



NATIONAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

For Polio Eradication

2015–2016

The Prime Minister of Pakistan / Chairman of the National Task Force for Polio Eradication endorsed the National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication in a meeting held on 11 June 2015, Prime Minister's House, Islamabad

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(Chairperson, National Task Force for Polio Eradication)







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FORWARD

While the year 2014 has been of trials and tribulations for Pakistan's fight against Polio, it has also been a year of opportunities and breakthroughs. The year saw enhanced ownership and political commitment at all levels of the Government. The formation of the Prime Minister's Focus Group on Polio Eradication reflects strong political commitment of the highest leadership. Based on the decision of the Prime Minister's Focus Group a cabinet committee on Immunizations was formed. The establishment of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) at the federal and provincial levels was a key step, which highlighted government ownership of the eradication initiative, and significantly improved planning, monitoring and coordination of the Program.

With a view to focus on resolving the security issues confronting the Program, the newly formed Cabinet committee on immunization comprising of the Ministers for Defence, Interior and National Health Services was tasked exclusively to ensure security for Polio teams across Pakistan in support of the Provincial Governments. The Minister of Interior, upon the request of the Program, assigned the Director General National Crisis Management Cell as the National Focal Person for Polio security. This step has had a major impact in coordinating security efforts with the Provinces and in improving the overall security planning of the Program. Access to children significantly enhanced. Following military operations in North Waziristan, the exodus of population from the area provided the Program with the opportunity to reach over 260,000 children through Permanent Transit Points established on the route of their outward journey. A robust campaign was subsequently launched in areas that hosted these Temporary Displaced Persons. Following the recent military operations, children in previously inaccessible areas of Khyber Agency are also being reached after many years. A major stride forward was the resumption of house-to-house and hujra vaccinations in both North and South Waziristan during the last quarter of 2014. Under the UAE PAP Project, with the support of the Army, immunization activities continued all over FATA and 12 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa contiguous to FATA.

The year was a good one for reaching out to the communities and mobilizing them through influencers. The successful International Ulama Conference held in mid-2014 issued a consensus edict in favour of Polio vaccinations. A major effort was made in engaging Ulama, from all schools of thought, and Religious Support Persons for high risk Union Councils to engage with the communities and convert refusals. Due to a comprehensive strategy to deal with refusals, the year 2014 saw a consistent drop in refusal proportion dropping from 0.30 percent to 0.15 percent.

The Program also successfully introduced IPV in a phased manner to boost the immunity of the population against Polio in high-risk areas.

The beginning of 2015 has been a good one with high quality campaigns and a focus on missed children, as recommended during the Technical Advisor Group Meeting held on February 14 and 15, 2015. Security during the Polio campaigns has significantly improved with the cordoning off strategy, deployment of more security personnel and community based protection for health workers. In 2015, the program will capitalize on the enhancements made in 2014, and focus on three key areas: ownership and accountability at all levels of government for high-quality campaigns; identification and systematic tracking and access of missed children; focus on the vaccinators for appropriate selection, training and supportive supervision; and new strategies to enhance community acceptance and trust.

All of these endeavours hinge on proper management and accountability at all levels, as prescribed by the National Emergency Action Plan. Let us make every effort to make it happen and stop Poliovirus transmission in Pakistan.

Ayesha Raza Farooq
Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pakistan accounted for 86% of the global wild poliovirus (WPV) case count in 2014. Pakistan is the only country to have reported a dramatic increase in cases last year. In 2014, polio affected four districts (23 in 2013) from three provinces/areas. There was some spill over in all provinces with no or minimal viral establishment. Environmental samples tested positive for WPV in Peshawar and DI Khan (KP), Lahore and Rawalpindi (Punjab), Quetta block (Balochistan), Sukker, Larkana, Hyderabad and Karachi (Sindh), and most recently Islamabad. To date in 2015, there are 21 confirmed WPV cases. The majority of WPV cases continue to appear in the known reservoir areas. Although reported cases have risen, access breakthroughs in North and South Waziristan give some cause for optimism. The large-scale displacement of populations afforded opportunities to vaccinate at transit points and in host communities.

Against this background, the Government of Pakistan and its partners began intense preparations for the low transmission season in September 2014, resulting in national and provincial low seasons strategic plans. In November 2014, during a three-day consultative workshop in Bhurban, details for the reservoir areas expanded upon these plans. The plans provided milestones for the low season, focusing on key issues, such as, improving the quality of vaccination campaigns, improving the performance and morale of frontline workers, increasing the security measures for protecting health workers, developing special strategies for reaching mobile populations, expanding innovations, and using inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in areas with difficult or irregular access.

Polio eradication continues to be a national emergency with the renewed commitment of the Government at all levels. The Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) recognizes that quality and coverage of polio campaigns are too low, with significant pockets of continuously missed children. Furthermore, the PEI recognizes inefficient selection, payment, training and supportive supervision of front line workers has negatively affected the quality of polio activities. In addition, the level of independent monitoring is too low to assure adequate program performance management and accountability. Finally, routine polio vaccination coverage is too low.

The goal of the NEAP 2015-16 remains to interrupt transmission of wild poliovirus in Pakistan. Key elements and strategies of the plan are in this document, in detail, which includes both refinements of existing strategies and the incorporation of innovative approaches. The underlying assumption of the 2015 Pakistan NEAP is that "all children anywhere in the country can be reached".

The strategic approach will be to stop poliovirus transmission in all reservoirs in Pakistan by the end of 2015; in addition, to detect, contain and eliminate poliovirus from newly-infected areas, as well as to maintain and increase population immunity against polio throughout Pakistan through vaccination campaigns and routine vaccinations. The NEAP details specific objectives, targets, milestones and indicators that will guide and drive the program to its goal.

The NEAP 2015-16 will have a strategic focus on:

- Increasing quality of all polio eradication activities; including campaigns, AFP Surveillance and routine immunization
- Increasing programmatic access and reach, with a focus on tracking and vaccinating continuously missed children
- Placing frontline workers at the centre of the polio eradication initiative
- Expanding continuous community-protected vaccinations
- Ensuring integration of planning and implementation of Operations, Security and Communications through Federal and Provincial EOCs and District Polio Control Rooms/Teams
- Monitoring of performance and increased accountability at all levels
- Reviewing and enhancing AFP Surveillance sensitivity and quality
- Enhancing seroconversion through targeted IPV introduction and expansion
- Implementing the outbreak response strategy

The oversight and review of program implementation, as per the emergency plan, will continue through:

the Prime Minister's Task Force and the Prime Minister's Focus Group for Polio Eradication, as well as the National Steering Committee headed by the Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication at the national level

the Provincial Task Forces headed by the Chief Secretaries and Security Coordination Committees at the provincial level

- the District Polio Eradication Committees headed by the Deputy Commissioners (Civil Military Coordination Committee headed by Political Agent in FATA)



BACKGROUND

Overall Polio Situation

Pakistan reported 306 wild poliovirus (WPV) cases in 2014 (compared to 93 in 2013), which accounts for 86% of the global case count. This is in stark contrast to the situation in the other two remaining endemic countries. In Afghanistan, the total case count for 2014 was 28, while Nigeria has not reported any cases since July 2014.

Forty-four districts in four major provinces, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan, Punjab, Sindh and Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), experienced cases in 2014. This compares to 23 affected districts in 2013 and 12 districts from the first three months of 2015. The total number of WPV cases for 2015 to 22 with the most recent case had onset of paralysis on 29 March 2015 from Peshawar (Figure 1 and 2).

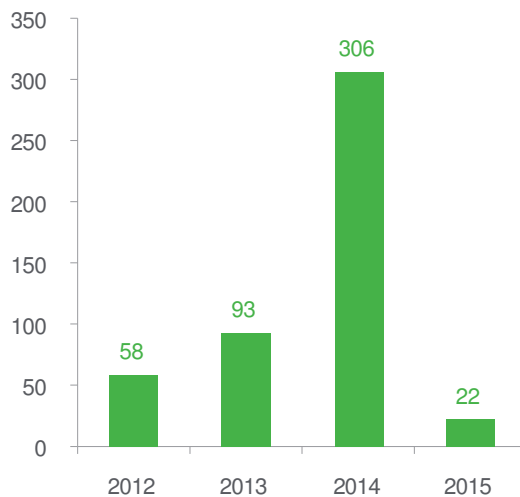


Figure 1: Epidemic curve of polio cases, 2012–2015

Among the confirmed polio cases in 2014, more than 84% were children under 2 years of age, 62% had not received any OPV dose during their life and 22% had only received 1 to 3 doses based on parent recall. Out of the total polio affected children, 94% were from mobile Pashto-speaking families.

The majority of the 2014 WPV cases were from areas with barriers to immunization. The dominant epidemiological feature remains the ongoing transmission of WPV in FATA, particularly

in the Khyber Agency. Due to both intense transmission and extensive population movements (due to conflicts), the virus spread to other areas, including the main population centres in KP, Sindh and Punjab. However, the Program was also able to take advantage of these population movements enabling the program to vaccinate large numbers of previously unreached children on the move.

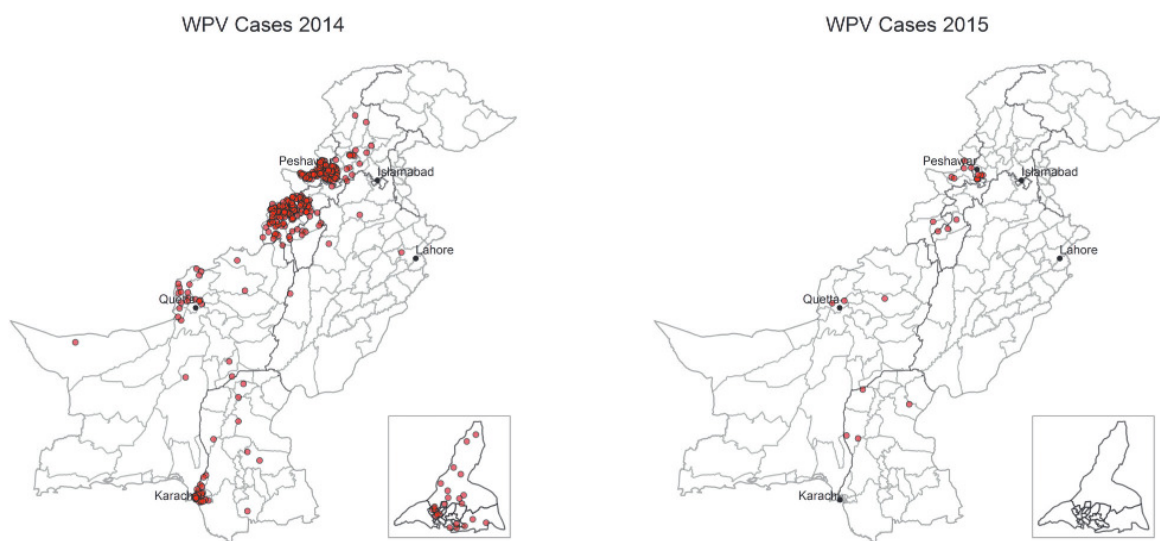


Figure 2: Distribution of WPV cases in 2014 and 2015

Other areas inaccessible for years (e.g. South Waziristan) opened up in June 2014 and became largely accessible to this day; the vast majority of children in Pakistan are now accessible to the programme. For example in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), the number of inaccessible children has dropped from 250,000 to 48,000 primarily limited to defined pockets of Khyber and North Waziristan agencies as of 23 March 2015

