

11

WPV1 CASES IN SEPTEMBER 2020

51

WPV1 CASES IN 2020

3

WPV1 POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN SEPTEMBER 2020

7.1M

CHILDREN VACCINATED IN SEPTEMBER 2020

47,876

SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES REPORTED UPTO SEPTEMBER

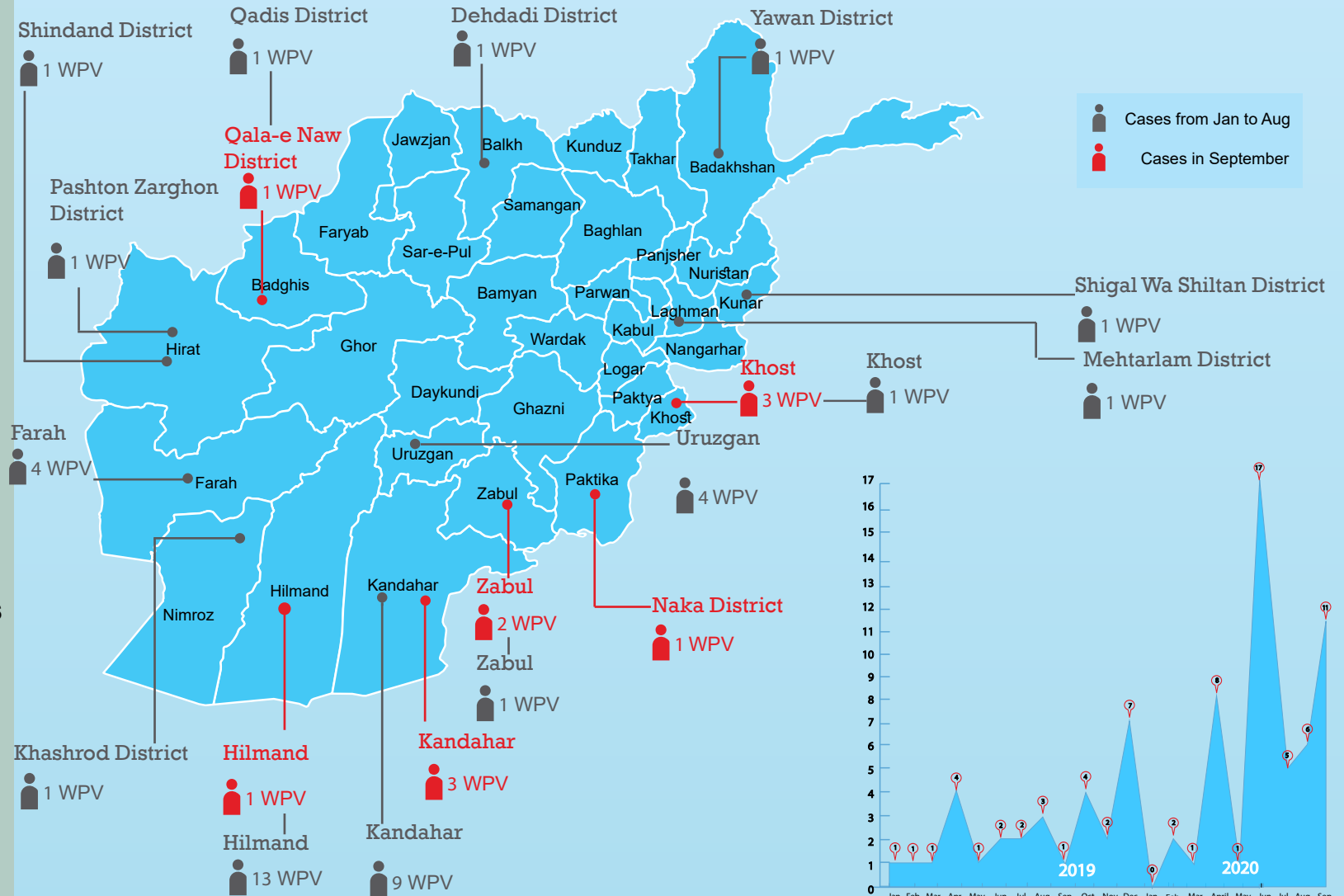
81,557

SURVEILLANCE NETWORK MEMBERS and FRONTLINE POLIO WORKERS TRAINED IN DETECTING AND REPORTING COVID-19 CASES



POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN

SEPTEMBER 2020



Data as of 30 September 2020



POLIO TRANSMISSION

- 11 cases of Wild Polio Virus (WPV1) were confirmed in September 2020, 3 from Kandahar, 3 from Khost, 2 from Zabul, 1 from Hilmand, 1 from Badghis, and 1 from Paktika



