

7

WPV CASES IN DECEMBER

29

TOTAL WPV CASES IN 2019

6

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN DECEMBER

5.9M

CHILDREN VACCINATED IN DECEMBER

6,243

SOCIAL MOBILIZERS

2,153

FEMALE SOCIAL MOBILIZERS

814

PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS

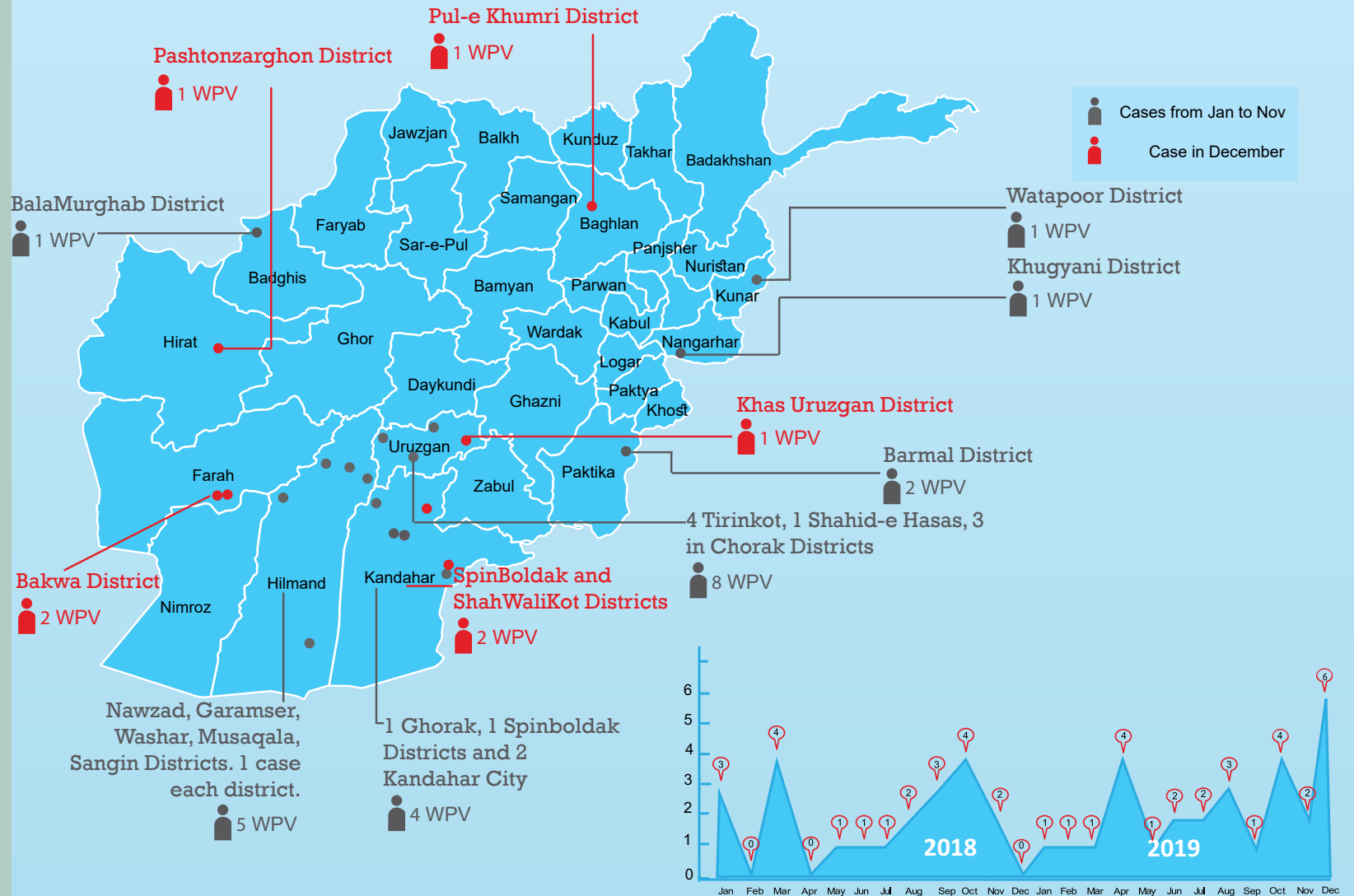
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CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION POINTS



POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN

DECEMBER 2019





POLIO TRANSMISSION

- Seven new wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases were reported in December.
- The Regional Rapid Response Team conducted an epidemiological investigation in response to the isolation of seven new WPV1 cases.