Endemic/Reservoir

Since the majority of WPV cases continue being detected from the known reservoir areas, the success of global polio eradication depends on clearing the remaining core reservoirs by vaccinating all children with multiple and repeated doses of OPV (Table 1)

Table 1: List of Pakistan's remaining reservoir districts

Nb	Province	District
1	SINDH	BALDIA
2	SINDH	GADAP
3	SINDH	IGQBAL
4	KP	PESHAWAR
5	KP	BANNU
6	BALUCHISTAN	QUETTA
7	BALUCHISTAN	PISHIN
8	BALUCHISTAN	KABDULAH
9	FATA	KHYBER
10	FATA	WAZIR-N
11	FATA	WAZIR-S

Virus spread/Outbreaks

Low population immunity coupled with high mobility of at-risk populations from key reservoirs, particularly FATA, is facilitating transmission of WPV in multiple districts that were not previously infected. Although there was minimal viral establishment in the majority of districts infected in 2014, districts in northern Sindh continued to detect WPV cases and positive environmental samples. Transmission in low-risk districts points to a worrying population immunity gap attributed to poor campaign performance and accumulation of susceptible chronically missed children.

Environmental surveillance/Sampling

Since its inception, environmental surveillance (ES) has increased the resolving power of AFP surveillance; reinforcing the point of sustained WPV1 circulation in the known reservoirs, especially Karachi. Environmental sampling detected WPV in Peshawar and DI Khan (KP), Lahore and Rawalpindi (Punjab), Quetta block (Balochistan), Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad and Karachi (Sindh), and most recently Islamabad. To date in 2015, KP (Peshawar, Lakki Marwat, Nowshera and Tank), FATA (South Waziristan and Khyber Agency) and Kambar in Sindh have reported seven WPV1 positive environmental samples. Out of 372 environmental samples tested, 131 (35%) were WPV detected from the environmental samples collected from Peshawar and DI Khan (KP 43% positive), Lahore and Rawalpindi (Punjab 23% positive), Quetta block (Balochistan 48% positive), Sukkur, Jacobabad, Hyderabad and Karachi (Sindh 47% positive), and most recently from Islamabad.

VDPV

The polio laboratory network also confirmed 26 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases in 2014; 21 from FATA, three from KP and one each from Punjab and Sindh.

Progress in 2014

The Polio Programme in Pakistan carried out 5 NIDs, 4 SNIDs and 9 SIADs in 2014. In addition there were 5 case responses and 15 special weekly vaccination campaigns in Peshawar and Karachi (Table 2).

Table 2: Administrative coverage, LQAS and market survey result of the SIAs conducted in 2014, Pakistan

SIAs	Target Children below 5 years	Reported Coverage		LQAS Results			Market Survey Results (%)
		n	%	No of Lots taken	Lots Passed		
					No	%	
Jan, 6-8, SIADS	7,927,473	5,000,206	63%	55	39	71%	92%
Jan, 20-22, NIDs	34,175,758	32,680,069	96%	179	121	68%	95%
Feb, 10-12, SIADS	7,405,372	5,878,841	79%	126	71	56%	92%
Feb, 24-26, NIDs	33,406,370	33,457,460	100%	131	92	70%	97%
Mar, 10-12, SIADS	8,131,605	6,964,809	86%	107	64	60%	94%
Mar, 24-26, NIDs	34,160,753	32,964,577	96%	141	89	63%	96%
Apr, 14-16, SNIDs	9,687,463	8,634,405	89%	88	48	55%	94%
Apr, 28-30, SIADS	2,297,492	1,854,237	81%	30	2	7%	93%
May 5-7, SNIDs	11,289,008	10,943,254	97%	121	72	60%	94%
May 19-21, SIADS	2,532,440	1,883,202	74%	76	34	45%	97%
Aug, 18-20 SIADS	11,232,961	9,889,237	88%	118	48	41%	91%
Sep, 01-03 SIADS	10,388,337	9,192,513	88%	128	54	42%	92%
Sep/Oct, 29-01 NIDs	34,160,753	35,435,716	104%	186	112	60%	95%
Oct, SIADS	6,982,989	5,866,375	84%	73	54	74%	93%
Nov, 10-12 SNIDs	13,863,971	13,133,801	95%	135	79	59%	94%
Nov, 24-26 SIADS	5,622,604	4,170,897	74%	106	54	51%	94%
Dec, 08-10 NIDs	34,160,753	35,817,637	105%	208	121	58%	95%
Dec, 22-24 SNIDs	15,673,763	13,981,031	89%	141	86	61%	93%

A large number of children previously not accessible were accessed and vaccinated through protected campaigns and transit vaccination. Despite these efforts the virus continued to circulate within known endemic reservoirs and spread outside these areas resulting in cases/outbreaks.

There was significant progress in accessing previously unreachable children in security-compromised areas. Improved communication and joint planning with security agencies at all levels supported this endeavour.

- Nine million children reached with OPV at Permanent Transit Point
- Resumption of house-to-house vaccination in both North and South Waziristan
- Continued immunization activities in FATA and 12 districts of KP contiguous to FATA

The Government of Pakistan established the Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) in late 2014 at national and provincial levels to provide a solid platform to strengthen the "one-team" concept at all levels towards better program oversight and

accountability. Since its establishment, the EOCs played a vital role in bringing together senior government officials and GPEI partners under one roof, hence enhancing timely joint decision making, sharing data, and regular program reviews.

The year 2014 marked a renewed government commitment to polio eradication and a series of innovations, including:

- Renewed government commitment and oversight
 - › PM's Focus Group
 - › National Task Force
 - › Minister and Prime Minister's Focal Person
 - › District prioritization and high-risk Union Council (HRUC) approach
- Enhanced coordination, command and control
 - › National EOC and appointment of National EOC Coordinator
 - › Provincial EOCs
 - › Joint operational and security planning (e.g. Peshawar and Karachi)
- Improved Campaign Quality
 - › Major surge of polio status especially at field level supported by GPEI partners

- › Improvements to the payments system
- › Systematic review of microplans in HRUCs instituted
- Protection of Campaigns and Front Line workers (FLWs)
 - › Joint planning with security forces in FATA, KP and Sindh (Karachi)
 - › A strategy to deliver "protected" campaigns put in place with increased campaign protection
 - › Strategy for community-based protection using Community Volunteers piloted successfully in Karachi and now being scaled up
- Mobile Populations
 - › Enhanced transit strategy with more PTP teams reaching approximately nine million children in transit
- Communications
 - › Low profile communication campaigns and the presentation of polio as part of a larger child health package
- Enhanced cross border cooperation
- Intense preparation and implementation of low season plan (Bhurban Plan, surge, etc.)
- Ulema Conference/ Religious Support Persons placed at UC level

Lessons Learnt in 2014

The program has looked carefully at the reasons for continued polio transmission utilizing analyses from administrative data, tally sheets, campaign monitoring, LQAS, AFP surveillance and inputs from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

The consensus that has emerged is:

- Quality and coverage of polio campaigns are too low
- Routine OPV coverage remains too low
- AFP Surveillance is not optimal
- Significant pockets of missed children remain
- Payment mechanisms are still not efficient
- Monitoring and supervision is weak
- Front Line Workers (FLWs) are often poorly selected, trained, supervised and supported

The program will proceed by:

- Focusing on missed children
- Using protected campaigns
- Implementing an enhanced transit strategy
- Implementing low profile communication campaigns and the presentation of polio as part of a larger child health package
- Combining polio vaccination with other interventions, such as measles vaccination or other routine immunizations

The more recent lessons learnt for conducting SIAs in security-compromised areas are the following:

- Most casualties were incurred during door-to-door campaigns
- Security escorts have been specifically targeted, particularly where they directly escorted polio workers

- Security escorts have been specifically targeted while travelling to/from polio escort duties
- Securing an area by creating cordons and/or patrols resulted in fewer security incidents
- Security arrangements are markedly improved when police and other law enforcement agencies are given sufficient time to develop their security plans in advance of campaigns

- Involvement of community influencers in the discussion of appropriate security arrangements helps with successful implementation
- All areas are potentially insecure (e.g. recent fatalities in a supposedly secure area of Karachi) and require a systematic and thorough security assessment before each campaign

Challenges for 2015-16 2015-16

The program initially set the target of interrupting WPV transmission by the end of 2015, however; the target was reviewed taking into consideration the epidemiology of WPV during the 2015 low season and operational and security gaps in reaching the continuous missed children.

The program must now:

- Reach continuous missed children
- Significantly improve the quality of polio campaigns
- Ensure adequate protection for all polio activities
- Increase efforts to vaccinate children in inaccessible, underserved or mobile populations

- Address community fatigue and build and sustain trust, demand and community ownership for polio vaccination
- Increase sensitivity and quality of AFP surveillance
- Strengthen routine immunization and systematically improve synergies between PEI and EPI
- Improve the Vaccine Management System
- Ensure close communication, situational awareness, coordination and integration at all levels through PCRs and Provincial and National EOCs
- Implement IPV strategy in reservoirs and plan for implementation of IPV into EPI
- Interrupt ongoing outbreak in central Pakistan and other recently infected districts

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 2015–16

Goal

The overall goal of the National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication is to stop Wild Poliovirus (WPV) transmission and cVDPVb by March 2016.

Strategic Approach

The strategic approach will be to:

- 1) Maintain and increase population immunity against polio throughout Pakistan by implementing high quality campaigns
- 2) Stop poliovirus transmission in all reservoirs and prevent establishment of poliovirus circulation in the rest of the country
- 3) Detect, contain and eliminate poliovirus from newly-infected areas
- 4) Sustain polio interruption through increased routine immunization coverage

Guiding Principles

- 1) Increased quality of all polio eradication activities; including campaigns, AFP Surveillance and routine immunization
- 2) Increased programmatic access and reach with a focus on continuously missed children
- 3) Integration and coordinated planning and implementation of Operations, Security and Communications through Federal and Provincial EOCs and District Polio Control Rooms/ Teams
- 4) Enhanced/ real time monitoring of performance and increased accountability at all levels

Specific objectives and targets

Reservoirs (endemic zone): Although it is significant to achieve high population immunity throughout Pakistan, the success of global polio eradication depends on clearing the 11 remaining core reservoirs through finding and vaccinating the chronically missed subpopulations with multiple and repeated doses of OPV.

