The status of polio eradication: progress and challenges

Agenda item 2(b)
62nd session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean
5–8 October 2015
Polio eradication and end game strategic plan 2013–2018

Objectives

• Detect and interrupt all polio transmission
• Strengthen routine immunization, introduce one dose of inactivated polio vaccine and withdraw oral polio vaccine
• Contain poliovirus and certify the interruption of transmission
• Plan polio legacy
The best ever opportunity to stop wild poliovirus transmission; only one serotype in limited areas of two remaining endemic countries
Monthly distribution of wild poliovirus cases, 2011–2015

WPV type 1

WPV type 3

Data in WHO as of 8 September 2015

The status of polio eradication: progress and challenges
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Distribution of WPV in the Region, 2014–Sep 2015

Middle East outbreak
last WPV 7 April 2014

Horn of Africa outbreak
last WPV 11 August 2014

Afghanistan total
WPV=28

Pakistan total
WPV=306

Afghanistan total WPV=12
last WPV 6-September-15

Pakistan total WPV=32
last WPV 22-Aug-15

2014
WPV=342

2015
up to 29
September
WPV=44
In 2015, all of the global wild polio burden is in Pakistan and Afghanistan
Are we making progress?
Polio cases in 2014–2015 as at 29 September

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WPV distribution 2014 and 2015

2014

2015

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Declining active WPV genetic clusters, 2010–9/2015

87% reduction in the circulating clusters, 16 in 2010 to 2 in 2015
However there are still risks…

- Travelers from Pakistan and Afghanistan (especially from polio endemic areas) travel to and work in countries all over the world

- *If transmission continues there is a risk that wild poliovirus from Pakistan or Afghanistan will re-infect other countries*
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Subnational risk assessment, August 2015

Cumulative score, 2 August 2015

Risk interpretation (score)
- High ( <50%)
- Medium (50–74%)
- Low ( ≥75%)

Cumulative score, 16 November 2014
Vaccination status of 6–59 month-old non-polio AFP cases in focus countries, 2014–2015

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Priorities for the upcoming 6 months

Consolidate improving immunization coverage and surveillance

Stop polio transmission

All countries: Enhance preparedness and response plans, and prepare for tOPV-bOPV switch

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What can Member States do?

- Support Pakistan and Afghanistan to stop polio virus transmission
- Improve immunization coverage of high risk areas/populations: slums, IDPs, migrants
- Enhance sensitivity of surveillance systems to enable early detection and response to any poliovirus importation or emergence of VDPVs
- Field test preparedness and response plans
- Prepare for the switch from tOPV to bOPV
Summary

• We are in the best position we have ever been to eradicate polio globally within 6–9 months
• To achieve our goal, the national emergency action plans for polio eradication in Afghanistan and Pakistan have to be fully implemented
• The actions of all Member States is crucial in these final stages of global eradication to support Pakistan and Afghanistan and to keep the Region polio-free