

Afghanistan Polio Update



AT A GLANCE:

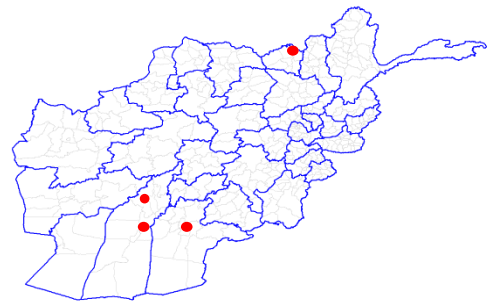
- 4 new wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases reported by the Regional Reference Laboratory in 2017—13 cases in 2016
- 5 environmental samples positive for WPV have been reported in 2017
- 9.5 million children targeted during National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaign on 15-19 May
- 6.7 million children targeted during Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) on 17-21 April
- IPV/OPV campaigns conducted in Faryab, Kunduz and Nangarhar provinces
- 76 environmental samples from 18 sites collected this quarter
- A new environmental sampling site became operational in Herat City
- 378 permanent transit teams and 49 cross-border teams at 19 cross-border vaccination points vaccinating children on the move
- 26,479 children were vaccinated with OPV by teams at UNHCR and IOM sites receiving returnees from Pakistan and Iran.

POLIO TRANSMISSION:

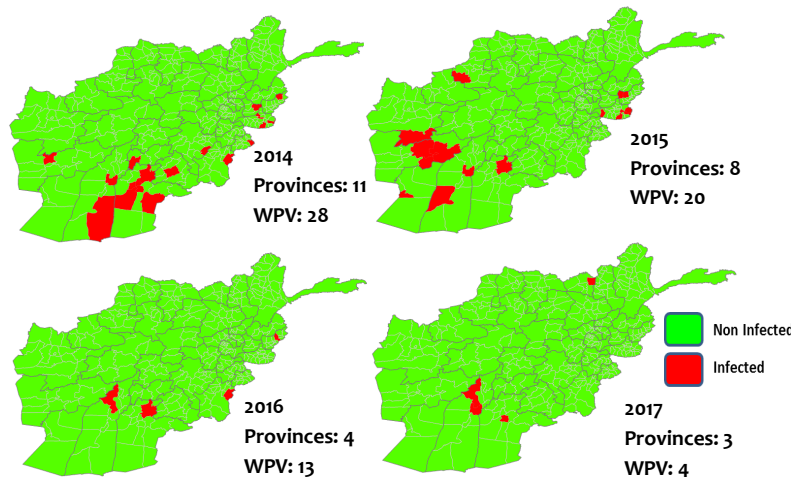
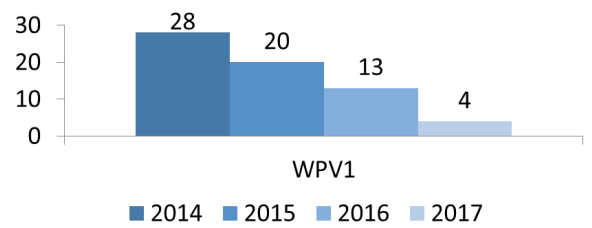
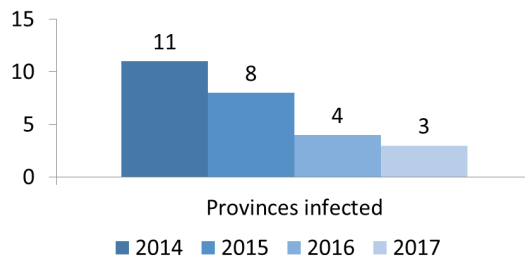
One wild poliovirus (WPV1) case was reported by the Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) in June 2017 from Nawzad district of Helmand province. This brings the total number of WPV1 cases in Afghanistan to four in 2017 and 13 in 2016. No VDPV2 cases were reported this quarter.

One positive environmental sample was reported in April 2017 from Nangarhar province and another one was reported in May from Helmand province. Five positive environmental samples have been confirmed in 2017 as of 30 June.

Polio Cases in 2017



Reducing Geographic Spread of Wild Poliovirus:



Photos: WHO/IR.Akbar

IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs)

- ◆ Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs), with expanded scope to include case response, targeted over 6.7 million children under the age of 5 with OPV in 26 provinces on 17-21 April.
- ◆ National Immunization Days (NIDs) on 15-19 May targeted over 9.5 million children under the age of 5 with OPV in 34 provinces. Children aged 2 to 5 years were given deworming tablets (Albendazole).

