



POLIO UPDATE AFGHANISTAN

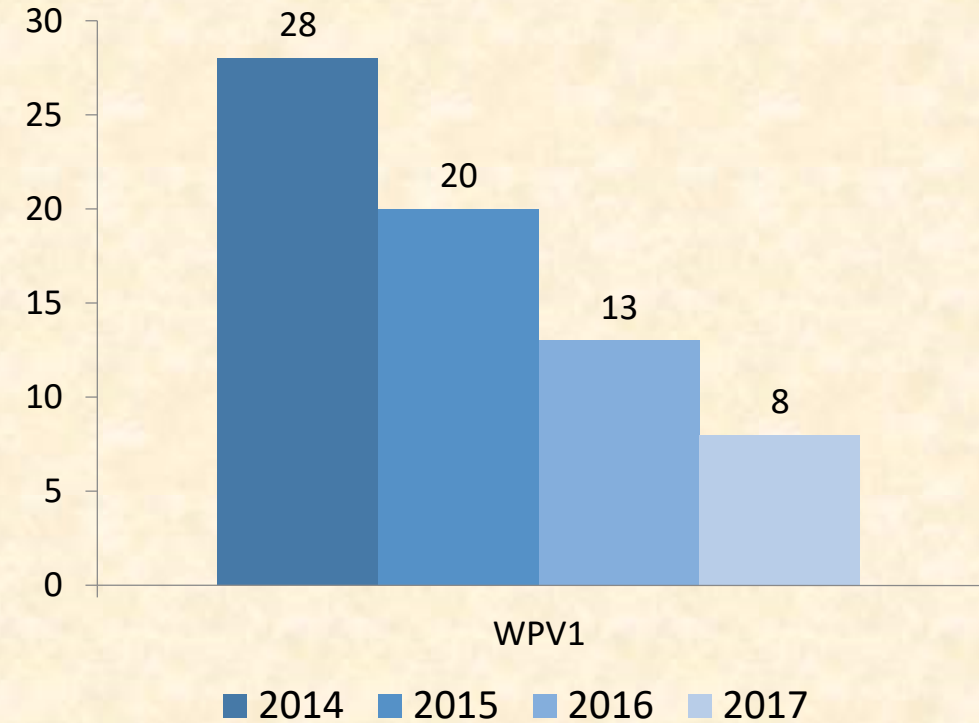
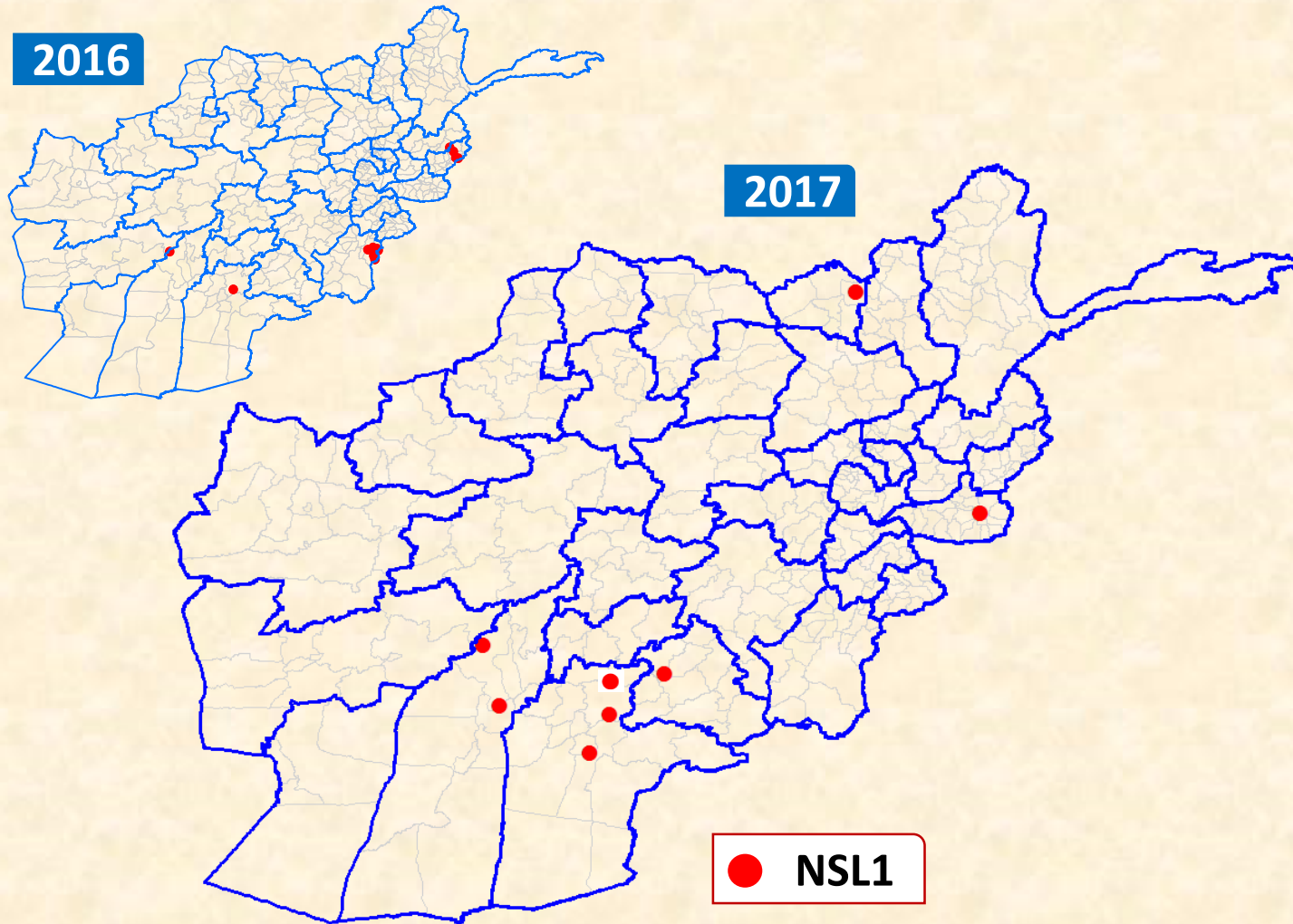
IMB Meeting