- In addition to the 5 NIDs, an extra 4 rounds of SNIDs will be conducted before, reaching 90% coverage validation by third part independent monitoring or a minimum 80% of all LQAS lots assessed accepted at greater than 90% coverage
- Monthly community-based/ protected continuous vaccination; LQAS pass of 95% coverage by third part independent monitoring

- Annualized AFP Rate of $\geq 2/100,000$ and $\geq 80\%$ of AFP cases with adequate stool specimens across all reservoir districts
- Reduce the number of children missed from all sources to **ZERO** by December 2015
- Implement IPV campaigns in all HRUCs in areas with intermittent access and in core reservoirs, reaching 90% coverage validation by third part independent monitoring
- Decrease the number of children unimmunized with DTP3 by 10% by December 2015 compared to January 2015

National (Maintenance): The failure to reach all children, especially in high-risk areas, with sufficient doses of vaccine is leading to continued transmission of poliovirus in Pakistan. To maintain and increase population immunity against polio throughout Pakistan, the program will:

- Implement at least 5 rounds of NIDs by year reaching 90% coverage, by third part post-campaign monitoring or a minimum 80% of all LQAS lots assessed nationally in every SIA accepted at greater than 90% coverage
- Achieve annualized AFP rate of $\geq 2/100,000$ and $\geq 80\%$ of AFP cases with adequate stool specimens across all districts in Pakistan
- Reduce the percentage of zero-dose NPAPF children by 75% by December 2015 compared to January 2015

- › Increase the percentage of children with more than four doses OPV by 50% by December 2015 compared to January 2015

Non-Reservoir (outbreak zone) and high risk districts: Detect, contain and eliminate poliovirus from newly infected areas

- Annualized AFP Rate of $\geq 2/100,000$ and $\geq 80\%$ of AFP cases with adequate stool specimens across all non-reservoirs districts
- In newly infected districts (WPV and/ or cVDPV), conduct three large-scale case response campaigns (in conjunction with the scheduled rounds, i.e. NIDs, SNIDs). Before conducting case response, the district team should conduct thorough review of microplans and having them independent validated by third-part monitors. The target for each case response is 90% coverage validated by third part independent monitoring or a minimum 80% of all LQAS lots assessed accepted at greater than 90% coverage
- In districts with persistent transmission after 3-case case responses will be treated as “emerging reservoir” and additional 5 rounds of SNIDs will be conducted by year, reaching 90% coverage validation by third part independent monitoring or a minimum 80% of all LQAS lots assessed accepted at greater than 90% coverage
- Reduction in the percentage of zero-dose NPAPF children by 75% by December 2015, compared to January 2015
- Clear currently infected districts (WPV, cVDPV, environmental samples) by December 2015 and prevent re-infection

Measures and Key Programmatic Activities

- By the end of Q2 2015
 - › Conduct AFP surveillance review
 - › Review implementation of the Low Season Plan
 - › Implement independent monitoring all phases of campaign (pre-campaign, intra-campaign, and post-campaign)
- By the end of Q3 2015
 - › Finalize joint operational, security and communication plan for Q4
- › All HRUCs and reservoir districts microplans are updated and validated
- › Front-line workers and Community Health Volunteers are selected and trained
- › Effective time payment is in place
- By the end of Q4 2015
 - › Report on progress against objectives and targets
 - › Finalize joint operational, security and communication plan for the Jan-Mar 2016 plan

KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2015–16

Reach and Vaccinate Continuously Missed Children

The SIAs data analysis indicates that a substantial number of children remain unvaccinated at the end of SIAs and even after the 4th day of catch-up. The proportion of these children among the total target children for SIAs may be small but the numbers are high enough to sustain virus circulation. It is important to make sure that all of the children missed during the SIAs are effectively tracked and vaccinated. In practice, this translates to reaching all of the estimated 35.3 million children living in Pakistan, in particular the children living in HRUCs.

The implementation of a paradigm shift away from 'covered children' towards 'continuously missed children' is now required for reaching 100% of an estimated number of children. The current proportion of the covered children among targeted is not delivering the expected results as the number of still missed children is enough to sustain viral transmission. This shift will occur by implementing the following:

- Updating UC level microplans with a view to cover each dwelling and the household
- Consolidating a list of missed children based on child / household locations across Pakistan with particular focus on HRUCs and reservoir districts

- Accurate completion of tally sheets compiled by the vaccinator; a critical starting point for the tracking of missed children
- Supportive supervision starting with Areas in Charge and intra- and post-campaign monitoring with a focus on verifying who is missed and where
- At the end of each campaign, a consolidated list of missed children is prepared which becomes the focus of priority follow-up in mop-up activities and subsequent campaigns
- The mop activities of missed children will be carried out by UC-level staff (UCMO, UCPW, AIC, UCCO), where applicable "team B" will be used to track and vaccinate missed children
- Data on children through AFP and WPV case investigations and participation at health camps will further supplement the missed children list on an ongoing basis
- The patterns and trends across campaigns will be tracked over time with the view to reduce the list to zero

Enhance campaign quality

To ensure that high quality polio campaigns reach all missed children, the program will implement:

- Developing integrated UC microplans
- Intensifying intra-campaign supportive supervision
- Enforcing accountability at all levels
- Systematically monitoring all phases of the polio campaign

Integrated micro-planning at Union Council Level

Integrated micro-planning at the UC level is the cornerstone of a successful SIA implementation. The micro-plans ensure all components of activities are covered, including mapping of the areas of high-risk and with migrant populations, starting and ending points of each team's daily activities and key landmarks, such as schools, mosques, churches, transit points and any other important sites.

The micro-plan must include the details of each polio team member and their assigned supervisor, plus the necessary logistics. Micro-plans need to be regularly reviewed, field validated, and then altered based on past campaign monitoring and field validation. All identified missed areas from past rounds must be included in the following micro-plans:

Micro-planning must be a collaborative effort between all departments in the UC, calling on the revenue department, education, local law enforcement, religious leaders, civil society organizations, the health department and others. With justification and inclusion in the micro-plans, the program can consider requests for additional polio teams, for either house-to-house, street vaccination or transit team activities. If additional resources are needed to reach every child every time, then the program will most likely provide it if the revised plan submitted by the district and province duly justifies the requirement. An acceptable micro-plan must have the following:

- a) Human Resources
- b) Vaccine and Logistics Map of refusal clusters and high risk and migrant populations
- c) Security Plan
- d) Supervision Plan
- e) Social Profile of the area
- f) Social mobilization plan
- g) List of religious leaders and key community influencers in the area
- h) Identification of all nurseries, schools and madrassas in the area (This also means contacting and informing these institutions before the campaign)
- i) Mapping of Transit Points and Transit Team deployment and supervision plans
- j) Mapping of fixed vaccination and team vaccine collection points; these must include routine immunization fixed and outreach sites in the area of the Polio team members' training plan

There should be joint verification of inclusion of any high-risk groups into micro plans prior to each campaign. Integration of operational, communication, training and security components into micro-plans for all high risk and security-compromised UCs shall be a joint responsibility of the UC team (Polio Eradication Officer, WHO district level staff and the DHSCs, under the guidance of the UCMO).

Intensified Supportive Supervision

The DCO/DC/PA/TMO and EDOH will ensure the quality of campaign implementation. In addition to Department of Health, key line departments, particularly Education and Revenue, must be engaged to support and supervise implementation. High quality supervision during polio campaigns is vital to the success of the Pakistan polio eradication program. The program will strengthen and expand the existing supportive supervision system to promote continuous improvements of campaign quality, by providing the necessary leadership and by

emphasizing mentorship, joint problem solving and two-way communication between supervisors and vaccination teams. To meet these expectations, the following must be adhered:

- A sufficient number of supervisors, correct and adequate training, appropriate tools and means of transport
- Supervisors help to plan and oversee the delivery of CPV, review daily plans with the teams, ensure plans are implemented, take corrective action when necessary and solve problems for teams
- Conduct the evening meeting with the team leaders as a group at the end of the day to review the work completed, solve problems that arose and compile lists of missed children
- Take actions based on findings discussed during the evening meeting
- Ensure the catch-up plans have been prepared and implemented properly
- Ensure the presence and quality of supervision by the AICs in the field through screening their check lists and supervisor plans

Enhanced Monitoring

It is important to systematically monitor essential campaign elements at all levels and improve monitoring mechanisms pre-, intra- and post-campaign. The following actions are required as per the NEAP:

- Strengthening and streamlining reporting of pre-campaign preparedness indicators and process through reporting from multiple sources directly to provincial EOCs
- Enhancing supportive supervision by all tiers (Commissioner, DC, EDO-Health, UCMO, AIC)
- Introducing systematic intra-campaign monitoring through independent monitors from partner agencies and third party institutions
- Expanding standard LQAS to cover all HRUCs
- Strengthening third-party post-campaign monitoring

Enhanced Accountability at all Levels

To ensure high-quality performance, the provincial and national EOCs will start implementing rewards based on the accomplishments of revised and updated microplans, tracking and vaccinating missed children. Based on independent investigations of poor performing governments and partners' staff, necessary action will be undertaken within two weeks of the investigation.

Place Frontline workers at the centre of the eradication initiative

Regardless of which scenario – polio reservoir, case outbreak or maintenance, every vaccination campaign comes down to a single, critical touch-point, which is a short, personal interaction with a front-line worker. When the front-line workers succeed, the overall eradication campaign succeeds. When it comes to their success, the truth is simple: community acceptance and trust is everything.

Up to 200,000 front-line workers are involved in national vaccination campaigns across Pakistan with high team turnover, a notable feature of the current intensive campaign schedule. To achieve the success collectively desired, frontline workers must be empowered and motivated at the centre of the polio eradication effort through the creation of a more enabling and supportive environment, in high-risk areas in particular. Major actions towards this end will include:

- Prioritise the employment of more fixed term community front line workers in the verbal HRUCs and reservoir districts
- Each frontline worker is recruited at community level with a profile appropriate to the social norms and standards acceptable to the community in which he or she will serve
- Enhance the quality and duration of training provided to frontline supervisors, Areas in Charge, and their staff in verbal HRUCs and prioritise one districts which develops motivation and supportive supervision techniques, increases knowledge about the essentials of good campaign performance and fosters more effective interpersonal communication at the door step
- Enhance operational communications with frontline workers to provide more guidance and support before each vaccination campaign and more detailed feedback on operational performance and related monitoring feedback to focus area team evaluation and inform future planning and preparations
- Ensure that frontline workers are paid within a week of campaign completion through the effective and efficient payment mechanism with independent monitoring to identify where problems exist so that problems may be effectively and swiftly dealt with
- Recognise and incentivise outstanding team performance at the union council level and provide additional guidance and support to those union councils that struggle to achieve the minimum performance benchmarks

CONTINUOUS COMMUNITY PROTECTED VACCINATION (CCPV)

Building on the success achieved in Karachi, northern Nigeria, and Afghanistan, the program will implement Continuous Community Protected Vaccination (CCPV) to the rest of core reservoir districts in areas with security challenges. Sindh successfully implemented community protected vaccination in parts of eight super-high risk UC in Karachi.

