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4 WPV1 positive environmental samples were reported in May 2018: 2 from Nanargarhar, 1 from Kunar and 1 from Kandahar province, bringing the total number of positive samples to 19 to date in 2018.

POLIO TRANSMISSION

- 231 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases (108 girls and 123 boys) were reported in May. Overall in 2018, 1,420 AFP cases have been reported, of which 1,247 have been discarded as “non-polio AFP” and 165 cases are pending classification.

- Non-polio AFP rate is 17, stool adequacy above 95%, and non-polio enterovirus rate is above 14% at the national level. In all regions non-polio AFP rate is above 13, stool adequacy above 89%, and non-polio enterovirus rate is ranging from 9 to 20%.

POLIO SNAPSHOT

AFGHANISTAN

MAY 2018

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Influential scholar supports polio eradication

Molvi Yaseen Fahim, one of the most influential religious scholars in Afghanistan, has a large following in high-risk areas and on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border, where the polio virus continues to be a threat. Previously, he did not even vaccinate his own children, but after several high-level meetings, he has agreed to become an ambassador for the programme and to promote polio eradication on radio and TV. This is a major achievement, and will help the programme in building trust around vaccination.

New study looks at reasons behind refusals

Despite overall progress, refusals remain a risk for polio eradication. In April and May, UNICEF studied the reasons behind refusing the polio vaccine in southern Afghanistan. The data shows that key reasons for most were misperceptions, including the vaccine making children behave badly or even killing them, making them sick, and the vaccine being an American conspiracy in addition to objection by influencers. The findings will lead to changes in the content of frontline worker training, tailored delivery channels and messages for mass communications.

46 PIECES OF NATIONAL EARNED MEDIA COVERAGE

TOP HEADLINES IN MEDIA:
- Paktika: Media having positive effect in polio awareness campaigns
- Aryana Saeed’s message on polio vaccine
- Fresh positive polio case registered in Kandahar

26 medical doctors trained on polio in May.

21,198 children were vaccinated by social mobilizers after the campaign, out of a total 42,780 missed children.

7,000 full-time social mobilisers reached families with life-saving information about polio.

30% are women