AFP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

- 290 acute flaccid paralysis cases (130 girls and 160 boys) were reported in December. Overall 3,762 AFP cases have been reported in 2019, of which 3,631 have been discarded as “non-polio” and 101 cases are pending classification, 1 case is polio compatible.
- In all regions, the non-polio AFP rate is above 12, stool adequacy above 91%, and non-polio enterovirus ranges between 11 - 20.
- Six new WPV1 positive environmental samples were confirmed in Dec: Nangarhar 4, Hilmand 2.



SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

- December SNID was conducted across the country, vaccinating 5.9M children under 5 with OPV in 198 districts of 21 provinces against polio.



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 22 cross-border vaccination points, 63 cross-border teams & 814 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in December 2019.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,792,790 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 148,649 children against polio in December 2019.
- 980 children under 10 were given OPV and 113 children were vaccinated with IPV respectively in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in December.
- 15,183 international travelers were vaccinated in December in compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- 23,069 returnee children received OPV, 4,525 returnee children received IPV since January 2019.



Polio Eradication Initiative senior leadership from Afghanistan and the region assessed the programme activities in Kandahar

A joint mission led by the Senior advisor to the Minister / National Focal Point for Polio Eradication Dr. Hedayatullah Stanekzai, WHO Director for PEI across the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, Dr. Syed Hamid Jafari, Afghanistan/Pakistan Polio Hub Coordinator Dr. Joanna Nikulin, WHO Representative in Afghanistan Dr. Richard Peepkorn, and WHO Polio Team Leader for Afghanistan Dr. Zubair Wadood Mufti visited Kandahar to assess the programme.

Afghanistan as a country in general and the southern region as the polio transmission engine in particular present numerous challenges, where insecurity and inaccessibility are atop. While reviewing the situation in the southern region at the Emergency Operation Centre, Dr. Stanekzai urged the teams, including polio and EPI teams to synergistically work toward the goal of polio eradication.

In addition to an emphasis on more female workers for enhanced access, and focusing on population on the move, Dr. Hamid Jafari, emphasized that campaigns' quality improvement in large and accessible population centres of Kandahar and Lashkargah was vital. Such focus, Dr. Jafari insisted, would stop poliovirus transmission in the southern region and Afghanistan.

Mr. Jafari says, “We are definitely up against a lot of challenges in Afghanistan and Pakistan, however, at the end of the day it is not a task too complicated. What we need is undivided attention of all parties involved and eventually support of the mothers and fathers who have children aged under five.”

The delegation also met the Governor of Kandahar seeking his support and personal patronage for polio programme, and made field visits to meet the vaccination teams, their supervisors and observed the surveillance system for polioviruses. The delegation had in-depth discussions with the field staff to better understand the challenges and discuss the possible solutions and way forward.



2019 Highlights

Immunization Campaigns in 2019

Amidst effects of the ban, the programme implemented contingency plans to maintain population immunity against polio. Three campaigns were carried out after the ban was lifted in late September.

Campaigns	Children Targeted	PCA Coverage	% failed lots
Jan SNIDs	5,463,187	97.1	48.3
Feb SNIDs	5,813,470	97.2	33.3
March NIDs	9,999,227	96.4	31.6
August NIDs	9,999,227	No PCM	30.6
Sept NIDs	9,999,227	No PCM	40.8
Oct SNIDs	8,580,830	96.9	18.5
Nov NIDs	9,999,227	96.7	25
Dec SNIDs	5,896,051	96.6	31.9

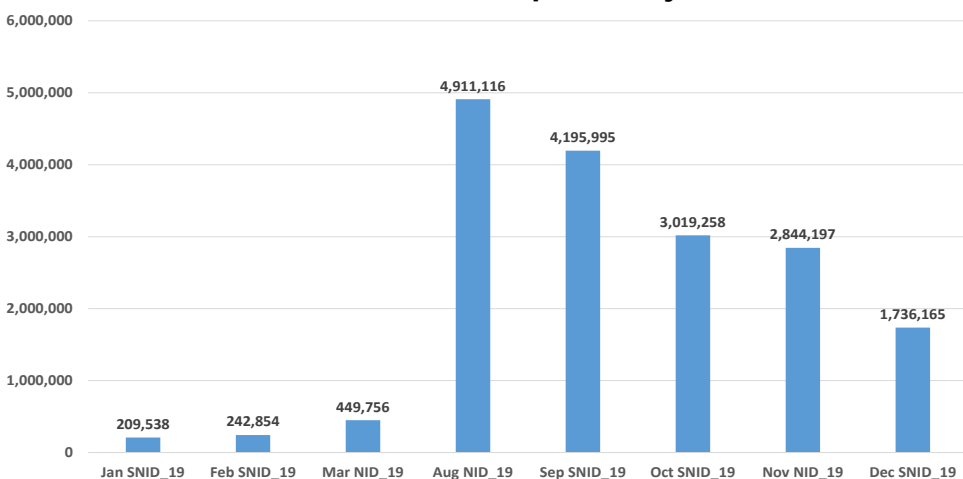
Note: PCM is conducted only in H2H modality areas