31 October 2017



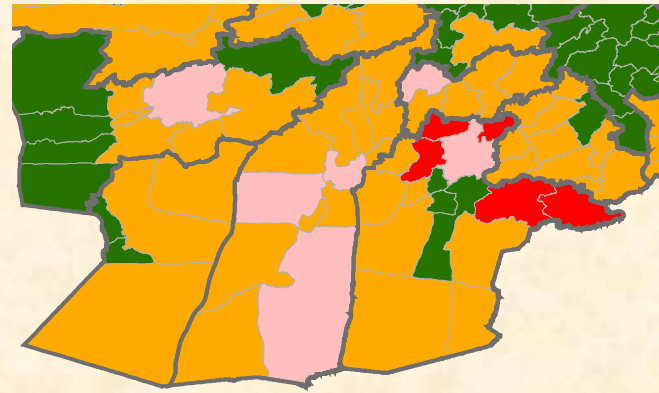
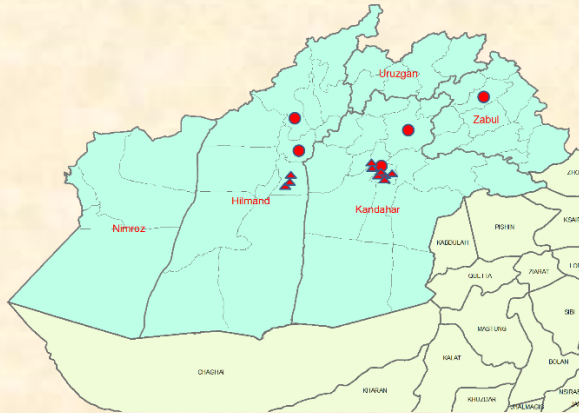
Afghanistan: Wild Polio Virus Isolates, 2017

Transmission largely limited to the southern region



Transmission in Southern region

Access status



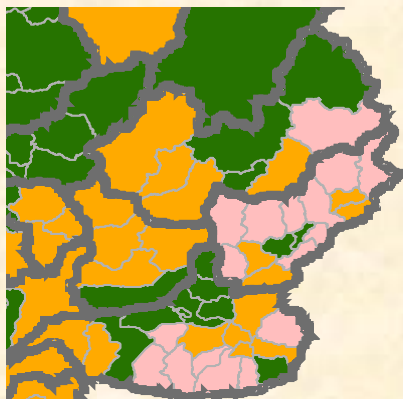
Province	District	Date of onset	Linkage
Kandahar	Kandahar	13-01-17	99.22% with PAK17-ENV004RD PAK/BN/PSN/TW-1/17/001 PISHIN
Helmand	Nahr-E-Saraj	21-01-17	99.77% with PAK16-ENV435E1 PAK/BN/KAB/AK-1/16/011 KABDULLAH
Helmand	Nawzad	16-04-17	98.34% with PAK17-ENV004RD PAK/BN/PSN/TW-1/17/001 PISHIN
Kandahar	Shahwalikot	19-06-17	99.44% with AFG17-NV024E3 AFG/SR/KDH/KDK-1/17/002 KANDAHAR
Zabul	Arghandab	10-07-17	99.56% with AFG17-210 AFG/08/17/024 HELMAND 99.56% with PAK16-ENV435E1 PAK/BN/KAB/AK-1/16/011 KABDULLAH

- Transmission of 2015 stopped; no transmission from April to Nov 2016; **5 Polio cases and 10 ES positives in 2017**
- 4 of 5 Polio** cases genetically linked to Quetta block; showing intense population movement within the corridor – massive increase in returnee refugees in late 2016
- Evidence of internal circulation (**case in Shahwalikot & ES of Kandahar and Lashkargah**)
- Limitations in implementing interventions **to improve quality due to security issues**

- Response:
 - Intensified focus on **15 high risk districts of Helmand and Kandahar** (Southern corridor action plan)
 - 4 NIDs, 4 SNIDs** and one special campaign conducted
 - Focus on **guest and absent children & strengthened strategy** to address refusals
 - Successful dialogue and strategic placement of human resource** to improve quality of campaign
- Recent increase in inaccessibility in **Kandahar a challenge**

Transmission in Eastern region

Access status



Response scope



Province	District	Collection date/ date of onset	Sequence Analysis
NANGARHAR	JALALABAD	24-Jan-17	97.79% with PAK15-972 PAK/FT/34/15/010 KHYBER
NANGARHAR	JALALABAD	25-Mar-17	99.22% with AFG17-ENV011E3 AFG/ER/NGR/RDR-1/17/001 NANGARHAR
NANGARHAR	JALALABAD	21-Jun-17	98.34% with AFG17-ENV011E3 AFG/ER/NGR/RDR-1/17/001 JALALABAD
NANGARHAR	JALALABAD	23-Sep-17	PEND
NANGARHAR	BEHSUD	24-Sep-17	PEND
NANGARHAR	JALALABAD	23-Sep-17	PEND
NANGARHAR	BATIKOT	15-09-17	98.78% with PAK17-ENV-BMS044E1 PAK/KP/PWR/ST-1/17/006-BMS PESHAWAR 98.45% with PAK17-ENV-BMS044E3 PAK/KP/PWR/ST-1/17/006-BMS PESHAWAR

Surveillance in districts with inaccessible pockets

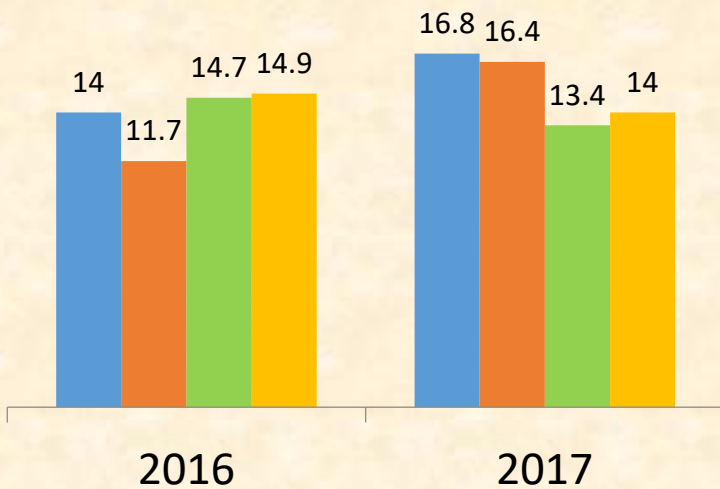
	Nangarhar	Kunar
Target (<5)	147,149	96,864
% inaccessible target population	10%	10%
% AFP cases	10%	17%
NPAFP rate in inaccessible pocket	9.5	25.3

- Transmission of Sheegal stopped; last case in May 2016
- 6 ES positive in 2017
- 1 Polio case in Batikot reported on 10th October (onset 15 Sept)
- Batikot district is on the main Jalalabad-Peshawar road with frequent population movements
- Response:
 - 25-29 September NID
 - Response campaign in 5 districts from 17-21 October
 - Next campaign from 6 November
- Desk analysis of surveillance and active case search in health facilities conducted