The cycle of CCPV is as follows:

- First week of the month: Training, micro-planning and logistics distribution
- Second week: Administer OPV house to House – HH (1st SIAD passage) and polio plus kits

- Third week: Cover missed children [open refusal, silent refusal (ever 0/0 house to be considered as silent refusal until proven otherwise), NR, NT, NA], new-borns, newcomers and create demands on OPV and RI
- Fourth week: Orientation, update on micro-planning based on gaps in previous passes, logistics distribution and implementation of Passage and HH polio plus (CCVs kits)

Community Support Teams (CST) will provide security for CCVs under supervision of the respective DC in coordination with LEAs.

Surveillance

A sensitive AFP surveillance system aims at finding all of the cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), investigate them and collect stool specimens for testing in a WHO-accredited laboratory to confirm the presence or absence of polioviruses. There are six main strategies to improve the effectiveness of current AFP surveillance:

- Enhanced supervision and monitoring of the existing reporting sites with supervision visits that include active case reviews
- Expand the existing AFP surveillance network by better identification of new private health facilities and keep informal sites such as traditional healers or other non-certified practitioners
- Expand the number of environmental sampling sites to better verify the existing circulation of polioviruses and eventually to document the absence of poliovirus circulation
- Conduct active surveillance during polio campaigns and other SIAs. This means polio workers will ask the community about suspected AFP cases, while working in SIAs, then report these suspected cases to appropriate district surveillance team
- Ensure that the designated District Surveillance Coordinators make all efforts to achieve the highest level of AFP surveillance and are made responsible for ensuring that all tehsils and districts have surveillance indicators meeting the Certification Standards
- Ensure adequate focus is given to improving AFP surveillance by conducting detailed and specific analysis of AFP data for the 11 known reservoirs; strengthening active surveillance and zero-reporting in priority districts and including high risk areas, like Town 4 which contributed to most of the polio cases in Peshawar, in the environmental surveillance sites

IPV

Despite repeated oral polio vaccine SIAs, wild poliovirus transmission remains persistent in the polio reservoir areas of FATA, KPK, Balochistan and Sindh. In some of these areas, children have developed polio after 7+ doses of OPV. This suggests a need to enhance sero-conversion in these areas. Evidence from scientific studies (India 2012, Ivory Coast 1993, etc.) shows that IPV administered to persons who have previously received OPV significantly boosts gut immunity to polioviruses and consequently can lead to faster interruption of community transmission. IPV given to OPV vaccinated persons also helps close gaps in serological immunity faster and more effectively than another dose of OPV and/or attempts to improve vaccination coverage. In addition, recent studies have proven that, especially in settings where OPV is less immunogenic, a supplemental dose of IPV provided to children who have been previously exposed to some OPV, closes remaining immunity gaps in blood and gut immunity more effectively than a supplemental dose of OPV. According to WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), IPV as an additional dose for optimizing seroconversion should be administered after 4 months of age.

The provision of IPV in selected polio reservoirs in 2015 is an immediate supplementary activity to the longer-term introduction of IPV into the routine immunization program through GAVI support; expected in Pakistan in 2015.

The objective of the IPV-SIA campaigns is to provide one dose of IPV (concurrent with one dose of mOPV / bOPV) to accelerate interruption of community transmission of WPV1 & cVDPV2 in selected polio reservoir areas.

The areas selected for the initial campaigns are Quetta block, Peshawar, plus southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA and high-risk areas of Karachi. Additionally, temporarily displaced persons from FATA and health camps in high-risk areas of Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are targets. The program decided, due to the emerging outbreak in central Pakistan, especially in the riverine areas, to target areas that may have inaccessible children due to operational failures.

While the situation is very concerning in the reservoir regions of FATA, central Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi, the risk of polio cases and outbreaks outside these reservoirs remains high due to ongoing population movement. The program needs to ensure high immunity levels in areas outside reservoirs while at the same time be able to respond aggressively to any wild poliovirus isolates, when detected.

Emergency Response Team

The National Emergency Operations Centre will continue to spearhead an Emergency Response Team (ERT), to expedite the processes of responding to the polio cases/outbreaks and environmental wild poliovirus isolates in a timely manner and with the highest possible efficiency.

- 1) This team will be on call seven days a week and will serve in coordination with the provincial teams as the polio eradication program's central point for responding to polio outbreaks/ environmental wild poliovirus isolates.
- 2) The core team will comprise of professionals with expertise on managing outbreak/ importation case response activity targeting multiple districts in a limited time.
- 3) The composition of the ERT may be modified according to the area(s) to be targeted with a backup pool of experts, which can be mobilized, when required.
- 4) The core team should move as soon as possible to the targeted areas (outbreak areas and areas at risk), provide situational analysis and an appropriate response plan in coordination with the concerned provincial, divisional and district level teams.
- 5) The program will pre-position vaccines and operational funds at the provincial level to ensure timely implementation within ten days.
- 6) Before the start of the case response program the ERT, in coordination with DHQ, will ensure:
 - a) Reviewing, updating and field validation of all micro plans with a view to cover the entire population is completed and where feasible, enumeration with workload is rationalized.
 - b) A third party independent validates micro-plans.
 - c) Synchronization of the security and operational plans through joint work of health and security teams.
 - d) Daily monitored high quality training of teams and specially all Area In-Charges.
 - e) Appropriate and focused communication and social mobilization interventions, including use of RSPs, are utilized.
 - f) Strict supervision and monitoring by relevant staff during all phases of the campaign.

CROSS CUTTING STRATEGIES

Communications

The communications approach has not changed to match the different cultural and complex nature of the circumstances we now face. Traditional polio campaigns rely on two primary sets of analyses to create awareness and demand for OPV. The current mass media communications address parents with information about polio and OPV, instead of communities and cultures with attitudes, norms and perceptions about access and acceptance of vaccinations. The static communications strategy focused on awareness of polio must become more adaptive and responsive to the changing dynamics and scenarios. To address questions coming in minds, the benefits of the vaccine and the dangers of the disease must be illustrated.

Based on experience and current analysis, those who accept a vaccination represent the vast majority of the Pakistan population. They are typically motivated to either vaccinate because of fear of polio or trust in those delivering the vaccines. Those who reject the vaccine mainly exist in one place: Although a minority, a reluctance to vaccinate their children based on complex and intermingled root causes defines them. Communication strategies that work well with those who accept a vaccination may not work at all with the non-vaccinating group. Rejecters may not always be parents; they may be influential community leaders or members, or even vaccinators who are not fully convinced that what they are promoting is right.

Across each step towards a successful vaccination, the moment a vaccinator has contact with a parent is the most critical to success. The over-arching communication goal is to create and shape norms, perceptions, and expectations that support vaccinators at this critical moment of contact. Key factors, which contribute towards achieving this goal, include awareness of polio, awareness of the impending campaign, fear of polio the disease, supportive social and cultural norms of routine immunization and vaccine acceptance, prior contact with a social mobiliser, positive expectations of vaccinator performance and vaccine efficacy, and a vaccinator profile acceptable to the community served. The success indicators will include vaccination coverage of continuous missed children, vaccinator contact efficiency and repeat vaccination success. Ultimately, it is imperative to support the development of a norm whereby talking with neighbours, relatives, and community members about the dangers of polio and the importance of vaccination is considered the right thing to do.

The specific communications goal is to maximize vaccinator success. Every vaccination campaign comes down to a single, critical touch-point: a short, personal interaction with a vaccinator. When it comes to their success, the truth is simple: trust is everything. At the centre of the overall polio eradication efforts is a vaccinator's performance. An enabling and supportive environment, effective training, innovation, tailored data and appropriate tools, each contribute to the overall motivation and performance of vaccinators at the frontline of each campaign. The following principles guide these strategies:

Guiding principle 1: Humanise vaccinators

Guiding principle 2: Engage social perceptions, norms and beliefs related to vaccinator access and acceptance

Guiding principle 3: Continuous refine communications to maintain authenticity

This means communication must accurately and authentically portray the vaccinators and the work must not set false expectations that materially diverge from operational realities. Communications must reinforce operations to reinforce communications.

Strengthening external Communications

The government will strengthen communication and media interaction and response to emergencies under its leadership. To promote a better understanding of the polio eradication goals, there are plans in place to enhance engagement with the local and international media. Activities include, quarterly media briefings, engaging with elite media, pitching stories to key media personalities, engaging editors of religious publications in social mobilization and advocacy for polio vaccination in high-risk areas. The external communication activities will work in close coordination with all of the polio partners and GOP to plan, develop and disseminate awareness rising and campaign materials for print and electronic media.

Community Ownership and engaging Civil Society

Putting polio eradication in the hands of the community and placing prominent civil society actors in the driver's seat of polio eradication will address various misconceptions about the program and help build a protective and conducive environment for frontline workers. The attacks and security incidents of the recent past have severely undermined their morale. Strong public support requires active community engagement and dialogue with key stakeholders at district and grassroots level. Reaching out to caregivers in hard to reach areas and those illiterate will be undertaken through community meetings, radio, interactive theatre, religious gatherings, such as Jirgas and Hujras, and community child health support groups in high risk districts.

Expanding Network of Religious Influencers

The program is expanding the network of religious influencers with outreach in all provinces to address religious misreporting through publications to increase awareness on polio and child health issues and promote the importance of polio and routine immunization. Within the light of Islamic teachings, religious influencers are able to ensure a broader support for polio and RI among the religious organizations all over the country.

Emergency communication infrastructure

The following emergency communications infrastructure is in place, effective since 15th December 2014

- 1) Communication Unit in the National EOC
- 2) Communication Units in the Provincial EOCs

Convergence of PEI/ EPI professionals from Government and partner agencies starts the units. The Communication Unit at the federal level is responsible for providing overarching policy guidance, coordinating with provinces, developing guidelines and SoPs, internal and external communication through a national identity whereas the Communication Units are responsible for taking locally appropriate strategic decisions. The Communication Unit at the Federal level has the following components; and Communication Units in the Provincial EOCs shall have the same components.

