

Current major events

Polio in Pakistan

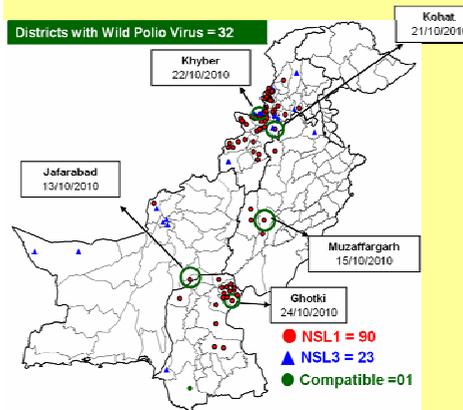
Pakistan has reported 113 polio cases this year to-date. Most of these cases are from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. 59 cases were reported from FATA and another 22 cases were reported from KP where deteriorating security situation is resulting in lack of access to more than three hundred thousand target children for vaccination. Other areas of concern are Central Pakistan comprising Southern Punjab (06 polio cases) and Northern Sindh (18 polio cases). These areas, affected by the recent floods, suffered from damage to health infrastructure and major population movement. This, possibly, resulted in change in population demography and environment which is more conducive for polio virus transmission.

Editorial note

Recent environmental monitoring data in Pakistan is showing isolation of wild viruses which are originating from endemic areas, an indication for immediate action to be ahead of virus. District specific planning strategy has worked well in Karachi & Quetta block (08 polio cases). Process indicators on AFP Surveillance are progressing satisfactory in Pakistan. There is very close coordination between Pakistan and Afghanistan sharing the surveillance data, synchronizing the vaccination campaigns and vaccinating 1.5 million children crossing the border annually.

Overall, Pakistan epidemic situation needs an immediate attention. In such situation it must be assumed that the polio virus is everywhere. WHO Director General and the WHO Regional Director for EMR during their visit to Pakistan highlighted the risk posed to both national and international health, and communicated this alarm in meetings with the government officials in Pakistan. The importance of completing polio eradication was reiterated in their meetings with the UNSG's Special Envoy to Pakistan, the UN Resident Coordinator, UN Humanitarian Coordinator and donor agencies. The Federal Minis-

Distribution of Wild Polio Virus Cases in Pakistan (as of 13/10/2010)



○ District with last polio case in province

Province/Country	Date of Last Cases		Number of cases	
	P1	P3	P1	P3
PUNJAB	Oct, 2010	Jun, 2009	5	1
SINDH	Oct, 2010	Jan, 2010	17	1
KPK	Oct, 2010	Oct, 2010	17	5
FATA	Oct, 2010	Oct, 2010	49	10
BALUCHISTAN	Oct, 2010	Apr, 2010	2	6
AJK		Jun, 2000	-	-
GILGIT-BALTISTAN	Jan, 1998		-	-
ISLAMABAD	Sep, 2008	Sep, 2008	-	-
PAKISTAN	Oct, 2010	Oct, 2010	90	23

try is taking the initiative to convene key federal and provincial authorities and partner agency experts to develop an emergency six-month national eradication plan to be launched in January 2011.

It is now clear that to achieve eradication, it is essential to involve other line departments with the Ministry of Health. In addition to the high level political oversight by the Governors and Chief Ministers, the Chief Secretaries of the provinces and the District Coordination Officers (DCOs) are the ones who hold the real power and can change things on the ground, and provide the support of other departments. Ensuring deep involvement of lady health workers and their supervisors in polio eradication and other immunization activities will be another step ahead.

Concerning the situation in FATA, several efforts are also being made like engagement of civil administration and militaries in the polio eradication programme. Active involvement and participation of community level organizations including religious scholars, madrasa institutions and community leaders will be important to mobilize local support.

There is a great need for efforts to raise awareness among the general public, and particularly among parents, about the value of vaccinating their children against infectious diseases. It is the duty of the parents to protect their children from dangers and that it would actually be a sin if they deny their children the benefit of vaccination.

Update on outbreaks

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region

CCHF and Dengue fever in Pakistan; Dengue fever in Yemen; and Kala-azar in southern Sudan

Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Avian influenza

Egypt	[112 (36), 32.1%]
Indonesia	[170 (141), 82.9%]
Viet Nam	[119(59), 49.6%]
China	[39 (26), 66.6%]
Global total	[507(302), 59.5%]

CCHF

Pakistan	[26(3), 11.5%]
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AWD (Cholera)

Haiti	[17418(1065), 6.1%]
Chad	[2508 (111), 4.4%]
Nigeria	[29115(1191), 4%]

Kala-Azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis)

S. Sudan	[6363(303). 4.7%]
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Dengue fever

Pakistan	[2062(15), 0.7 %]
Yemen	[1903(12), 0.6 %]

Polio

Congo	[184(85), 46.1 %]
Pakistan	[113(0), 0 %]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate
Laboratory-confirmed cases only