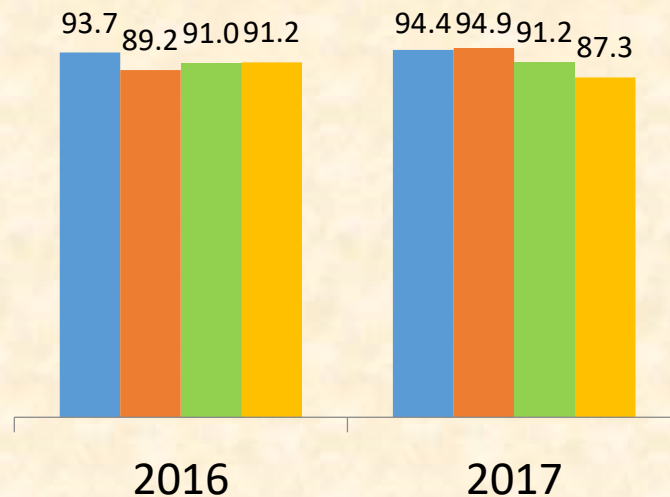
Surveillance in access compromised areas

Sensitive surveillance maintained across all access categories

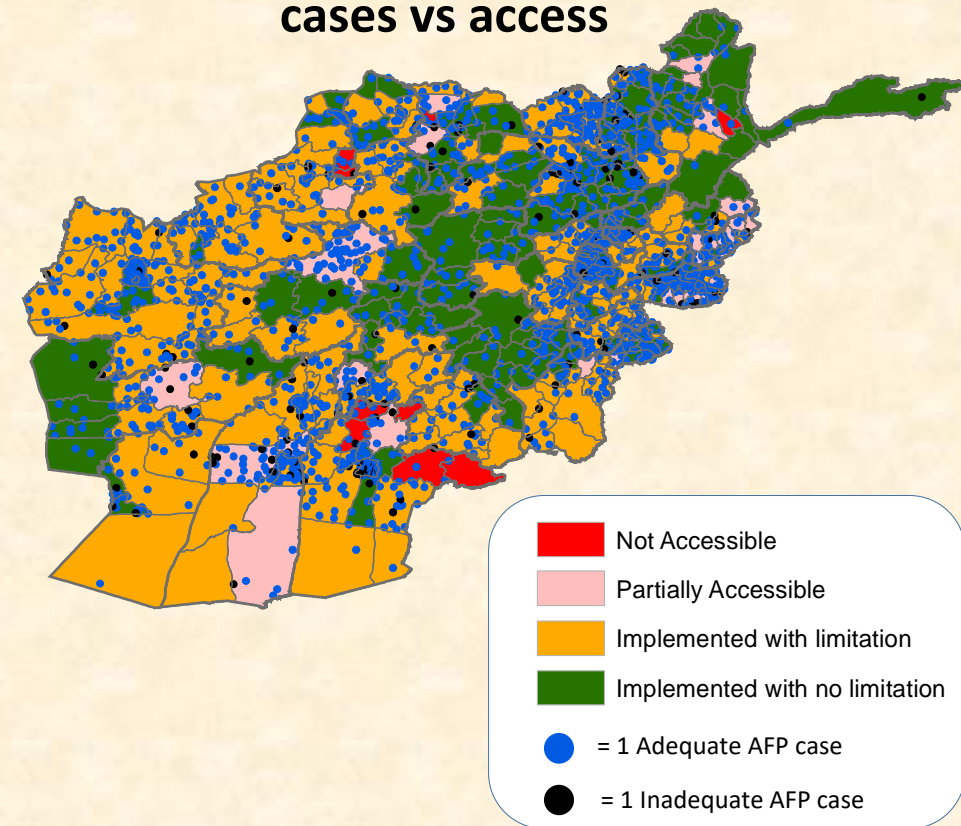
Non-polio AFP rate



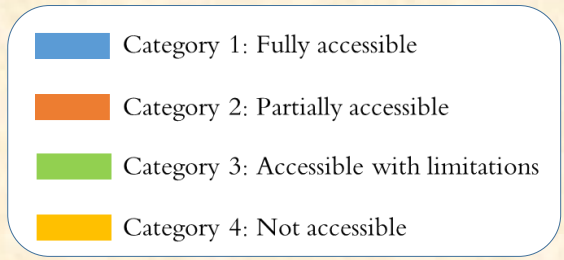
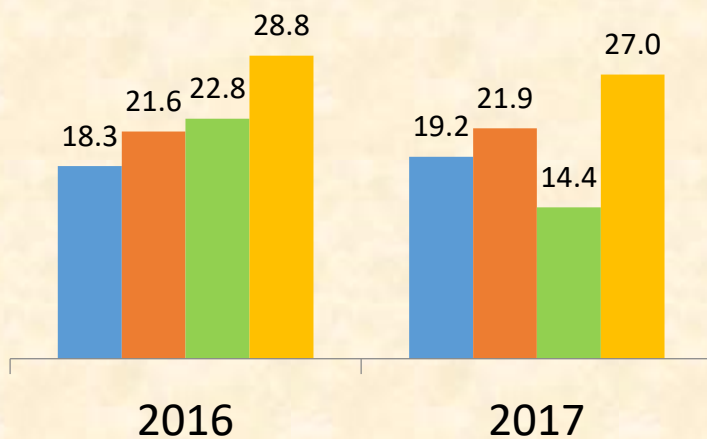
% stool adequacy



Distribution of AFP cases vs access



% NPEV isolation



Reporting network expanded

- Reporting sites increased from 4246 in 2016 to 4691
- Reporting volunteers increased from 20974 in 2016 to 28751