- Program communication
- Advocacy with Parliamentarians & Civil society, etc.
- Media Advocacy
- EPI/ PEI convergence
- Social Media

Strategic shift

Polio Eradication (PE) Communications are introducing the following Strategic Shifts:

Primary shifts

- Shift from individual awareness and acceptance to promotion of access and acceptance as a community norm, the shift from mother to father as the primary target audience reflects the fact that fathers are the primary decision makers in high-risk mobile population, in particular
- From the 95% covered to the 5% that are not

Message

- Convergence stories in mass media
- Celebrate frontline workers – beyond polio
- Community responsibility
- Use of celebrities to show true involvement/commitment

Channels

- Target radio as lead channel
- Travel and transient population media opportunities
- 2 way communications (IPC)
- 360/ holistic engagement approach
- Proliferation through Civil Society

Convergence

- Integrated messages on highlighting Polio as a part of EPI program;
- Advocacy with Public Representatives to support PEI as an integrated EPI program;
- Civil Society Forum launched under EPI section to win support for PEI;
- Utilization of Polio infrastructure in Measles SIAs; as well as in other activities aimed at strengthening routine immunization

Functioning Security System

The Prime Minister of Pakistan has nominated a cabinet committee comprising of three Federal Ministers (Defence, Interior and National Health Services) to assist the provinces with the unfilled security gaps where providing workable environments to polio workers especially in security compromised areas. Subsequently, the Minister of Interior has nominated the Director General, National Crises Management and GHQ an officer of the Brigadier rank to be part of the steering committee meetings as well as part of the implementation process during polio campaign activities.

The Federal Security Advisor, based at the National EOC, is responsible to coordinate with all stakeholders and assist the provinces in security arrangements. A more robust structure is assigned the task to see the overall security situation pertaining to Pakistan's polio eradication program and to identify areas of inaccessibility due to real or perceived security issues. This developed capacity throughout 2014 includes provincial access specialists located within the provincial EOCs in Balochistan, KP, FATA and Sindh. This structure will work and perform their responsibilities during 2015-16 as given below:

- To investigate the geographical scope and scale of the restrictions on reaching missed children where it is due to security issues;
- Evaluating the alignment of operational plans with security plans, where security is required, noting that security will be appropriate in some Polio High Risk areas and not in others;
- Developing EOC structures, systems, procedures and reporting at Federal and Provincial levels to inform decision making by EOC Coordinators to achieve improved direction, oversight and support of ongoing vaccination operations; including post incident management and response

In the provinces, there are Provincial Security Coordination Committees headed by the Home Secretary/ Inspector General (IG) of Police to oversee the security situation of the province and issue instructions to the districts to provide protection to polio workers. The provincial access specialists will assist the EOCs and the provincial security committees to coordinate security issues at the Provincial, District, Tehsil and Union Council level where they relate to the polio program, including identification of reported areas of unreached children due to security concerns. At the Union Council level, the person in charge of the police station will fully support polio teams during their work, where needed for protecting campaigns.

The key element of the security system for the polio campaigns is an incorporated security plan into the micro-plans at every level. The security plan is an essential planning tool, which if completed correctly as part of the micro planning, enables appropriate deployment of security forces personnel to the areas of most need, with the numbers required to provide reassurance to polio teams and to act as a deterrent. Security might not be required in all areas. The DPEC will determine the security planning with support by the district police officers.

It means involving local law enforcement in the micro-planning process so that if security personnel are required, they are fully integrated with the polio front line workers movements from the onset. Polio workers should not start a campaign activity if the prescribed security arrangements are not in place when they are to begin work. It is the decision of the DC/ DCO/ PA if a polio or other immunization campaign should go ahead or not, due to the security situation. A workup of a polio security analysis proves to be beneficial in determining more accurate figures and categories of security incidents as well as identification of the security compromised areas and security trends. In 2015-16, this work will develop in line with the aforementioned tasks required.

Security arrangements:

- All parties must continue to work together to identify areas of security concern to enable vaccination teams to work in the safest possible environment
- The Federal Security Advisor, based at the National EOC, is to ensure the strengthening of the provision of security and the preparation of security plans at the Federal and Provincial levels. The Federal Access Advisor, and at the Provincial level, the Provincial Access Specialists will support this individual with this task, by providing the necessary information products, metrics and analysis to ensure effective coordination between the Federal and Provincial EOCs, regarding access and security as well as maintaining an oversight and ownership of the provision of security to polio teams.
- Stronger links must develop between the EOC structures and a number of Law Enforcement Agencies to ensure timely coordination, especially during post incident management and detailed investigation and accountability for an lapse must be integral component.
- Analyse data on reasons for missed children due to insecurity as per an agreed table of categories; data on the number of security forces requested (as per the micro plan) and data on the number of security forces actually deployed on a given day and the hours that they are available.

Vaccine management system

Vaccine Management's aim is to help safeguard the quality of the vaccine and ensure the cold chain remains intact from the time the vaccine arrives in the country down to the service delivery point.

Since December 2012, the Government established Standard Operating Procedures to manage and oversee stocking, utilization and wastage of vaccines and related cold chain systems from point of entry to the point of delivery. The Government also established vaccine management committees from National to District levels to implement these procedures and to inform decision making on all aspects of vaccine management. Improving SOP compliance and the quality of reporting will be the key priority in 2015.

For effective vaccine management and estimation of target populations, the following national and provincial indicators are used:

- a) National Vaccine Management Committee meeting regularly as per TORs to oversee all the pertinent vaccine management issues in the country including implementation of vLMIS in the country;
- b) Provincial Vaccine Management Committees (PVMCs) constituted and reporting regularly to the National Vaccine Management Committee (NVMC), on Provincial and District Stores' OPV stock balance (segregated by type of OPV) on prescribed format within one week after each SIA for polio (including SIADs, Mop Ups and case responses) from January 2014, until vLMIS is up and running nationwide, which will provide this information online;
- c) Vaccine management SOPs are fully implemented at all levels in the country;
- d) Vaccine management data continued to be reported/ included in SDMS/ vLMIS;
- e) Vaccine management module included in training curriculum of polio workers

Targeting High risk and underserved populations

The majority of polio cases reported in 2014 occurred within specific underserved communities residing in inaccessible or security-compromised areas. Polio plus is one of the key strategic priorities to reach these populations. Within polio plus, health camps are one of the approaches for building credibility and trust, by addressing other basic needs besides providing the polio vaccine. Currently, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), through the Aga Khan University (AKU), are supporting operational implementation of health camps and Rotar International is supporting the office through funding.

The Basic Health Camps, led by UNICEF, is a one-day health camp that provides basic primary health care services and polio vaccines to adults and children in the highest risk communities living within the various HRUCs. This approach will prioritize health services and polio vaccination for children under two years of age based on local poliovirus epidemiology. The scope of services provided in these health camps will include:

- Treatment of the most common ailments, including diarrhoea, ORS, respiratory tract infections, eye infections and minor injuries
- Preventive health care, including deworming and polio immunization
- Prenatal care through the provision of safe delivery kits to pregnant women

- Hygiene family kits containing such items as detergent, soap, towels, and toothpaste.

Supplementing the health camps with routine immunization will be at the discretion of each Provincial EOC based on their own priorities and capacities. Each health team will have a recorder to record attending children and their immunization history including OPV. The primary performance indicator will be the number of children with zero OPV doses immunized with polio vaccines at the health camps.

Partnership coordination and alignment on the approach, objectives and timeline of implementation of the health camps strategy is critical to ensure synergy, avoid duplication and achieve the highest impact. This coordination is taking place within the Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) at Federal and Provincial levels. The timing of the health camps before, during or after the various types of polio campaigns will be at the discretion of the provincial EOCs based on local considerations and constraints. The Federal EOC will focus on norms, resource allocation and oversight. Upon completion of each health camp cycle, the EOC will conduct an evaluation to inform decision making on the relative merits and utility of continuing this program to reach continuous missed children.

Transit and mobile populations

Implementing special strategies for high-risk mobile populations such as IDP, nomads, brick kiln worker families, migrant and transit populations is vital. There is a focus on implementing high-risk population strategies through:

- Map, track and reach these populations consistently
- Rationalize and strengthen the transit strategy to ensure all of the children on the move and those that reside in inaccessible areas are identified and vaccinated against polio
- › Development of a well-planned and analyzed transit strategy to reach children on the move based on thorough assessments of Permanent Transit Points and their efficiency
- › Deployment of social mobilizers at strategically important PTPs based on a clear criteria
- › Rapid qualitative assessments of high-risk communities as a basis for development of a tailored communication strategy
- › Firewall FATA –KP bordering districts through strengthening vaccination at Permanent Transit Points
- › Development of an adequate supervision and monitoring plan for each Permanent Transit Point

Optimizing the Polio Eradication Initiative for strengthening Routine Immunization

Routine immunization is one of the cornerstone strategies for polio eradication. It is very important to have good quality routine immunizations to sustain the achievements of polio eradication. In view of the Polio Endgame Strategy and taking into consideration the polio eradication priorities and the availability of polio assets, the country initiated the implementation of the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI)- Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI). In which EPI started in 16 districts, selected by provincial governments in coordination with WHO and UNICEF, based on the availability of the polio assets.

In ke-reservoir districts the program plans to decrease the number of children unimmunized with DTP3 by 10% by December 2015 compared to January 2015 through enhanced community engagement, expanded outreach/ mobile sessions, boosted health camps, and child-health days.

With reduced frequency of SIAs, the program will expand the PEI-EPI synergies. Since the time of the project's initiation of the implementation of Federal, Provincial and District trainings, subsequent micro-planning and monitoring activities have commenced. The program proposes to expand this project to 30 more districts from the four major Provinces and Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) using the same selection criteria. UNICEF and WHO will work together in a complementary fashion, using their PEI assets to support the government in strengthening routine immunization in the selected districts.

