Background

Saudi Arabia has not been spared from the devastating impacts of the Coronavirus. Since the announcement of the first case of COVID-19 inside the Kingdom on March 2nd, 2020, the numbers of confirmed cases and contacts have increased in different regions. On August 23rd, 2020, which is the same month that we started our project – Towards Zero COVID-19 - the total number of cases registered in the Kingdom reached 307,479 positive COVID-19 cases, and the total deaths reached 3,649 cases.

Table shows the resources of these seven Regions.

Table: Resources of the Seven Regions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Centers</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Testing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tabuk</td>
<td>960,414</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeddah</td>
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<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Borders</td>
<td>396,666</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Makkah</td>
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<td>111</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Qatari</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Al-Balad</td>
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<td>Baha</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

Methods

At the beginning of our project, specifically in the 39th International Week as it is shown in the following table, a total of 202 initiatives and policies were divided into general paths into all seven Regions; Community Involvement had the highest rate of 60 initiatives and policies, due to the importance followed by High Authority Commitment in the Region, which included 50. Next, Optimum Use of Public Health Tools and Labs with 44, and finally the Use of Electronic Applications with 42.

Table: Four General Paths to Accelerate COVID-19 Control

Activities

• Follow up the policies and initiatives implemented by the seven regions.
• Follow up the daily data of operational and outcomes indicators that developed by the project team
• Escalation to the project management in the event of raising numbers of the indicators and when support is needed
• Organizing, and leading meetings with the health leaders of the seven Region.
• Create weekly epidemiological report of all operational and outcomes indicators and communicate it to all stakeholders.

Results

In general, there was an improvement in the operational and outcome indicators. These initiatives and policies played a significant role in controlling and decreasing the number of cases. Appropriately managing policies and initiatives with daily monitoring of their progress has ensured the controlling the epidemiological situation. Despite the passage of a second wave over all regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the impact on these seven regions was slight.

Learning Objectives

• Create a public health project from scratch.
• Evaluate public health initiatives and analyze the outcome of the initiatives.
• Assess and create epidemiological reports and analyze data for decision makers.

Deliverables

• A comprehensive report.
• A file of the most Prominent initiatives for the four general paths for the 7 regions.
• Epidemiological follow-up forms.

Public Health Implications

• Society's commitment to precautionary measures has an important role in reducing the spread of infection.
• The cooperation of other sectors with the Ministry of Health in implementing health measures contributed greatly to curbing the second wave and promoting public health.
• Electronic applications facilitated access to health services and following-up of infected cases and close contacts.

Lessons Learned

• Applying resources and ideas to ensure adequate delivery of listed initiatives.
• How to organize and lead team meetings.
• How to communicate effectively with different stake holders.
• How to create a public health project from scratch.
• How to evaluate public health initiatives and analyze the outcome.
• How to assess and create epidemiological reports and analyze data for decision makers.

Population

The Public Health Agency at the Ministry of Health looked at seven Regions from the 22 central medical Regions within the Kingdom to implement the ‘Towards Zero COVID-19 Project’. These seven Regions are known for smaller populations, so they were pilot areas.

![Image of the seven Regions map]