

2

WPV CASE IN JUNE

10

TOTAL WPV CASES IN 2019

2

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN JUNE

1.4M

INDIVIDUALS VACCINATED IN JUNE

6,243

SOCIAL MOBILIZERS

2,153

FEMALE SOCIAL MOBILIZERS

841

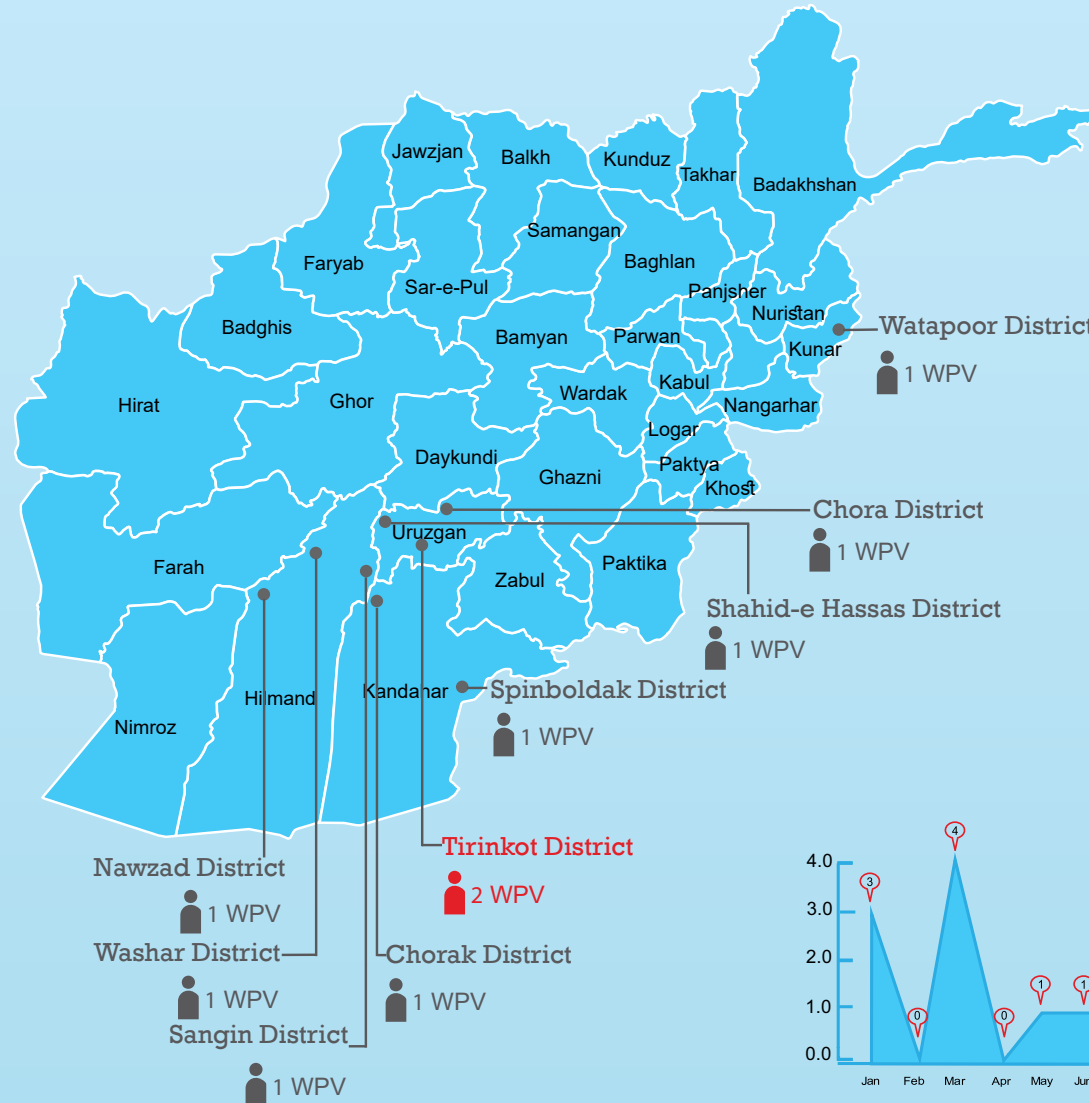
PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS

18

CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION POINTS



POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN JUNE 2019



Data as of 30 June 2019

WILD POLIOVIRUS CASE COUNT 2018-2019



POLIO TRANSMISSION

- Two new wild poliovirus (WPV1) case were reported in June.
- The National Rapid Response Team conducted an epidemiological investigation in response to the detection of the WPV1 cases reported from Tirinkot District of Uruzgan Province.



AFP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

- 235 acute flaccid paralysis cases (107 girls and 128 boys) were reported in June. Overall 1,826 AFP cases have been reported in 2019, of which 1,569 have been discarded as “non-polio” and 247 cases are pending classification.
- In all regions, the non-polio AFP rate is above 11, stool adequacy above 91%, and non-polio enterovirus ranges between 9 - 21%.
- Two WPV1 positive environmental samples were reported from Kandahar Province in June.



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 18 cross-border vaccination points, 49 cross-border teams & 841 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in June 2019.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,276,109 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 131,897 (including 23,795 children below 10) people against polio in June.
- 1,579 children were given OPV and 225 children were vaccinated with IPV respectively in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in June.
- 7,366 international travelers were vaccinated in June in compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- 11,867 returnee children received OPV, 2,274 returnee children received IPV since January 2019.

Razia conducts house to house visits along with polio vaccinators. without persuading families, vaccinating children is a tough job.

As dawn breaks in Kandahar city, south of Afghanistan, Razia, in charge of community outreach activities in Kandahar district, is already on her way to work. The mother of five, leaves home early for a reason.

“Timing is everything,” explains Razia. “If the men leave early for work, we lose the opportunity to talk to the family, since no one will open the door later. Therefore, we must be in front of the houses at the earliest possible time.” She says.

Razia’s job has two sides, the excitement and the security risks. Razia became a frontline worker in 2016, a time when only few women were recruited for social mobilization. “I was excited but worried, that I would be subject to attacks and threats. It was also challenging for my family to accept that I have a job.”

Male outreach workers are often turned away by families, they wouldn’t open the door since traditionally in Afghan culture, men are not allowed to enter a home without the presence of the male head of the family, women social mobilizers, therefore play a crucial role. The power of women’s participation in polio eradication in Afghanistan is incredible as Razia explains, “Women have more access to families and they have so far achieved tremendous results in persuading mothers to vaccinate their children”, says Razia who also insists that women should be part of social mobilization team, because their presence opens doors and they are able to discuss the importance of polio vaccination with families. **“Access to families is key to our success, this is the only effective way to reach more children.”**

Besides the tremendous work of mobilizing communities for polio immunization, Razia cares for her sick husband who stays at home. She wakes up around 4:00AM and prepares breakfast and lunch before going to work.

“What motivates me is to see our Afghan children grow healthy,” says Razia. **“This polio outreach work is an opportunity for women to change people’s lives and their societies.”**

In Kandahar Province, 320 women are engaged in community outreach activities supported by UNICEF.

News from the field

- **South:** 2,300 social mobilizers trained on routine immunization promotion. AND, one woman ‘Bibi Aisha’ was promoted to district team leader of social mobilizers. Bibi Aisha lost her child for polio 20 years ago.

- **East:** 29,000 caregivers attended participatory dialogue utilizing speaking books on polio, hand-washing, routine immunization, anti-natal care and breastfeeding.

- **South East:** 17 routine immunization sessions were facilitated by social mobilizers, combined with community engagement activities.

- **North:** 16 community influencers engaged in community visits of addressing vaccine uptake issues.

- **West:** over 800 social mobilizers attended routine immunization promotion and campaign planning training.



Razia “Without women, polio eradication is a long journey”



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