In light of the recent serious problems with vaccine management and storage at the Federal level and known problems at provincial and district levels, identified through the EVM assessment, it is necessary to re-orient all field staff to do the following:

- Make weekly checks on cold chain equipment functioning at provincial, district and UC levels
- Check WM status and expiry of all vaccines at each level on a weekly basis
- Check for stock-outs and over stocking of an EPI vaccine and ancillary equipment (A-D syringes, safety boxes, etc.)
- Insist that every UC has >1 fixed site providing routine immunization during polio or other SIAs
- Adjust activity schedule in order to monitor routine immunization session while going to the same area for another purpose
- WHO and UNICEF staff, while assisting with SIA micro-plans, should take time to assist the UC with routine immunization micro-plans
- WHO and UNICEF staff should monitor at least four outreach RI sessions in his / her area of jurisdiction on a standard check list and report its findings to the DPEC through respective UPEC
- WHO and UNICEF staff should assist with the planning, training and monitoring of other SIAs, including measles, IPV or TT; staff can also assist with the planning of inclusion of routine immunization in selected places during these SIA and with health camps
- Whenever a PEO conducts a record review or active search at a facility, in addition, check for:
 - › Acute fever and rash or official reported of measles in the registrar
 - › Neonatal deaths > 3 days and < 28 days
 - › Other vaccine preventable diseases such as diphtheria and pertussis when they appear in registrars
- UCPWs should report the following to the PEO or DSV when during the course of their duties they hear about suspect AFP, acute fever and rash, neonatal deaths > 3 days and < 28 days and any other VPD cases such as diphtheria or pertussis

OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

To achieve the goal of interrupting polio transmission by December 2015, strong program management and a decisive oversight mechanism, governance framework, and responsive organizational structures are required to fully coordinate and drive forward program implementation. The Polio Eradication

Program in Pakistan is a national program and the responsibility for implementation rests with the Federal and Provincial Governments. For the detailed Terms of Reference and function of each Polio Eradication Committee see annex 1.

National management and oversight of the NEAP

- a) The Prime Minister's Focus Group for Polio Eradication headed by the Prime Minister meets on a monthly basis and reviews the progress and takes remedial measures
- b) The Prime Minister's National Task Force is responsible for fast-tracking implementation of the National Emergency Action Plan and meets on a quarterly basis
- c) The three members' Cabinet Committee (Ministers of Defence, Interior and National Health Services) on immunization started assisting the provinces in provision of security cover to the field teams in security-compromised areas
- d) Prime Minister's Focal Person for polio eradication provides oversight and oversees implementation of the NEAP, and liaises with the Prime Minister's Office, the office of the President, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and other relevant Ministries at the federal level as well as provincial authorities. The Prime Minister's Focal Person will be a member of the National Task Force and the PM Focus Group and will report progress accordingly.
- e) The newly established National Emergency Operations Centre (N-EOC) is a central point for all activities of polio eradication led by the government and assisted by the partner agencies: WHO, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, etc. The National EOC will continue its assistance to the Prime Minister's Focal Person and will be responsible for monitoring the NEAP indicators and tracking effective implementation of the strategic decisions and guidance provided by the National Task Force and the National Technical Advisory Group.
- f) The National Steering Committee (NSC) for PEI/EPI will meet fortnightly (chaired by Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication) to review the Program performance and implementation of the NEAP 2015. There are several sub-committees to report to the National Steering Committee including the following:
 - i) Weekly Surveillance Committee (reviews current polio updates and lab results)
 - ii) National Communications Technical Committee (leads all kinds of matters related to communication and social mobilization)
 - iii) Technical Supervisor Group for vaccine management (to periodically review status of polio vaccine for SIAs and present the status to the National Steering Committee for action as well as advise to the Federal EPI to release of vaccine to provinces as per SIAs schedule)
- g) The Central Polio Control Room functions at the National EOC to receive reported (administrative) data during pre-campaign preparation and the campaign implementation phases and provide timely feedback to the provinces. Polio Control Room functioning will be optimized at the provincial level in the offices of the Chief Ministers/ Secretaries and at the district level in the Deputy Commissioners' office (Political Agent office in FATA).
- h) The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination is an executing agency of the PC-1 for the Emergency Action Plan of Polio Eradication and routine immunization program at the federal level and will ensure resources for these programs. The Ministry also coordinates

with provincial health departments to manage the SIAs' vaccine supply

- i) The National Vaccine Management Committee led by the Minister of National Health Services is in place, meets regularly to assess available vaccine stocks within the country at provincial and district levels, to forecast vaccine requirements, and reports to the National Steering Committee
- ii) The Federal EPI receives the polio vaccine for SIAs, manages stock position and releases vaccine to the provinces as per SoPs endorsed by the NSC

- i) Progress against the NEAP indicators shall be communicated to the media and general public after each SIA by the National Steering Committee's designated spokesperson. Progress on NEAP implementation shall also be available online through the National EOC website for Polio Eradication. The National Communication Technical Committee, led by the head of the Communication unit, will report to the National Steering Committee on communication and social mobilization strategies and decisions
- j) The necessary measures are in place to ensure that all of the political and religious parties are on board for the national cause of polio eradication

Oversight mechanism in provinces for NEAP implementation

- a) The Chief Secretary must lead the Provincial Task Force for Polio Eradication and s/he will fast-track implementation of the National Emergency Action Plan in the respective province

- i) The Provincial Task Force will ensure oversight to the program and accountability based on low performing areas as well as take necessary steps for motivating the DCs/ DCCs/ PAs of the districts/agencies consistently performing well during all the phases of the campaign

- b) Provincial Security Coordination Committee will review the security situation of all districts before implementation of campaigns. This committee will take appropriate action to ensure safe implementation of the polio immunization campaigns. In the advent of a security incident in respective area of jurisdiction, this committee will ensure detailed investigations and accountability
- c) Every province established state of the art Provincial Emergency Operations Centres (P-EOC) for Polio Eradication with the concept of one team under one roof led by the Government, as per the decision of the National Task Force. A senior full time dedicated senior government officer will be invariably deputed in each province and in FATA to lead the provincial Emergency Operations Centre with the assistance of partner agencies, (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO, UNICEF, etc.). The Emergency Coordinator will be a member of the Provincial Task Force and will report directly to the chairperson of the Provincial Task Force
- d) The Provincial EOC may also notify the Emergency Coordination Committee (ECC) comprising of the ECC Coordinator, heads of units, and provincial representatives of partner agencies. It will ensure tracking of NEAP

indicators and will propose low performing districts and union councils to maintain accountability. The EOC may also review surveillance, ongoing polio vaccination activities in the province and logistics support. The EOC may also constitute some committees such as a vaccine management committee, communication committee, and technical committee, which will facilitate the work of provincial EOC

- e) The Provincial EOCs must situate and operationalize the Provincial Polio Control Rooms. These Control Rooms will gather and collate the reported (administrative) data during the pre-campaign preparation and the campaign implementation phases, along with transmitting timely actionable information to the authorities concerned. The Control Room will prepare a report every evening during campaign days and circulate with advises to the problematic districts and concerned provincial departments, as well as Central Control Room, for information
- f) Provincial Vaccine Management Committees headed by EPI Managers should improve their functioning to maintain all stock positions at the provincial stores and to gather information from the districts, provide feedback to them and present input to the Federal Vaccine Management Committee. These committees will review the available vaccine stocks in the province on a regular basis and monitor vaccine distribution versus utilization on a daily basis during the campaign. They will take corrective action to address any discrepancies while ensuring adherence to vaccine distribution based on micro-plan requirements, avoiding any vaccine wastage and accounting for all doses distributed in the field

Oversight and accountability at the district level

- a) The Deputy Commissioner is the administrative head of the district and continues to lead the polio and routine immunization Program as a program of the highest national priority. The Chief Secretary must review the performance of the district, in particular through indicators for preparation and implementation of SIAs. The Chief Secretary may issue warnings and take necessary action for quality campaigns if s/he considers the DC of the low performing districts is inefficient. The Annual Confidential Report (ACR) may show adjustments of appropriate actions of reward and accountability for the DC's performance.
- b) The EDO-H of the respective district will lead the district health management team's role in Polio eradication activities. To ensure the optimal ownership of health department, the EDO-H will invariably participate in all meetings of the DPEC and execute action points.
- c) A designated Government officer (Additional Deputy Commissioner/ Assistant Commissioner) of the DC is to lead the District Polio Control Room, as per its functions, and develop close liaisons with all chairpersons of tehsils and UPECs. The officer is to collect data on the indicators for preparation and implementation of SIAs, present the data/information to the DPEC for appropriate actions, analyze readiness reports of each campaign, report to the chairperson of the DPEC and ensure accountability for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan 2015.
- d) The Divisional level structure was restored and presently the Commissioners are responsible for at least 4-5 districts in their respective division. In this scenario, the Divisional Emergency Operations Centres will play a coordination and monitoring role. The Divisional Polio Eradication Committee headed by the Commissioner may provide leadership to the preparatory program and review, and post campaign indicators at divisional level.
- e) The concerned authorities in the Provincial Governments will ensure availability of a Medical Officer in every UC (UCMO), particularly in the HRUCs, who may function as the UPEC Chairperson. The respective DC will monitor the compliance of Union Councils dedicating a Medical Officer to guide the PEI activities. Where an appropriate medical officer is not available, a dedicated senior government health official and/or senior official from a government department based in the particular UC will work as UPEC Chairperson. Where available, the government UC head will participate as a co-chair of UPEC. The UPEC will be responsible for all aspects of preparation and implementation of SIAs in the UC. The UCPW, UCCO and FCV recruited partners, where available, will assist the UCMO in ensuring vaccination of every child in the UC, especially those from the highest risk UCs.
- f) The DC will ensure that the UC Medical Officer is posted permanently (with no or minimum turnover) to follow up the issues effectively as per the NEAP. The EDO-H (in consultation with the DC) will evaluate their performance. Strict accountability will be enforced in the face of inadequate performance at the UCMO level by the DC and EDO-H. Partners will support training of UCMOs to enable them to perform their functions. The planning and implementation of the activities of UCPWs and UCCOs through their district supervisors will be coordinated through Area Coordinators at the sub-provincial level.

ANNEX I: ESSENTIAL COMMITTEES FOR POLIO ERADICATION

Essential Committees for Polio Eradication: National Level

1) Prime Minister's Focus Group on Polio Eradication

The Prime Minister's Office constituted the Focus Group on Polio Eradication headed by the Prime Minister to review progress of the Polio Emergency Program on monthly basis and take immediate remedial measures to implement quality polio campaign activities in the country. Following are the members of the Focus Group:

- i) Minister of State, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSRC)
- ii) Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication
- iii) Secretary to the Prime Minister
- iv) Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services
- v) Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office
- vi) Joint Secretary, Prime Minister's Office
- vii) Director General, Ministry of National Health Services
- viii) Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Office
- ix) Emergency Coordinator, National EOC
- x) National Technical Consultant, National EOC

2) National Task Force for Polio Eradication

In pursuance of the Prime Minister's Office U.O No. 881/M/SPM/2014 dated 18th April 2014, the Prime Minister has approved the National Task Force for Polio Eradication with the following composition:

- i) Prime Minister Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Chairman)
- ii) Governor Khber Pakhtunkhwa
- iii) Chief Ministers of all provinces
- iv) Prime Minister, Azad Jammu & Kashmir
- v) Minister Incharge, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSRC)
- vi) Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication (Secretary)

- vii) Secretary to the Prime Minister
- viii) Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services
- ix) Chief Secretaries of four provinces
- x) Additional Chief Secretary, FATA
- xi) Representative of Chief of Armed Staff

The task force shall perform the following functions and meet on quarterly basis;

- a) To oversee and monitor the progress made against the National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication and direct necessary remedial measures
- b) To ensure Inter-provincial and inter-sectoral coordination and give direction on issues
- c) To ensure adequate resources are secured for the implementation of National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication

3) Cabinet Committee on Immunization

The Prime Minister has constituted three members Cabinet Committee on Immunization given below:

- i) Minister for Defence
- ii) Minister for Interior
- iii) Minister of State for National Health Services

The Committee will deliberate and assist in provision of security to the provinces and FATA during polio campaign activities in security compromised areas.