IPV-OPV Campaigns

- ◆ 49,728 children were vaccinated with IPV in Qaysar district of Faryab province on 1-6 May.
- ◆ 141,504 children were vaccinated with IPV in Emamsaheb, Dasht-e-Archi and Chardarah districts of Kunduz province during the May NIDs.
- ◆ 176,934 children were vaccinated with IPV in Jalalabad and Behsud districts of Nangarhar province on 21-26 May 2017.
- ◆ An IPV+OPV campaign in Kunduz province reached 183,367 children in Aliabad, Khanabad, Kunduz and Qala-e-Zal districts on 28 May - 2 June 2017.

Complementary Vaccination Activities

- ◆ A total of 44 cross-border teams at 19 cross-border vaccination points, 378 permanent transit teams (PTTs) and 34 permanent polio teams (PPTs) were operational across Afghanistan during this quarter.
- ◆ Permanent transit teams vaccinated 3,148,605 children under the age of 5 against polio during the quarter while cross-border teams vaccinated 163,878 children under the age of 10.
- ◆ During the reporting period, 26,479 children were vaccinated with OPV by teams at UNHCR and IOM sites receiving returnees from Pakistan and Iran. In 2016, a total of 122,789 returnee children were vaccinated with OPV and 32,405 with IPV at these sites.
- ◆ In compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR), 29,618 international travelers were vaccinated against polio between April-June 2017.

Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs)

Campaign	Children Targeted	PCA Coverage	% Failed Lots in LQAS
17-21 April			
SNIDs	6.7 million	95%	11%
15-19 May			
NIDs	9.5 million	96%	9%

IPV-OPV Campaigns

Date	Location	Children Vaccinated	PCM Coverage
1-6 May 2017	Qaysar, Faryab province	49,728	96.0
15-19 May 2017	Emamsaheb, Dasht-e-Archi and Chardarah, Kunduz province	141,504	95.6
21-26 May 2017	Jalalabad and Behsud, Nangarhar province	176,934	94.2
28 May—2 June 2017	Aliabad, Khanabad, Kunduz and Qala-e-Zal districts of Kunduz province	183,367	95.1

Case Response

Province	District	Transmission	Response
Helmand	Nawzad	Confirmed polio case in Nawzad (date of onset: 16 April 2017)	SIAs (17 April, 15 May) Planned third case response from 10 July as part of SNIDs
Helmand	Lashkargah	Environmental sample in Lashkargah (date of collection: 26 April 2017)	SIAs (17 April, 15 May, 26 May)

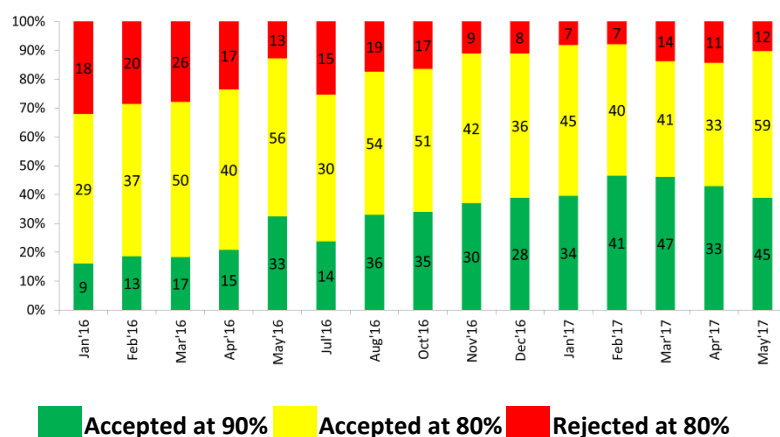
Photos: WHO/S.Ramo



Polio vaccination teams at the Torkham border in eastern Afghanistan

QUALITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

LQAS Results in 2016-17—National Level



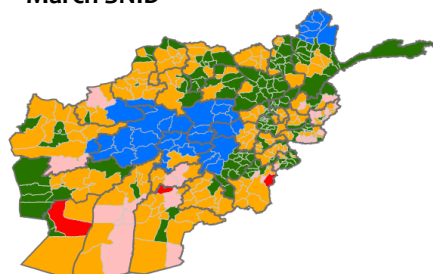
Lot Quality Assessment Sampling (LQAS) data shows improvement in the quality of supplementary immunization activities over the past year. The proportion of failed lots decreased from 28% in March 2016 to 10% in May 2017.



