

WHO Pakistan taking a historical step with nine leading Universities to start Diploma course in Family Medicine to address the shortage of family physicians to strengthen the PHC .

Family practice-based model of care plays a major role in strengthening health care delivery system at the primary care level” – Dr Palitha Mahipala, WR Pakistan



The World Health Organization Pakistan signed Collaboration Agreement with nine leading medical universities of the country. Areas of collaboration include health systems strengthening, health workforce development and health professionals networking.

These universities will be starting a One Year Diploma in Family Medicine in collaboration with WHO. Currently, primary care services are provided by general practitioners and medical officers with no formal training in family medicine.

This will help to address the shortage of family physicians in Pakistan. They will be able to provide quality and people-centred integrated healthcare. This includes both preventive and curative services and improved quality of care. Trained family physicians will help in implementation of Universal Health Coverage Benefit Package through Primary Health Care oriented model of Care.





Speaking on the occasion Dr Palitha Mahipala, WHO Representative in Pakistan, said that WHO is committed to assisting Member States in the EMR including Pakistan in improving access to quality, comprehensive and affordable health care services through implementation of the family practice approach. Family practice-based model of care plays a major role in strengthening health care delivery system at the primary care level.



Dr Palitha Mahipala, praised the universities for their commitment in establishing and strengthening Family Medicine Departments. He acknowledged the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to achieve sustainable development goals and universal health coverage through strengthening primary healthcare and assured that the WHO Pakistan will provide every possible support in these endeavours.