Districts with no AFP reported in 2017

Low under 15 population, healthy children samples collected

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	Target <15 years	2015	2016	2017	Healthy children sampling Taken
BADAKHSHAN	ARGHANJKHWA	3773	0	1	0	Yes
BADAKHSHAN	KOFAB	10163	1	0	0	Yes
BADAKHSHAN	KOHESTAN	11117	1	0	0	Yes
BADAKHSHAN	SHAKI	7659	1	4	0	Yes
BADAKHSHAN	YAMGAN	13363	1	1	0	Yes
BADAKHSHAN	YAWAN	22325	2	5	0	Yes
BADAKHSHAN	ZEBAK	4257	0	1	0	Yes
KAPISA	ALASAY	25522	1	2	0	Yes
LOGAR	KHOSHI	16130	2	1	0	Yes
WARDAK	HESA-E- AWAL-E- BEHS	22163	2	0	0	Yes
GHAZNI	MALESTAN	47395	0	0	0	Yes
NURISTAN	BARG-E- MATAL	11243	1	1	0	Yes
NURISTAN	DUAB	11752	2	3	0	Yes
NURISTAN	MANDOL	14343	0	1	0	Yes
BALKH	KALDAR	10643	0	1	0	Yes
BALKH	MARMUL	9884	2	0	0	Yes
BALKH	SHARAK-E-HAYRATAN	4561	3	1	0	Yes
SAMANGAN	FEROZNAKHCHIR	7674	0	2	0	Yes
SAMANGAN	HAZRAT-E- SULTAN	25295	3	2	0	Yes
GHAZNI	ABBAND	20980	2	1	0	Yes
GHAZNI	ZANAKHAN	9403	1	2	0	Yes
PAKTIKA	SARRAWZAH	11809	1	0	0	Yes
PAKTIKA	WORMAMAY	9364	0	1	0	Yes
PAKTIKA	ZIRUK	10230	3	2	0	Yes
HELMAND	DEH-E-SHU	20942	1	1	0	Yes
KANDAHAR	MARUF	33170	0	1	0	Yes
KANDAHAR	MIYANSHIN	19485	1	4	0	Yes
ZABUL	SHOMULZAY	44404	4	0	0	Yes

1 28 districts not reported AFP cases in 2017

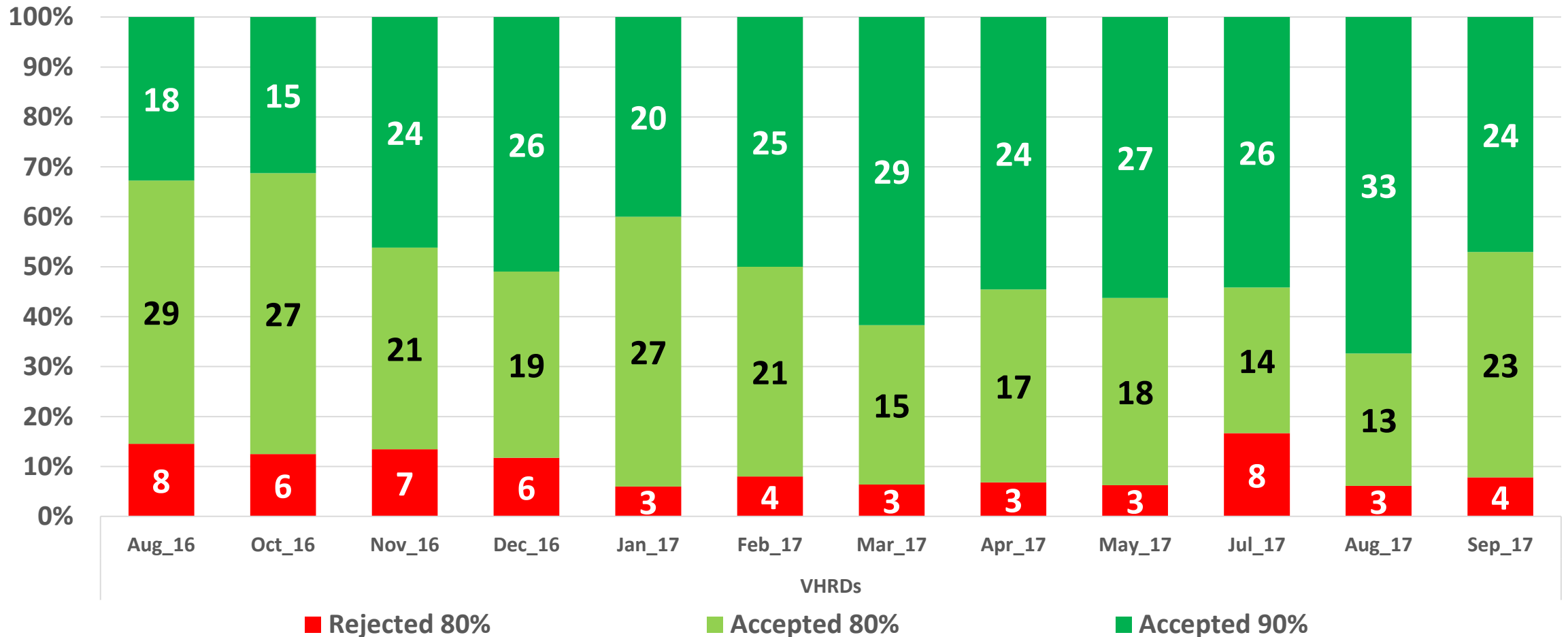
2 Healthy children samples collected from all districts with no AFP cases in past 6 months