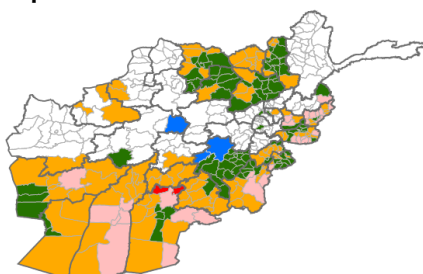
Photos: UNICEF/Afghanistan

ACCESS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

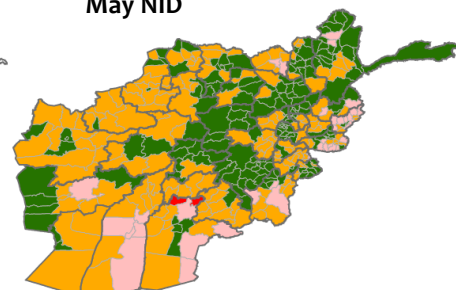
March SNID



April SNID



May NID



Inaccessible Children: August 2016 - May 2017

Region	Aug SNID	Aug NID	Oct NID	Nov SNID	Dec SNID	Jan SNID	Feb SNID	Mar NID	Apr SNID	May NID
East	73,355	71,085	23,204	24,213	17,488	19,156	18,932	21,002	34,528	26,734
North	0	0	6,206	0	0	0				
North-eastern	101,434	197,192	176,377	105,539	105,024	104,200	104,280			4,350
South	49,403	28,798	141,142	120,597	18,192	78,254	12,4161	40,989	42,793	35,705
South-Eastern	1,215	12,101	46,808	13,827	12,651	1,500	20,455	24,051	23,075	14,040
West	132,806	38,260			749	183,100		12,970	70	70
Central	0	70	0	75	75	0				
Total	358,213	347,507	390,373	264,251	154,178	386,207	156,083	99,012	100,466	80,899

SURVEILLANCE

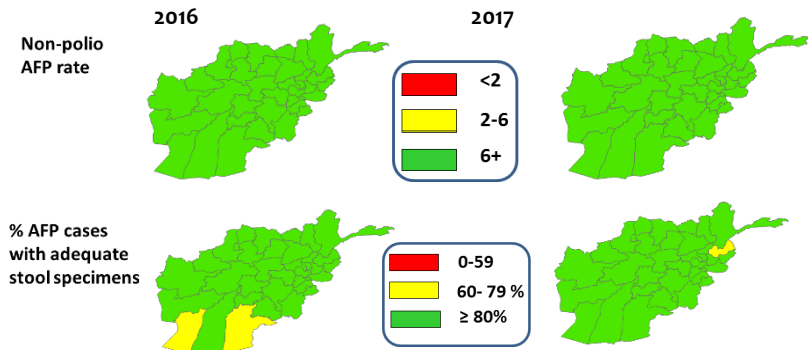
Environmental Surveillance:

- ◆ 76 environmental samples from 18 sites located in seven provinces in the Southern, Eastern, Central and Western regions have been collected and sent to the laboratory in good condition during this quarter.
- ◆ Of the total 76 samples collected, laboratory results have been received for 52 samples — one WP1 positive environmental sample was reported in April from Nangarhar province and another one was reported from Helmand province in May 2017.
- ◆ One new environmental sampling site was added from Payen Aab area in Herat City in the Western region.

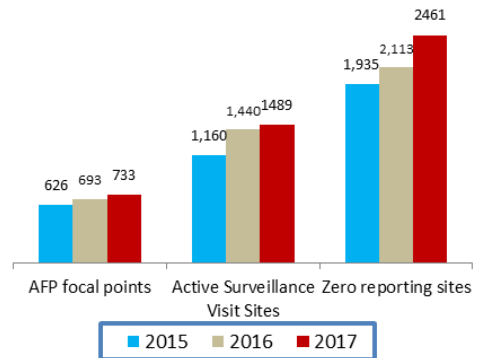
AFP Surveillance:

- ◆ For 2017, non-polio AFP rate is 14, adequate stool rate is 93%, and non-polio enterovirus rate is 17% at the national level. In all regions non-polio AFP rate is 5 or above, adequate stool rate above 86% and non-polio enterovirus rate ranges from 8 to 21%. Out of 34 provinces, only Nuristan has an adequate stool rate of less than 80% (71%).
- ◆ In 2017, 1467 AFP cases have been reported (828 males/639 females), of which 1315 have been discarded as “non-polio AFP” and 148 AFP cases are pending classification.
- ◆ Extensive AFP reporting network in Afghanistan consists of 2461 reporting sites and 28,543 reporting volunteers.

