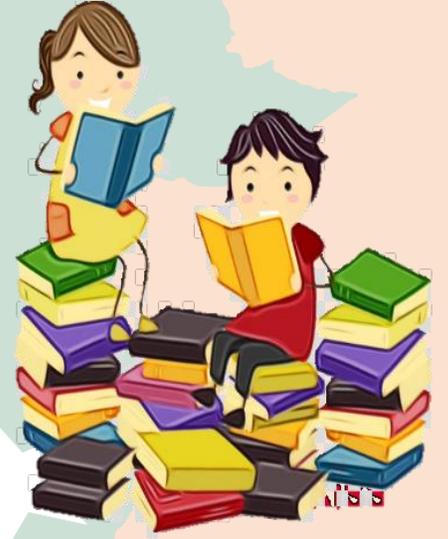
Situation of Health Services during COVID-19

When asked about the satisfaction on health services provided by Government in times of Covid so only **36.50%** shared their response of “satisfactory”. Whereas, Religious minorities found least satisfied with health services during COVID with **34.10%**. Among provinces, AJ&K remained at top with least satisfied with **81.59%** followed by Balochistan and KP with **71.65%** and **67.70%** respectively.

Situation of Education during COVID-19

Though, respondents were found very concerned about their children's education as **87.77%** respondents think that education of their children is badly affected by corona virus. Women headed families were found most concerned about children's education with **90.33%**. Among provinces and regions, AJ&K came out with highest % considering children's education is badly affecting with **99%** followed by KP and GB with **92.97%** and **91.48%** respectively.

Further, only **20.37%** respondents agreed digital measures of Government taken for education are effective. Amongst provinces and regions, GB disagreed with effectiveness of Government's Education measures with **100%** whereas, AJ&K also distressed with **97.51%** and Punjab was the Province who least differed with the **72.98%**.



State of Mental health during COVID-19



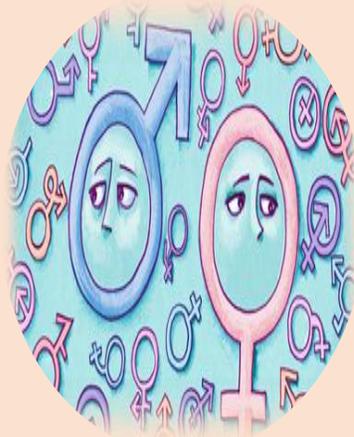
Between all four categories, **81.76%** respondents' agreed that corona virus has become a reason of mental distress for them and people in their surroundings. Unfortunately, transgender community remained with this opinion with highest % **84.91** followed by PWDs with **81.96%**.

Among provinces, KP came out with highest % of **88.32** to share that mental distress has increased among people followed by Punjab, AJ&K, Sindh and GB with **83.50%**, **83.08%**, **81.09%** and **80.11%** respectively.

Trend of Violence & Discrimination during COVID-19



56.67% respondents believe that violence against women including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. 58.20% women from category "women headed families" agreed with the increased rate of violence against women.



33.73% respondents believe that violence against transgender community including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. 59.250% transgender from category "Transgender" agreed with the increased rate of violence against them.



55.92% respondents believe that violence against children including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. out of all four categories, Transgender came out with high % with opinion of increased violence against children with 57.55% followed by women headed families with 56.20%



41.78% respondents believe that violence against PWDs including physical, verbal, psychological, misbehaving etc. has increased during Covid-19. 52.64% transgender agreed with the increased rate of violence against PWDs followed by PWDs themselves with 41.66%.



While asking about the discrimination, 26.72% respondents of category "Religious minority" shared that they have faced discrimination during COVID period. Out of that, not being included into relief package came out as highest form of discrimination with 59.05%.

Interestingly, 15.06% respondents said "yes" and 26.54% said "no" discrimination was faced by religious minorities during COVID period. But 58.39% respondents shared they are not aware if it is done. When asked about the nature of discrimination so overall, 47.37% people think that they were not provided with any relief package.

Role of Elected representatives during COVID



Out of total only **18.96%** respondents said that elected representatives came out for people's support during COVID-19. But out of **18.96%** respondents shared that representatives of local government supported them with **75.33%** followed by MPAs and MNAs with **14.64%** and **9.37%** respectively.

Among provinces, **93.03%** respondents from AJ&K shared that no elected representative came for their facilitation during COVID followed by second highest % in Balochistan with **87.56%**.

However, overall **39.03%** respondents were satisfied from Governments' initiatives to tackle Corona virus. But at the same time **83.49%** respondents expressed that government should continue awareness campaign to protect people from COVID-19.

We need to invest more on Health, Education and Digital Systems to minimize the risks of people lives and Economic breakages.

Suggestions

1. Registration process of Ehsaas Cash Grant should be easy and quick for people of Pakistan.
2. Emergency grant should not be less than to at least minimum wage.
3. Special facilitation should be provided to transgender community, religious minorities and women headed families to provide proper facilitation in case of emergencies. For example assigning proper information desks, marking separate queue etc.
4. Special enabling assistance should be provided to PWDs and elderly people in terms of marking proper waiting areas and needful arrangements like availability of wheel chairs, ramps etc.
5. Government and civil society should run regular behaviour change campaign for minimizing people's insensitivity towards transgender community, PWDs, religious minorities etc .
6. Government should ensure accessibility of technology to make people more tech-friendly to overcome socio-economic barriers during pandemics.
7. Government should continue awareness campaign to protect people from COVID-19.
8. Government needs to finance more on health services to ensure the timely and quality health services. Plus, special measures should be taken to protect the safety, security and health of health workers.
9. Government should make health care and testing services both affordable and accessible to vulnerable groups especially in "hard to reach" areas.
10. Public health information should be clear and easy to comprehend.
11. Both Government and civil society organizations need to educate people on issues related to psychological distresses and mental health.
12. Special centres and help lines have to be available for psycho-social counselling and support for those who need help.
13. Additional resources should be allocated and evidence-based measures needs to be included to address violence against women and girls in COVID-19 national health and protection plans.
14. Ensure psychosocial support for women, girls, children, transgender, PWDs, frontline health and social support workers who experienced violence.
15. Raise awareness of police and judiciary about the increase of violence against women and girls during COVID-19 and provide training on how to respond, protect and refer victims and survivors to appropriate services.
16. Government should ensure sex-disaggregated data to understand the impact of COVID-19 on violence against women, TGs, PWDs, religious minorities etc.
17. Local government system should be strengthened as they reach to communities immediately.

Annexure-A

List of districts where Tehsil level surveys were carried out:

Sr.#	District	Sr.#	District
1	Lahore	2	Multan
3	Vehari	4	Faisalabad
5	Rahim Yar Khan	6	Rajanpur
7	Kasur	8	Muzaffargarh
9	Chakwal	10	Bahawalpur
11	Peshawar	12	Noshera
13	Bannu	14	Mingora/Swat
15	DI Khan	16	Lower Dir
17	Mardan	18	Kohat
19	Karak	20	Mansehra
21	Lasbella	22	Sibi
23	Noshki	24	Jaffarabad
25	Loralai	26	Nasirabad
27	Quetta	28	Khuzdar
29	Kohlu	30	Mastung
31	Karachi Central	32	Larkana
33	Umerkot	34	Thatta
35	Sanghar	36	Hyderabad
37	Mirpurkhas	38	Dadu`
39	Sukkur	40	Karachi West
41	Muzaffarabad	42	Mirpur
43	Gilgit	44	Hunza

Ujala Partners–

Azad Jammu & Kashmir



Gilgit Baltistan



Balochistan



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Punjab



Sindh



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