3 More than 25% NPEV rate and no WPV detected among >400 samples tested

Improvement in quality in priority areas

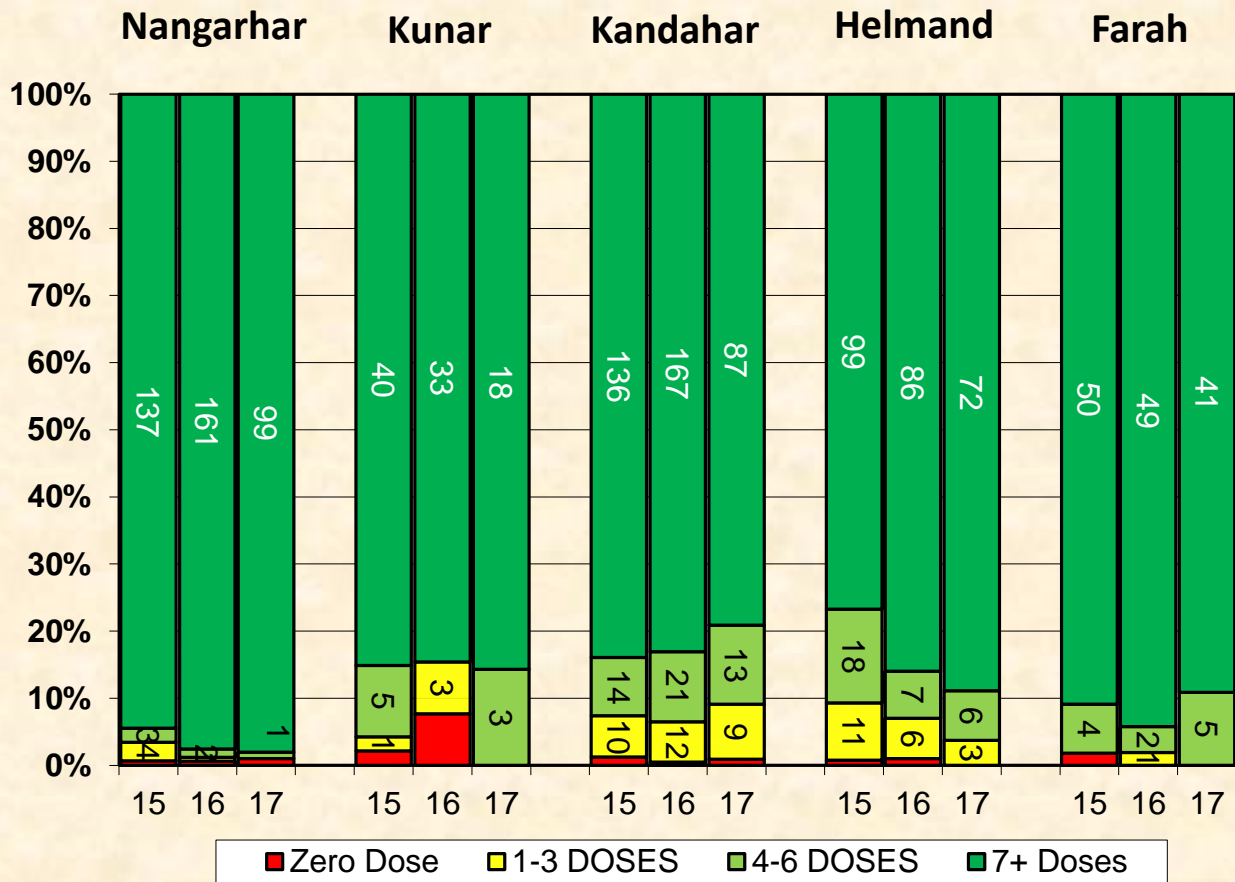
South is the major remaining challenge where access is compromised