AFP Surveillance: Quality Key Indicators



Expansion of the Surveillance Network:



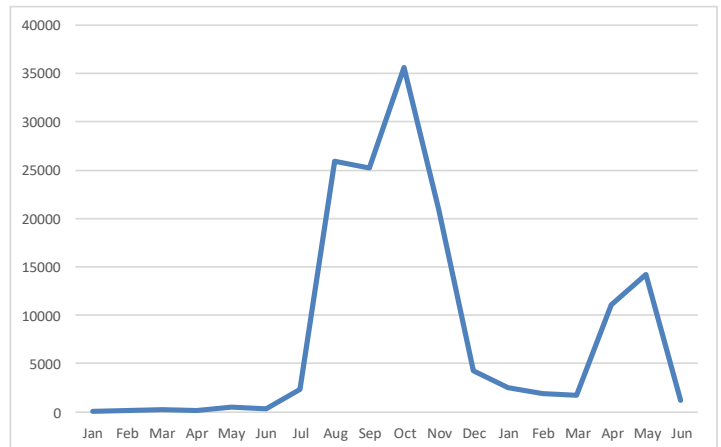
Vaccination of returnees and refugees continues at border areas

The Ministry of Public Health, WHO and UNICEF continue to vaccinate children crossing the border to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran to ensure all children are immunized and protected from polio. In the first six months of 2017, over 32,000 children have been given the oral polio vaccine (OPV) and over 11,000 have been vaccinated with the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). There are currently 44 cross-border teams vaccinating children at 19 vaccination points. In 2016 alone, over 122,000 returnee refugee children were vaccinated with OPV and over 32,000 with IPV at IOM/UNHCR sites.



Photo: WHO/ S.Ramo

OPV Coverage of UNHCR Repatriation Centres and IOM Zero Point 2016-17



Community Engagement

Immunization Communication Network (ICN)

Campaign Awareness In ICN districts awareness of campaigns has remained at around 84% in the last three campaigns while in the non-ICN districts the awareness level is much lower.

Reducing missed children: The efforts of social mobilizers resulted in the vaccination of 114,109 children in the last three campaigns—70% of children missed due to being absent were recovered during catch-up activities.

Convincing and vaccinating children missed due to refusals: During catch-up activity after May NID, social mobilizers were successful in convincing refusal families and vaccinating 6,419 children missed due to refusals.

Monitoring of ICN: Two tiers for monitoring of frontline workers are utilized, the Immunization Communication Network (ICN) and Third Party Monitors. The monitoring results are regularly shared using smart phones via Open Data Kit (ODK) by both tiers of monitoring.

Keeping track of HRMPs: ICN plays a key role in keeping track of high-risk mobile populations (HRMPs) that include returnees and refugees from Pakistan, internally displaced persons and visitors in very high-risk areas of the country.



Photo: UNICEF/Afghanistan

Social mobilizers record details of missed children to keep track and follow up in Kandahar City while the vaccination team vaccinates children

Campaign	Total registered missed	Total vaccinated by ICN	% Vaccinated by ICN
March NID	61,137	40,778	67%
April SNID	62,156	34,757	56%
May NID	63,461	38,574	61%

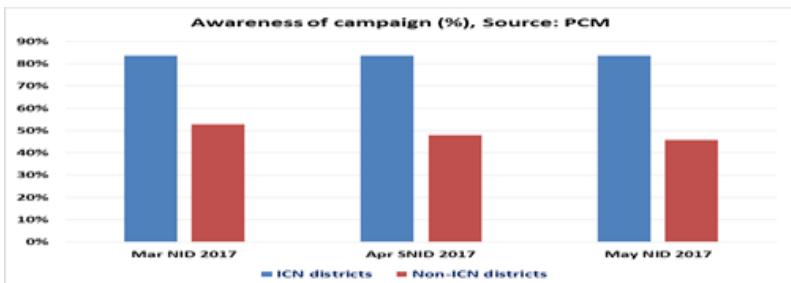
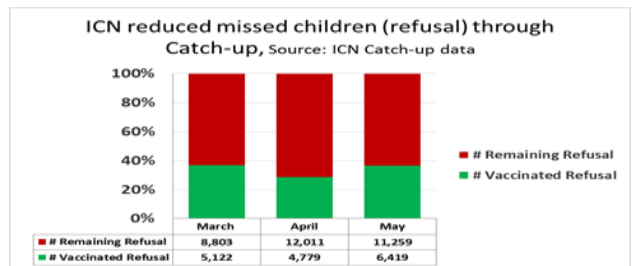
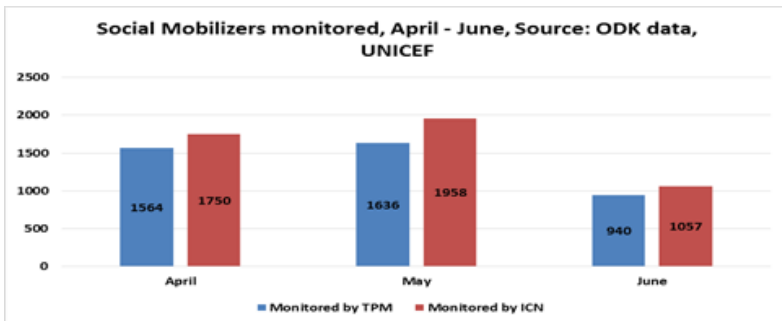