AFP ENVIRONMENTAL & COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

- 341 children with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP)-142 females and 199 males - were reported in September 2020. A total of 2,800 AFP cases have been reported since the beginning of 2020. Of this, 2,299 cases have been discarded as non-polio. About 361 cases are pending final classification
- The non-polio AFP rate remained above 9, stool adequacy stood above 86%, and non-polio enterovirus rate ranged between 7-17% in all regions
- 3 new WPV1 positive environmental samples were confirmed in September 2020

PEI support to COVID-19 Between Jan-Sep 2020:

- 47,876 suspected cases of COVID-19 were reported, of which 8,383 tested positive
- 4,837 government & NGO partners were trained
- 97,246 health professional (including paramedics/nurses) were trained
- 183,068 community and religious influencers were oriented on delivering preventative messages



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 56 cross-border teams and 11 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in September 2020. These teams vaccinated 98,790, and 10,800 children, respectively.
- 278 children under 10 years of age received OPV at the Islamqala border of Herat province
- Since beginning of 2020, total 27,302 children have been vaccinated with OPV and 4,811 children with IPV



TARGETED VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS IN HIGH RISK AREAS

- Two case response campaigns targeting 7.1 million children were conducted in south, western, southeast regions, some provinces in central and northeast regions and 2 districts in eastern Nuristan province.

Dr Farima is unstoppable

Dr Farima has overcome many gender barriers to rise in Afghanistan's polio programme and fight COVID-19.

Dr Farima Azimi, at 22 years old, is a medical graduate and a District Polio Officer in Kandahar province in Afghanistan. For any young person, such achievements would be impressive. In Afghanistan, where social and cultural norms often limit a women's ability to work, Dr Farima's determination to overcome gender barriers is exceptional.

She says, "The cultural and traditional situation in Afghanistan, and especially in Kandahar, is such that people don't look up to women who are seeking education. I have faced numerous troubles since I have started to go to school. You get bullied by people with insults."

"People used to tell me that as a girl, if I am going out of home to study and work, I might dishonour my family. I used to come home and tell these stories to my family and instead, I received their support and was encouraged to stay strong." Without family support, Dr Farima explains, her journey would be impossible. [Click for full story](#)



Key COVID-19 and Health Activities

- 3,600 community mobilisers (male and female) and an additional 481 Female Mobiliser Vaccinators (FMVs) reached 877,000 caregivers with information on polio and COVID-19 in the east, southeast, south and west regions. Female mobilisers represent 43% of the overall social mobilization workforce. This is an increase of 1% compared to August 2020
- The Immunization Communication Network (ICN) referred 52,659 children from the south and east regions for routine immunization. Of this, 30,117 (57%) children received routine immunization in September
- 177,313 children and 30,363 women received tetanus TT vaccine at health facilities in the west, south, southeast and east regions, through the support of FMVs

Key Polio Activities

- 7,000 religious influencers, community leaders and local authority representatives were engaged in polio campaigns awareness
- 371,000 women attended polio and new born child health (MNCH) awareness sessions organised by the FMVs. A total of 36,000 such sessions were held in West, East, South and Southeast
- 30 local journalists in the south and southeast regions attended polio campaign orientations, which included updates on polio cases, campaign messages, challenges and campaign plans
- To protect against COVID-19 infection, 8,204 hand sanitizers and 54,540 face masks were distributed among the polio frontline workers in the east and southeast regions ahead of the September campaign
- 397,425 soap bars were distributed to 93,176 households as part of the COVID-19 response and in support of the polio campaigns
- 5,640 radio and 1,134 TV polio awareness spots aimed at promoting vaccine uptake were broadcast ahead of the immunization campaign
- The Polio Free Afghanistan Facebook page reached 2.2 million users during September. Some 3,681 comments received on the page focused on campaign dates, locations and number of cases



UNICEF
Mohammed Mohammadi
mmohammadi@unicef.org

WHO
Dr Irfan Elahi Akbar
akbari@who.int



/WHOafghanistan
/poliofreeafghanistan
/afghanistanunicef



@UNICEFAfg
@WHOafghanistan
@PolioFreeAfghan



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