LQAS results, Very High-Risk Districts, 2016-17

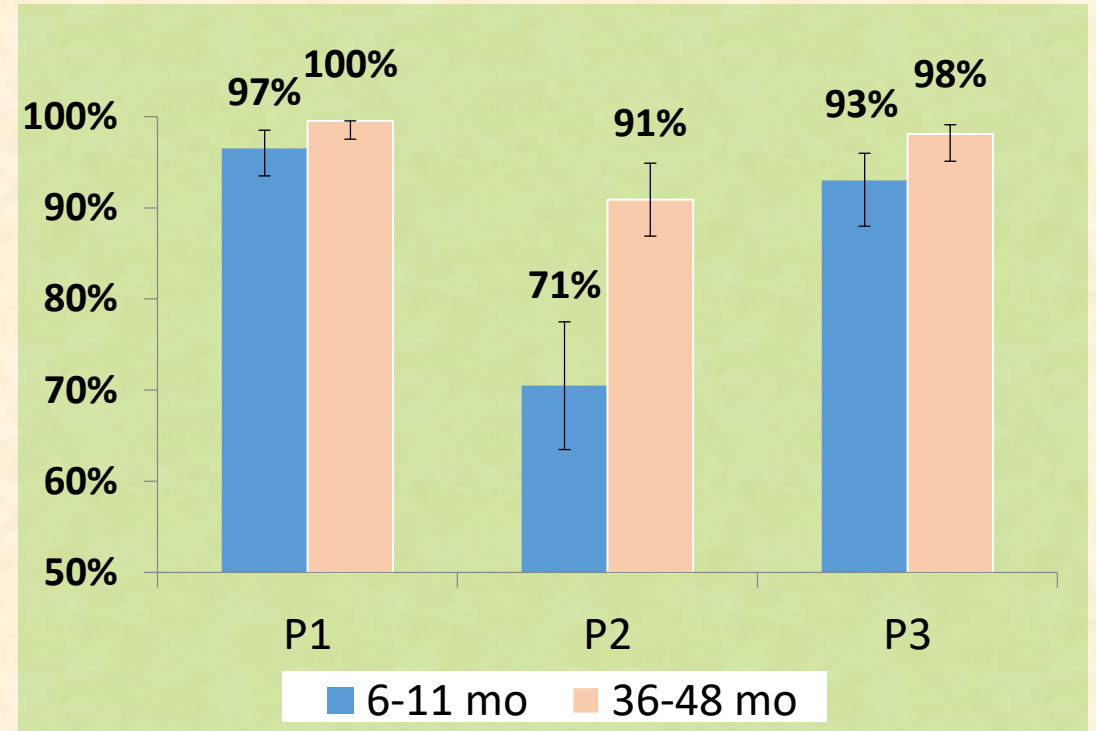


Improved vaccine reach and population immunity in high risk areas

Vaccination status of Non Polio AFP cases 6-59 Months



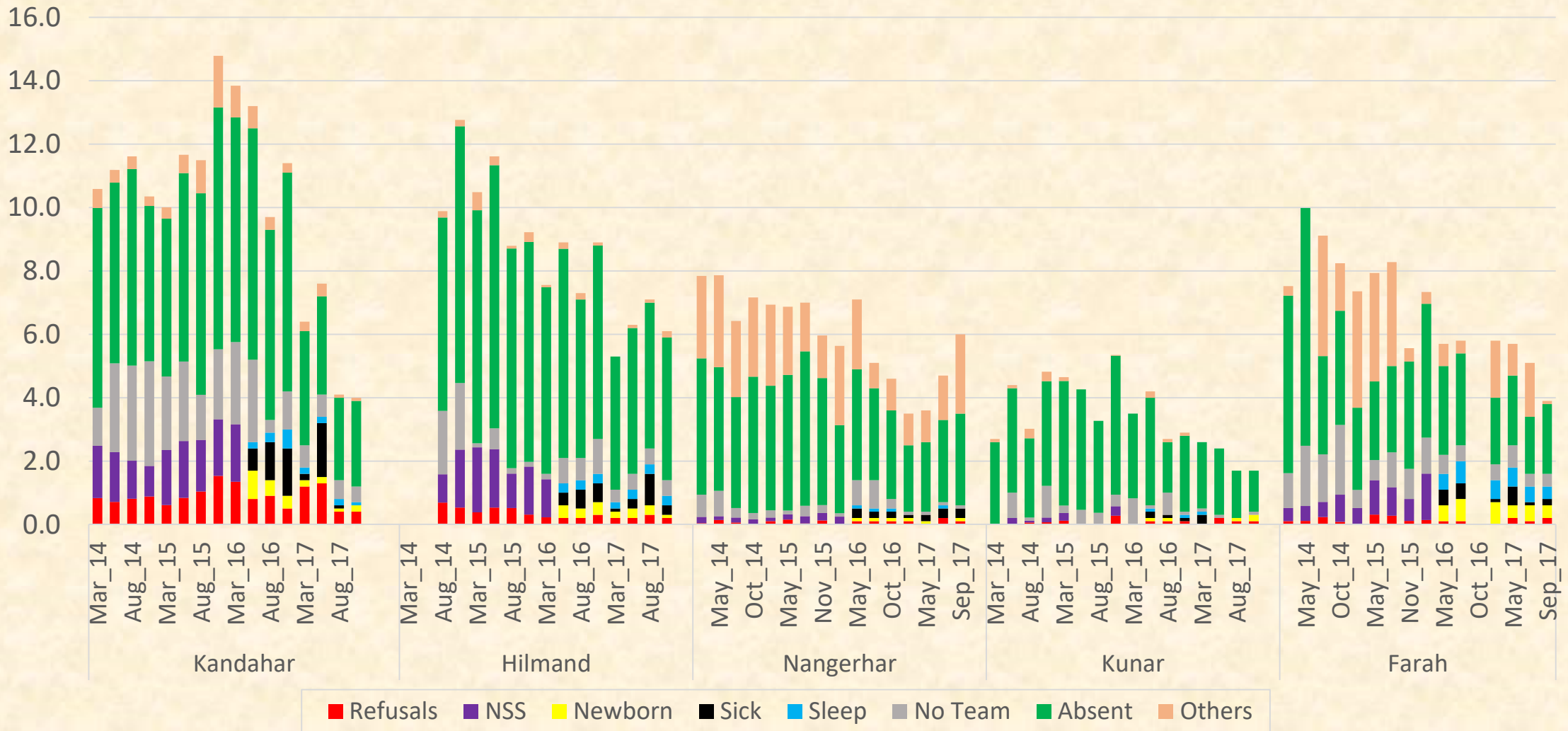
*Serosurvey results, South region, 2017



- Seroprevalence survey conducted at Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar shows promising results;
- Convenience sampling technique results from 409 children

Missed children - HR provinces, NIDs 2014-17

Significant reduction in proportion of missed children in high risk provinces



Note: Disaggregated PCM data on Newborn, Sick and Sleep is available from May 2016

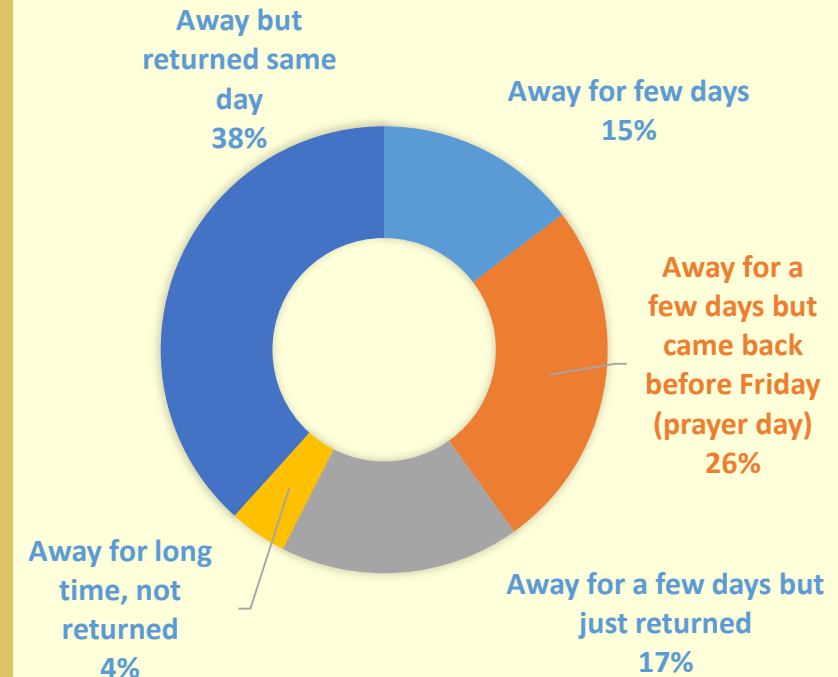
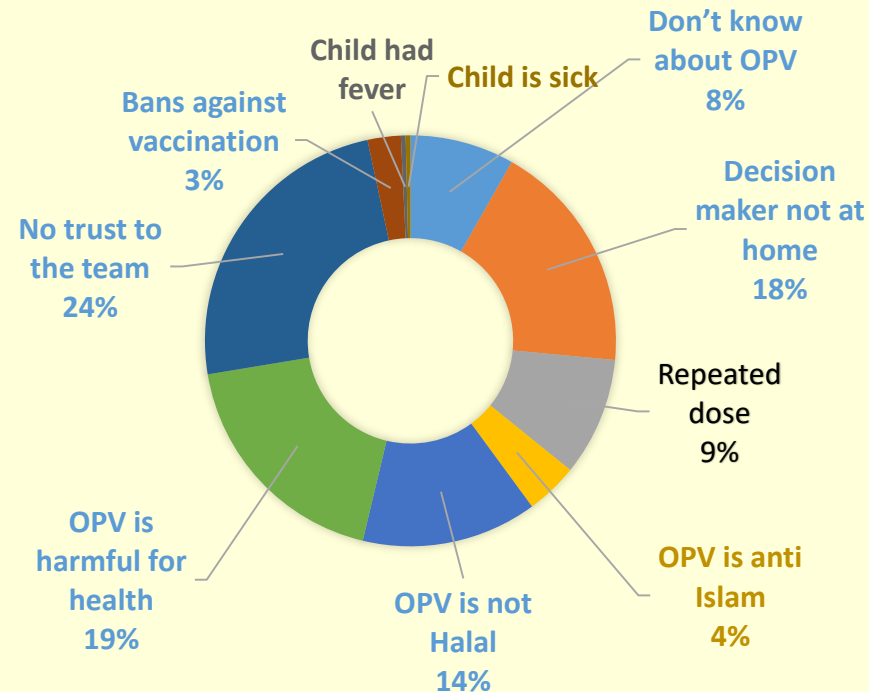
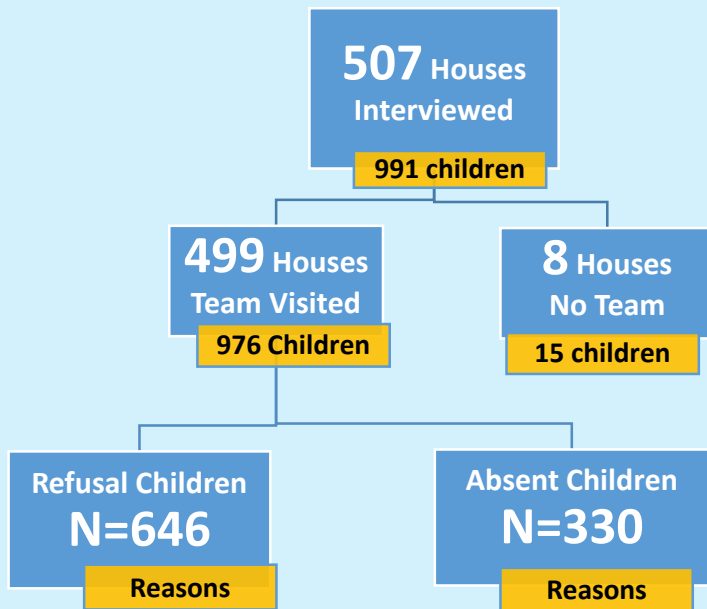
Understanding reasons for missed children in Kandahar

