

1 WILD POLIOVIRUS (WPV1) REPORTED IN AUGUST 2017

6 WPV1 CASES IN 2017 TO DATE

1 WPV1/ VDPV2 POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE REPORTED IN AUGUST 2017

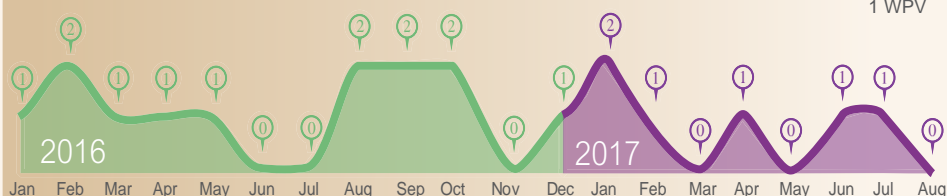
9.9 MILLION TARGETED NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION DAYS (NIDs) (14 - 18 August 2017)

155,254 REACHED IPV-OPV CAMPAIGNS IN 8 DISTRICTS

67,800 FRONTLINE WORKERS INVOLVED (12% WOMEN OVERALL; 42% WOMEN IN URBAN AREAS)

387 PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS
18 CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION POINTS

WILD POLIO CASE COUNT 2016-2017



POLIO TRANSMISSION

- One new wild poliovirus (WPV1) case was reported by the regional reference laboratory in August 2017, from Arghandab district of Zabol province, bringing the total number of WPV1 cases in 2017 to 6.
- One new WPV1 positive environmental sample was reported in August 2017, collected in Lashkargah city from Helmand province.

AFP and ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

- 191 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases (80 girls and 111 boys) were reported in August. Overall in 2017, 2,026 AFP cases have been reported, of which 1843 have been discarded as "non-polio AFP", whilst 177 AFP cases are pending classification.
- Non-polio AFP rate is 14, stool adequacy above 93 %, and non-polio enterovirus rate above 20% at the national level.
- In all regions non-polio AFP rate is above 10, stool adequacy above 88%, and non-polio enterovirus rate is ranging from 16-24%.
- A new environmental surveillance site was operationalized in Kunduz city in the Northeastern region in August 2017, bringing the total number of environmental surveillance sites to 20 at the national level.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES (SIAs)

- National Immunization Days (NIDs) conducted on 14-18 August targeted over 9.9 million children below the age of 5 with OPV in all 34 provinces.
- 155,254 (IPV) children under 5 years of age were vaccinated with OPV and IPV during a vaccination campaign in 8 districts of the Southern region on 29 July-3 August.

COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- A total of 18 cross-border vaccination points, 42 cross-border teams, 387 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan during August 2017.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,098,968 children against polio and cross-border teams vaccinated 76,095 children during August.
- A total of 4,103 children under the age of 10 were vaccinated with OPV and 2,917 with IPV by teams in the UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees from Pakistan and Iran in August.
- Since January, 42,138 returnee children have received OPV and 18,323 children have been vaccinated with IPV.
- In compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR), 9,959 international travelers were vaccinated during August.

WHO supports polio eradication activities through the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of vaccination campaigns, training of frontline health workers, and through providing technical assistance to the polio programme at all levels. WHO maintains an active acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) and environmental surveillance system to detect polio transmission, and facilitates cross-border coordination in common reservoirs with Pakistan.

WHO supports the Ministry of Public Health and works in close partnership with UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Rotary International as part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

SURVEILLANCE



WHO supports acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance through a countrywide network of AFP focal points linked with health facilities and community-based reporting volunteers. There are around 730 AFP focal points, over 1,400 active surveillance sites, 2,400 zero reporting sites and more than 28,000 community-based reporting volunteers across the country. An external AFP surveillance review conducted in June 2016 concluded that the surveillance system is strong and the circulation of wild or vaccine-derived poliovirus is unlikely to be missed in Afghanistan.

Active AFP case search is conducted frequently in all health facilities part of the AFP reporting network. Vaccinators are also carrying out active case search during SIAs.

In 2016/17, the AFP reporting network will continue to be reviewed and expanded based on needs and emphasis will be on including healthcare providers serving high-risk population groups as well as insecure areas, high-risk areas and districts with low non-polio AFP rates.

The environmental surveillance system includes 17 sampling sites in Nangarhar, Kunar, Kandahar, Helmand, Kabul and Khost provinces.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



WHO supports the Ministry of Public Health in polio eradication through a country-wide network of international and national staff. Each regional team consists of international medical officers (except Central and Northeastern Regions), regional polio officers, assistant regional polio officers, provincial polio officers and district polio officers.

More than 5,500 cluster supervisors and over 58,000 volunteers conduct house-to-house oral polio vaccinations for children below five years of age during national immunization campaigns. There are around 1,000 intra-campaign monitors and 1,100 post-campaign monitors to monitor the activities during campaigns and assess coverage after the campaign.

WHO supports the training of frontline workers (FLWs) before each vaccination campaign with a newly-revised curriculum. In 2016/17, the programme will focus on improving team performance by ensuring FLWs are carefully selected using a transparent approach, and that they receive high-quality training to keep them motivated.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES (SIA)

WHO is responsible for technical assistance, trainings, micro-planning, post-campaign assessment surveys, data analysis and reporting for SIAs. New initiatives put in place in 2016 to improve SIA quality include the roll-out of a new FLW training curriculum, a modified re-visit strategy to reach missed children, the development of district profiles and district-specific plans, the in-depth investigation of reasons for 'lot failure' in Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) surveys, the strategic use of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and the field validation and revision of microplans.

The programme's current focus is on 50 very high-risk districts (VHRDs). In 2016/17, the oral polio vaccine (OPV) SIA schedule includes two national immunization days (NIDs) and two sub-national immunization days (SNIDs) in the second half of 2016 and four NIDs and six SNIDs in 2017. The SIA dates will be synchronized with Pakistan. For every new case detected, three case response campaigns will be carried out.

COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES



Over 320 Permanent Transit Teams (PTTs) vaccinate children who travel in and out of security-compromised areas and children traveling to other destinations. Eighteen cross-border vaccination points in border areas with Pakistan and Iran ensure that children crossing the border are immunized. In selected locations, permanent polio teams (PPTs) provide OPV to children on a continuous basis in their assigned catchment area, in addition to the planned house-to-house vaccination during SIAs.

In 2016/17 the programme will continue to assess and modify the number and location of PTTs according to needs and the evolving accessibility situation. Full synchronization with vaccination operations on the Pakistan side of the border will continue for cross-border teams (CBTs). Special campaigns are carried out in the South-Eastern, Southern and Western Regions targeting nomads who move widely in the country and across borders.

Vaccination teams are also stationed at airports to administer OPV to travellers as per recommendations under International Health Regulations. Teams are also stationed in UNHCR and IOM sites for returnee refugees from Pakistan and Iran to provide OPV, IPV and measles vaccination to children.