4) Inter-Ministerial Committee on Immunization

The Ministry of National Health Services has notified the Ministerial Coordination committee headed by the Minister State of the Ministry of National Health Services.

This committee will manage resources for the programme, analyze financial documents and ensure transparency in utilization of resources.

The Ministry will process to secure funds to fill the gaps in this current PC-1 and also for next three years period (2016-2018).

5) National Steering Committee (NSC) for Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) and Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)

The National Steering Committee (NSC) for PEI/ EPI will meet fortnightly (chaired by Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication) to review the Program performance and implementation of the NEAP 2015-16.

The Emergency Coordinator is a secretary of this committee and the representatives from the Ministry of National Health Services, Federal EPI and heads of polio partners (WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, Rotary Int, USAID, N-STOP etc) are the core members. The chairperson of the NSC can extend membership as per need of the time.

Terms of reference:

- NSC will guide the program implementation based on decisions of the National Task Force and advice of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) for Global Polio Eradication Initiative
- It will periodically report on the current epidemiological status of Polioviruses
- Will be responsible for all the activities under Polio Eradication Initiative including development and implementation of oversight
- Calculate the need, location and frequency of Supplemental Immunization Activities (SIAs) in the country based on surveillance data review
- Review logistics requirement and procurement for the forthcoming campaigns
- Endorse the communication plan
- NSC will also be responsible for campaign evaluation results and feedback to the provinces
- EPI Manager will report on EPI performance, especially the OPV3 status of non-Polio AFP cases and give feedback to the provinces
- EPI Manager will also give regular updates on the vaccine supply situation for both Polio campaigns and EPI
- EPI Manager will provide updates on other vaccine preventable disease outbreaks

There are several sub-committees to report to the National Steering Committee including the following:

Weekly Surveillance Committee (reviews current polio updates and lab results)

- a) National Communications Technical Committee (leads all kinds of matters related to communication and social mobilization)
- b) Technical Supervisor Group for vaccine management (to periodically review status of polio vaccine for SIAs and present the status to the National Steering Committee for action as well as advise to the Federal EPI to release of vaccine to provinces as per SIAs schedule)

6) National Emergency Operations Centre (N-EOC)

Pursuant to decisions of the National Task Force on Polio Eradication meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on November 5, 2014 in the Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for Polio Eradication has been established with the following Terms of Reference;

- a) To act as national hub for planning, coordinating, information gathering, surveillance and monitoring of Polio Emergency activities in accordance with National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication
- b) To provide technical inputs, situation analysis as well as the other information on regular basis to the Prime Minister's office, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and all relevant stakeholders highlighting issues and challenges for information and required interventions
- c) To coordinate and develop effective liaison with all Provincial Task Forces for Polio Eradication on regular basis with a view to monitor the progress against set targets
- d) To instill a sense of urgency in the implementation of polio eradication activities and thereby control Poliovirus transmission by the end of 2015
- e) To review monitoring and surveillance data and give feedback to the provinces and districts for remedial measures to improve the quality of polio campaign and control the poliovirus
- f) To act as apex body at national level coordinating amongst the provinces to ensure standardized immunization service delivery for Polio Emergency and sustained availability of technical and material resources
- g) To prepare forecast of project requirement for the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination to generate resources and provision of security for Polio teams in high risk areas through Cabinet Committee on Immunization
- h) To review the progress of the routine immunization regularly and advise relevant offices for prompt action

Led by the Emergency Coordinator, the newly established National Emergency Operations Centre (N-EOC) is a central point for all activities of polio eradication led by the government and assisted by the partner agencies (WHO, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, etc). The National EOC will continue its assistance to the Prime Minister's Focal Person and will be responsible for monitoring the NEAP indicators and tracking effective implementation of the strategic decisions and guidance provided by the National Task Force and the National Technical Advisory Group.

Essential Committees for Polio Eradication: Provincial Level

1) Provincial Task Force (PTF) / Provincial Steering Committee (PSC)

The Chief Secretary must lead the Provincial Task Force for Polio Eradication and s/he will fast-track implementation of the National Emergency Action Plan in the respective province

The Provincial Task Force will ensure oversight to the program and accountability based on low performing areas as well as take necessary steps for motivating the DCs/ DCOs/PAs of the districts/agencies consistently performing well during all the phases of the campaign

The Health Secretary will act as a Secretary of the PTF and representative of senior officials from line departments (Home/Law and enforcement agencies, Education, Information, Local Government, Auqaf and Chief Minister Office), DG Health, EPI Manager and provincial representatives of partner agencies (WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, Rotary/Intec)

All Deputy Commissioners/ District Coordination Officers of the province / Political Agents (PA) of FATA will attend the meeting of PSC/PTF

Functions of PSC/PTF

The PSC/PTF should review and monitor the following aspects of Polio eradication initiative after NIDs and SNIDs campaigns:

- Progress made in province against National Emergency Plan of Action for eradication of Polio and provides guidance on challenges being faced by each district
- Involvement of district and sub-district level arm of government to assume the responsibility of ensuring implementation of District Specific plan
- Involvement of the line departments and assigning specific roles and tasks to each department for the successful campaign implementation
- The plan and progress for advocacy and social mobilization activities at provincial and sub-provincial levels and ensure availability of adequate resources and their optimal use

There are several sub-committees to report to the Provincial Task Force including the following:

- The Provincial Security Coordination Committee of the PTF will review the security situation of all districts before implementation of campaigns. This committee will take appropriate action to ensure safe implementation of the polio immunization campaigns
- Provincial Vaccine Management Committees headed by EPI Managers should improve their functioning to maintain all stock positions at the provincial stores and to gather information from the districts, provide feedback to them and present input to the Federal Vaccine Management

Committee. These committees will review the available vaccine stocks in the province on a regular basis and monitor vaccine distribution versus utilization on a daily basis during the campaign. They will take corrective action to address any discrepancies while ensuring adherence to vaccine distribution based on micro-plan requirements, avoiding any vaccine wastage and accounting for all doses distributed in the field.

- Every province has established state of the art Provincial Emergency Operations Centres (P-EOC) for Polio Eradication with the concept of one team under one roof led by the Government, as per the decision of the National Task Force. A senior full time dedicated senior government officer must be deputed immediately in each province and in FATA to lead the provincial Emergency Operations Centre with the assistance of partner agencies, (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO, UNICEF, etc.). The Emergency Coordinator will be a member of the Provincial Task Force and will report directly to the chairperson of the Provincial Task Force.
- The Provincial EOC may also notify the Emergency Coordination Committee (ECC) comprising of the ECC Coordinator, heads of units, and provincial representatives of partner agencies. It will ensure tracking of NEAP indicators and will propose low performing districts and union councils to maintain accountability. The EOC may also review surveillance, ongoing polio vaccination activities in the province and logistics support. The EOC may also constitute some committees such as a vaccine management committee, communication committee, and technical committee, which will facilitate the work of provincial EOC.

2) Divisional Polio Eradication Committee

The Divisional level structure has been restored and presently the Commissioners are responsible for at least 4-5 districts in their respective division. The Commissioner has its regular meetings with the Deputy Commissioners who are responsible to provide leadership to polio eradication in their respective districts. It is being proposed to have a divisional level committee headed by the Commissioner to meet as and when required to discuss and find out solutions for proper implementation of polio eradication activities in the division.

The Divisional Polio Eradication Committee meets immediately after DPEC meetings under the leadership of the Commissioner and with participation by Deputy Commissioners of all districts within the Division.

The committee reviews preparation of the campaign including operational, security and awareness arrangements as well as focuses on the missed children and missed areas identified in the last campaign to cover in the forthcoming campaign.

Essential Committees for Polio Eradication: District Level

3) District Polio Eradication Committee (DPEC)

Each District/ Agency will have a District Polio Eradication Committee (DPEC/ APEC) to oversee Polio eradication and routine immunization activities at district/ agency level and coordinate all line departments and local partners including NGOs to ensure high quality implementation of vaccination campaign strategies and plans to achieve recommended results in the National Emergency Action Plan.

The District PEC headed by the DC/ DCO and Agency PEC headed by the Political Agent meets 5-10 days before the campaign. The participation of the Chairperson and the Secretary of Committee is mandatory with binding attendance of all concerned departments – Health, police, education, Revenue, local government as well as representatives of partner agencies, district heads of public health programs and private sector organizations. In addition, the community representatives (parliamentarian), district Khateeb (Religious preacher). Head of the DPEC can extend membership on need basis.

The meeting is to review the status of preparations and the results of UPEC meetings (completeness and timeliness) and consider specific requests from the UPECs and any interventions required to make corrections at the UC level.

The meeting of the DPEC must have in its agenda:

- The follow-up of actions / decisions from the last meeting and person(s) to be held accountable in case of faltering; review of performance indicator trends (process and outcome)
- Appropriateness for plans for pre-SIA, during-SIA and post-SIA phases with focus on comprehensiveness of micro-plans, including transit strategy with supervision plan, training quality and effective house to house visits to all families with follow-up of those having absent children.
- To review the outcome of the last campaign against the set of standard indicators and review the progress of the actions taken for the poor performance in the last campaigns
- Specific tasks assigned to the DPEC members in relation to the next SIA
- The Secretary of the DPEC must maintain record of all approved meeting minutes for sharing, when required.

The health department and local law enforcement must submit a jointly prepared district security plan, for implementation of the campaign, to the DC and reviewed in the DPEC. It is the responsibility of the DC to authorize whether or not a campaign can proceed with the necessary security arrangements for vaccination teams. The DC and local law enforcement should seek advice of community influencers and religious leaders about security plans and measures. If necessary, the DC

may approach to the Chairman of the Provincial Security Coordination Committee for additional support.

4) Tehsil Polio Eradication Committees (TPEC)/ Sub-division Polio Eradication Committee (SPEC)

There is occasional management gap between the district and UC level, therefore it is proposed to fill such gaps with the involvement of Tehsil/ taluka administration and health departments in supervision and monitoring support of the UCs. Therefore, it is proposed to establish Tehsil Polio Eradication Committees (TPEC). Four member teams, headed by the Assistant Commissioner (AC), is being proposed wherever required, to assist the UCMOs in implementation of polio campaign activities as well as monitor progress. The AC may also represent the tehsil in the DPEC meetings.