Special investigation and recovery of missed children

Missed children in Kandahar is in the range 4-8%

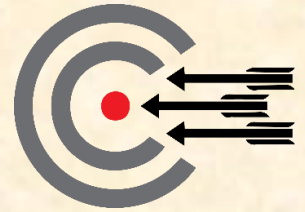


A special investigation is regularly done to recover missed children, based on tally sheet data



Source: Special Investigation of Missed Children 2017

Risks/challenges



↪ Southern region:

- Risk of re-establishment of transmission and further spread
- Access/insecurity: On & off bans/threats of ban (> 80,000 children unreached in Kandahar)
- Quality of campaign in some of the VHRDs:
 - Influence on Front Line Workers selection, access with limitations in monitoring
 - Pockets of refusals, absent children
- Heavy population movement within southern corridor

↪ Eastern/Southeastern region:

- Straddling populations, refugees and returnees
- Small scattered pockets of chronically inaccessible children
- Repeated ES positive in Jalalabad

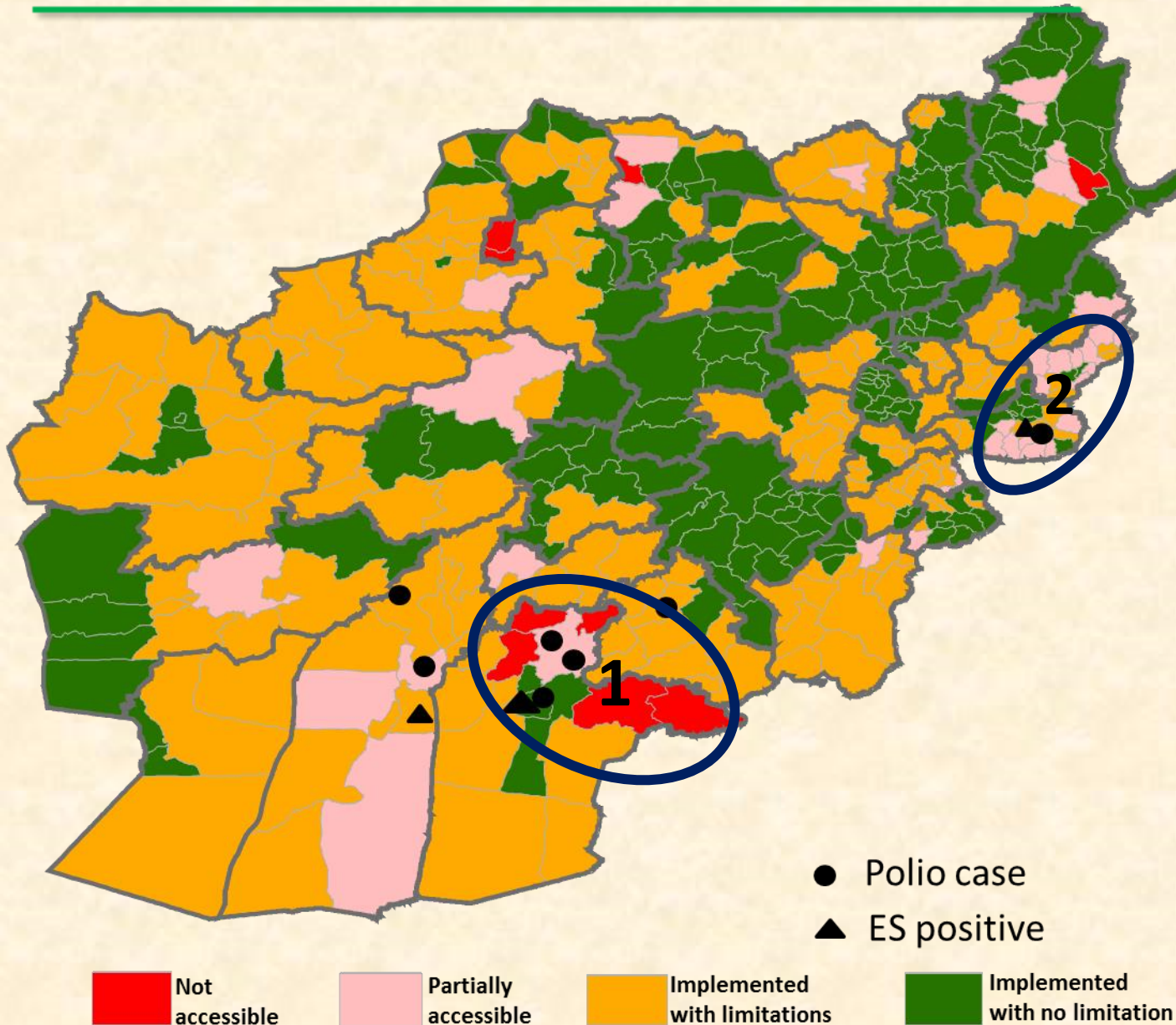
↪ Engaging females as FLWs

↪ High risk mobile populations:

Long distance travellers, nomads, straddling population and returnees

Changing security dynamics

Program priorities



1. Stopping transmission in Kandahar

- Gaining access in Shahwalikot and surrounding districts
- Addressing issue of FLW selection and refusals in accessible areas