Photo: UNICEF/Afghanistan

In memory of our fallen polio hero

Mr Samiullah, a social mobilizer from Helmand province, lost his life in a tragic car accident while working for the polio campaign in May. Mr Amir, district coordinator from Faryab, and Ms Frozan, social mobilizer from Kabul, were injured in separate traffic accidents while carrying out their polio eradication duties in the field. The polio programme expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of polio hero Mr Samiullah and hopes for a speedy recovery for Ms Frozan and Mr Amir.

Growing media interest on polio

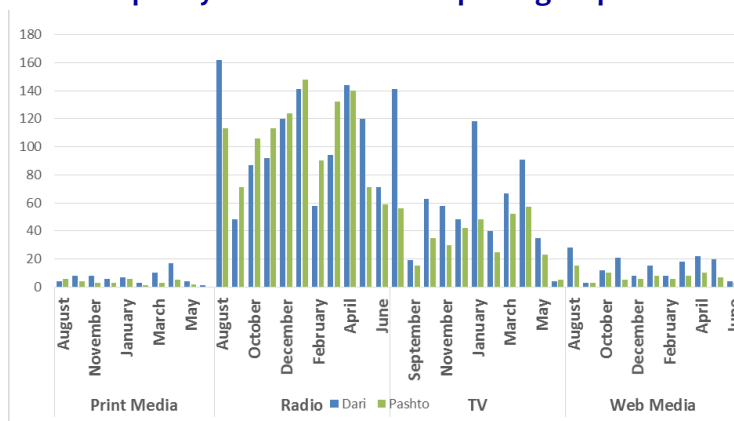
Media engagement around polio continues to be robust and polio remains one of the most covered health-related topics in the Afghan media. A decrease in media coverage was reported in June as no vaccination campaign was conducted.

Going forward, earned media coverage will remain strong and the programme has recently renewed contracts with Voice of America (VOA), BBC, and Pact Communications.

Social media is a growing part of the communications strategy and the [Polio-Free Afghanistan](#) Facebook page now has around 16,000 followers with a monthly reach of around 600,000 Afghans.

New studies by the Harvard Opinion Research Program, Pact Communications, OSDR, and Sayara Research are also helping better hone communications outreach.

Frequency of earned media reporting on polio



“I make sure my children are vaccinated during every campaign” Roqia, 35, from Bamyan

Roqia holds her 2-year-old son who just received two drops of the oral polio vaccine during a National Immunization Days campaign. Roqia has five children and she makes sure they are vaccinated during every single polio immunization campaign.

“Vaccines are very important for children and I know that the polio vaccine prevents paralysis. I have always been supportive of the vaccination teams that visit our home. They are friendly and helpful and they give us all the information we need and ask for about vaccines. People in my community are very aware of the benefits of vaccines and I have seen major improvements in their knowledge and acceptance in the past 5 years. My biggest hope is that my children can get a good education, be independent, happy and healthy.”



Photo: WHO/R.Akbar

Shamshullah and Wajid bring polio vaccines to families’ doorsteps in Kandahar

The progress Afghanistan has witnessed in its efforts to wipe out polio has been to a large extent due to the over 60,000 dedicated polio workers and volunteers who go from house to house during multiple vaccination campaigns every year to ensure all children are vaccinated and protected. Shamshullah, 25, and Wajid, 18, are polio frontline workers in Kandahar province, vaccinating children under the age of 5 against the paralyzing disease in their communities. “Polio is a deadly virus and not all people even know about it. This is why I wanted to start volunteering with the campaign 8 months ago. I want to see the virus eradicated from Afghanistan,” Shamshullah says. [Read more](#)



Photo: WHO/J.Jalali

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