The functionality of the TPEC must be ensured with designation of the Assistant Commissioner (AC) as chairman, Deputy District Health Officer (DDHO) as its secretary and the police officer in charge of the Tehsil as an integral part.

The meeting of the TPEC will be conducted the next day after the last day of UPEC meeting and at least 1-2 days before the DPEC meeting. The DDHO will hold a meeting with the TPEC chairman in Tehsil/ taluk of his / her assignment before the DPEC meeting and present information on their Tehsil/ taluka during the DPEC meeting including UC-wise information/ data of their assigned Tehsil. The partners' staff will ensure training of the DDHO (Tehsil focal person). A review meeting chaired by the TPEC chairman should be held with all chairpersons of UCs and will bring the particular challenges to the DC for resolve.

5) Union Council Polio Eradication Committees (UPEC)

The UPECs formation, composition and functionality have been variable in all of the provinces. The functionality of the UPEC must function with the designation of the full time Union Council Medical Officer as Chairman and the Revenue Officer as Secretary, with binding membership of important UC level stakeholders.

The meeting of the UPEC should be 15 days before the campaign with an agenda including,

- the review of the implementation status of the previous meeting's decisions;
- the review and endorsement of the integrated micro-plans including composition and quality of vaccination teams and transit team strategy with supervision plans;
- the engagement of the community influencers for information and motivation of the community;
- plans for quality training, supervision and real time process data transmission on a daily basis

Information/ data management at the UC level will be the responsibility of the UC Medical Officer (UCMO, UPEC Chairman). The UCMO will ensure that all Area In-Charges in the UC meet their teams daily at the end of each day's assignment. The Area In-Charges will collate and compile the data/information from the tally sheets of the teams and report to the UCMO, who will collate and compile all of the data for the UC and report to the District Control Room. The Area In-Charges and the UCMO will critically analyse the tally sheets of the teams on a daily basis and strategize the interventions accordingly. The partners' UC level staff (where available) will assist with the tally sheet analyses, strategizing field interventions.

6) Office bearers of the local bodies at the Union Council

Local Bodies are a system of Government that provides the facilities to the people in specific areas to solve people's problems at local level, allow public participation in decision-making. It has three levels district, tehsil and union council in every district under the administrative control of provincial local government. The essence of this system is that the Local Governments would be accountable to the citizens for all their decisions.

The lowest tier, the Union Council is a corporate body covering the rural as well as urban areas across the whole District. It consists of Chairman, Vice Chairman, 8 – 13 members (general council members and representatives of ladies, farmers / laborers and minorities).

In every union council, the local government has placed the Union Council Secretary to coordinate and facilitate to the elected body of the union council in community development, functioning of the Union Committees and delivery of municipal services. The UC Secretary is also responsible to manage work of births, marriages and deaths registration and security system through chowkidars.

The UC Secretary has been assisting the health department in routine vaccination of children by providing list of registered births to vaccinators as well as playing role as the Secretary of Union Council Polio Eradication Committee. The Secretary can also bridge the gap between UPEC and local police for security arrangement in security risk areas, monitor the campaign activities and assist in vaccination of missed children especially refusals.

There is a need to establish official agreement with the local government to use the services of the UC level Secretaries for Routine Immunization and Polio Eradication.

ANNEX II: NEAP OPERATIONAL / COMMUNICATIONS INDICATORS

- Indicators to assess the oversight & preparation of the campaign at the UC & district levels (To be used by the EOCs and Provincial Task Force, DPEC and the UPEC)
These indicators are to be assessed by the Provincial Task Force/ steering committee 8 days before the campaigns.

1	% of DPEC Meetings held 10 days before the campaign (DPEC/ APEC meeting to be considered valid if chaired by the DCO/ DC/ PA and attended by the EDO-H)
2	% of the High Risk UPEC meeting summaries (minutes) received and reviewed by the DPEC for actions
3	UC micro-plans of 30% UCs (50% of each UCs Area In-charges) in the district, field validated by the district level staff including the EPI Coordinator, EPI focal person, DDHO/ DHO, DSV and his staff, PEQ, DHCSO etc
4	% UCs that tracked and vaccinated 90% of the still missed children after the last campaign (target: 95%)
5	% of the DPEC meetings that formulated district security plan with special focus on UCs/ areas of concern (insecure areas, areas with fear factor etc)
6	% of required vaccine received at district level minimum three (3) days prior to campaign start
7	% of vaccine consignments arrived at port of entry minimum three (3) weeks prior to campaign start of each campaign including mop up and outbreak contingencies

- UC-Indicators to assess the functionality and efficiency of the UPEC; & status of preparation:
To be assessed 10 days before the campaign during the DPEC meeting
- In addition to the above; the below indicators are to be assessed 5 days before the campaign

1	% UCs with all the Area In-charges trained using standardized, national module including IPC module (target: 100%)
2	% UCs with all the vaccinators trained using standardized, national module including IPC module (target: 100%)
3	% children tracked and vaccinated that had remained unvaccinated at the end of last campaign (target: 100%)
4	% UCs, where all the Vaccination Teams & Area In charges received payment for the previous vaccination campaign

- Indicators to be considered for possible deferment of the campaign
The campaign will be deferred in the UC which did not achieve any of the following indicators

1	% UPEC meetings held 15 days before the campaign
2	% UPEC meetings chaired by the UC Medical Officer / designated senior health official (UPEC Chairman) and co-chaired by the UC secretary (UPEC meeting to be considered valid if chaired by the UC Medical Officer and co-chaired by the UC secretary)
3	% UCs in which all the AICs submitted team composition (names, NIC No. and assigned areas)
4	% UCs with all the micro-plans of Area In-charges field validated by the UC level supervisory staff (UC MQ, UCPW, UCO) for: inclusion of all the components and their quality as per the national guidelines including names of the team members, area maps and teams assignment maps field validation: checking and validating as per the field validation checklist and to confirm if the descriptions made in the micro-plan and map match the grounds facts
5	% UCs with all the mobile teams having all team members over 18 years of age
6	% UCs with at least 100% mobile teams having one local member (suited to local norms and culture)
7	% UCs with at least 80% mobile teams having at least one female member
8	% children tracked and vaccinated that had remained unvaccinated at the end of last campaign (target: 100%)
9	% UCs with all the micro-plans having high risk populations (mobile, migrants, multifamily dwellings etc.) and their influencers clearly marked and mapped
10	% UCs with UC micro-plan having a security component duly verified by the SHO equivalent
11	# of Very high-risk UC where community mobilizers are deployed
12	# of missed children reported and vaccinated by community mobilizers
13	% of parents in very high risk union councils aware of and accepting vaccination of their children

1	All the micro-plans (of Area In-charges) reviewed and field validated by the UC level supervisor staff (UC MQ, UCPW, UCO) and independently verified by 3 rd party for inclusion of all the components and their quality as per the national guidelines including names of the team members, area maps and teams assignment maps
2	UC micro-plans of 20% UCs in the districts field validated by the district level staff including the EPI Coordinator, EPI focal person, DSV and his staff, PEQ, DHCSO etc.
3	Number of mobile teams complete per micro-plan; with either of the following targets met: a. At least 100% mobile teams having one local member (suited to local norms and culture) b. c. At least 80% mobile teams having at least one female member
4	All team members trained using standardized, national module including IPC module "Post Campaign Indicators"

Post Campaign Assessment Indicators

1	LQAS a % of the LQAS lots Passed (Target: 80%) b % children missed due to No Team (target: <1%) c % children missed due to NA (target: <5%) d % children missed due to Refusal (target: <1%)
2	Market Survey a % Tehsils that achieved 95% vaccination estimates b % nger marking (target: 90%)
3	3 rd party Independent Monitoring a % districts that achieved vaccination estimates b % nger marking (target: 95%)

Add a new item:

ANNEX III: SIA PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK

Based on two-part model estimating probability of a case and the number of cases given an importation the program in collaboration with IDM will develop SIA prioritization

Indicators include in the model:

- › Population immunity
 - › RI Zero-dose fraction
 - › Under-immunized fraction
 - › Recent WPV1 cases
 - › Recent neighbouring WPV1 cases
 - › Recent neighbouring compatible cases
 - › Remaining risk based on total historical WPV cases
- Tier 1: Reservoir District (12)
 - › These area the areas that must be cleared if the program is to succeed
 - › NIDs + SNIDs + CCPV
 - Tier 2: High Risk/Vulnerability Districts (30)
 - › These area areas that are frequent recipients of virus of have known quality & immunity problems
 - › All districts in FATA and southern KP receive a minimum prioritization of Tier 2
 - › These areas may harbor virus even if eliminated from reservoirs and subsequently re-infect them
 - › NIDs + SNIDs

- Tier 3: Outbreak Districts (Flexible), 11
 - › Areas not at high risk that report a case or become problematic
 - › In this case, instead of conducting SIADs, these areas should be added to the SNID calendar for the next 1-2 rounds
- NIDs + SNIDs Tier 4: Rest of Pakistan
 - › Areas where RI is strong, quality is known to be high, or risk is known to be low
 - › NIDs

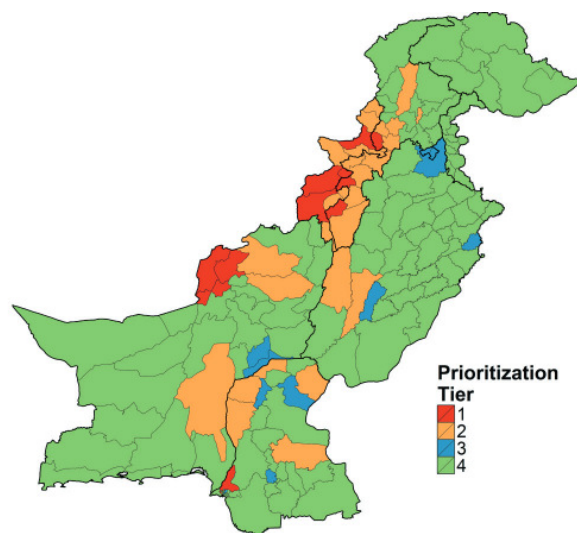


Figure 3: January–Jun 2015 district prioritization map using IDM model



Credits:
- Photo on cover: WHO
- Design and Layout: Paprika-annecoom





The Prime Minister of Pakistan / Chairman of the National Task Force for Polio Eradication endorsed the National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication in a meeting held on 11 June 2015, Prime Minister's House, Islamabad

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan
(Chairperson, National Task Force for Polio Eradication)