Accessibility

PEI experienced a complete ban on house to house vaccination across the country between Apr - Sep 2019, when the ban was, partially, lifted, access was regained to some of the reservoir areas, and campaign implementation

restarted with house-to-house in some parts, a mix of site-to-site and health facility to health facility in other areas.

Number of inaccessible children reported by round 2019



Quality of Supplementary Immunization Activity

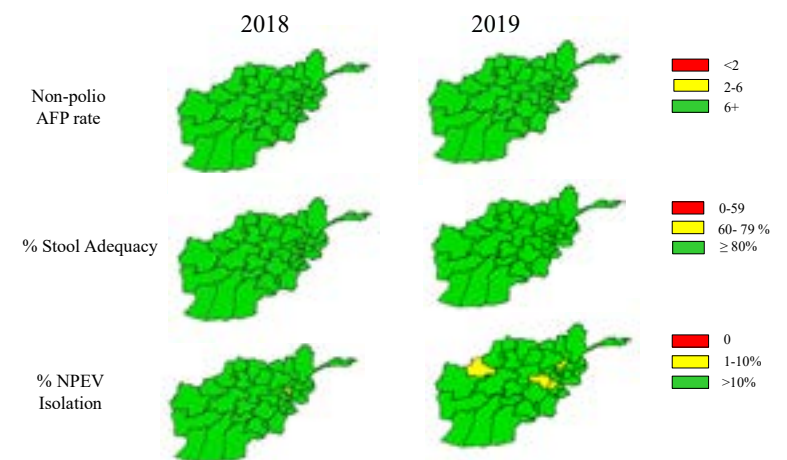
Campaign implementation quality is suboptimal in some areas which has critical accessibility issues. While working on access and quality in those areas, the programme is going to continue high focus on accessible areas such as Kandahar city, where population movement, density and programme accessibility is comparatively better available.

As many as 20 cross border vaccination points, 60 cross border teams and 850 permanent transit teams were functional through the year in 2019. These teams vaccinated an average of 1.5 million children each month.

Surveillance

Surveillance activities, amidst ban, continued and maintained high level standards, to ensure to detect every case. Non-polio AFP rate was 18, stool adequacy 94%, and non-polio enterovirus rate was 16% in all regions. Key surveillance indicators in all access categories were comparable and above the targets, with surveillance activities and network continuing its strategic expansion. Same can be seen through out years in below figure.

AFP surveillance: quality key indicators



Community engagement

Overall 8,396 social mobilizers (including 2,153 female) worked to reach out to families with pro vaccination messages based on medical and religious evidence from the teachings of the Quran and Prophet (PBUH). Each month an average of 40,000 children of absent and refusal families were reached through catch up campaigns by social mobilizers with polio drops. On the other hand an average of 50,000 caregivers, influencers, and community representatives were involved as positive deviants for awareness campaigns in high risk areas.

Cross-border collaboration

PEI Afghanistan and Pakistan have been collaborating on interventions across the border between the two countries and ensuring that communication messages are synchronized on both sides. On the other hand, the two countries have been benefiting from each others experiences through cross border conference calls.

PEI-EPI

Despite overall low coverage of immunization across the country, PEI and EPI has made significant achievements in maintaining herd immunity and a relative control over outbreaks. Today there are 2,225 fixed immunization service delivery sites across the country.

Strategic Recommendation

- Maintain programme neutrality, continue dialogues to resume house to house campaign access.
- Continue context aware scenario-based approach while remain prepared for house-to-house campaigns.
- Focus on improving campaign quality in the accessible areas especially in large population centres including, Kandahar city, Lashkargah, Jalalabad, Herat, and Kabul.
 - Customize and contextualize communication / social mobilization strategy addressing refusals, better engaging communities and enhance demand for vaccination including through the provision of additional integrated services.
 - Continue cross border coordination with Pakistan to synchronize the programme implementation strategies both operations and communications.