2. Stopping transmission in Nangarhar

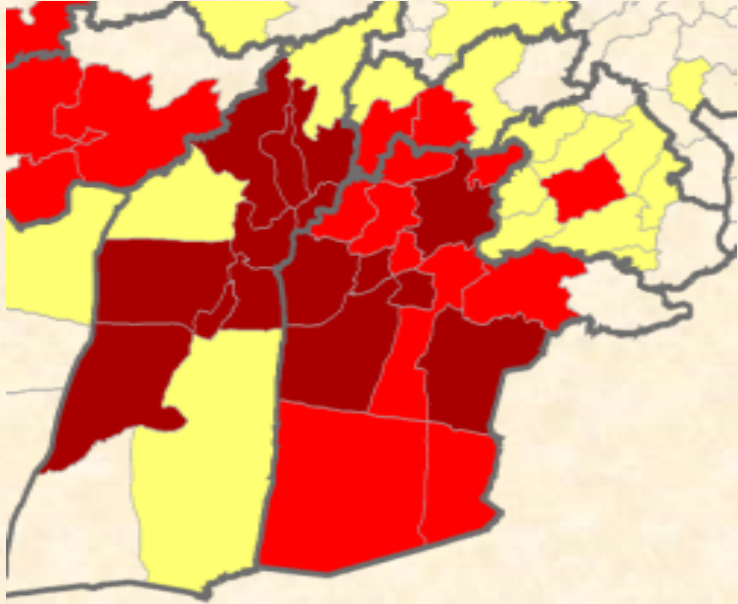
- Response to transmission detected
- Review of surveillance in inaccessible pockets
- Maintaining population immunity in surrounding areas

3. Addressing high risk mobile population

4. Maintaining gains in Southeast region

5. Gaining and maintaining access

Interventions in Southern region



15 District plan

(part of Southern Corridor Action Plan)

- Continuous senior national level presence
- National/regional monitors for pre-intra-post campaign phase
- Additional campaign
- Staggered campaigns- mobilizing appropriate HR from other provinces
- Cluster level analysis of the issues (vaccine acceptance, access, HRMP, operational challenges), intervention and accountability
- Intensified engagement with key influencers including religious leaders and medical professionals
- High risk mobile population strategy



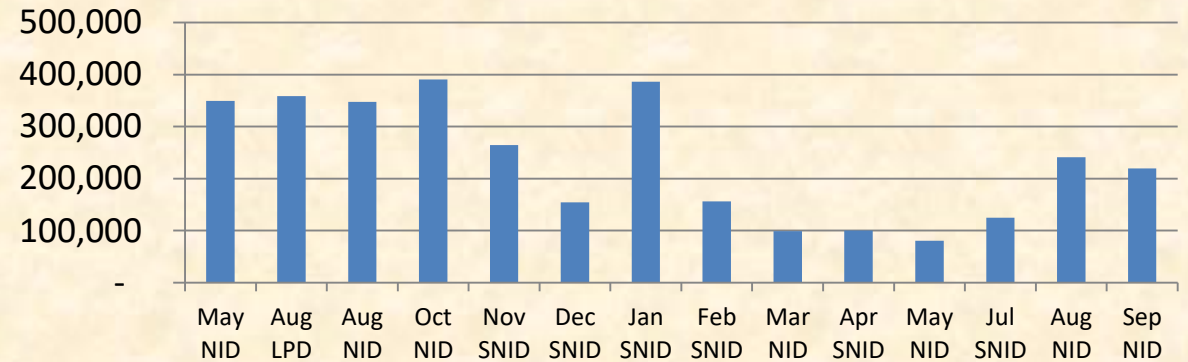
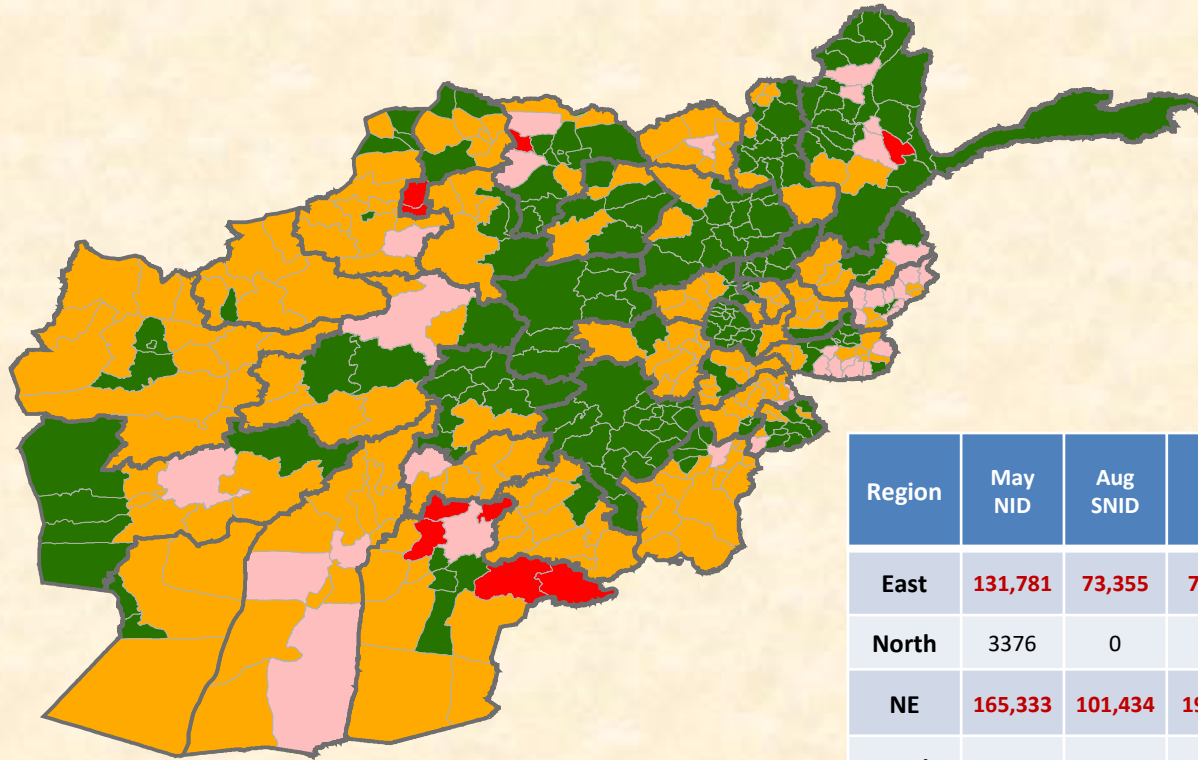
Access:

- Intensified dialogue at various levels
- Use of third party interlocutors

- **9 districts in Helmand and 6 districts in Kandahar**
- **Target population: 1.1 million**
- **Since 2010, these 15 districts account for:**
 - 90% of cases in Southern Region
 - All chains of transmission in AFG that have lasted >6 months

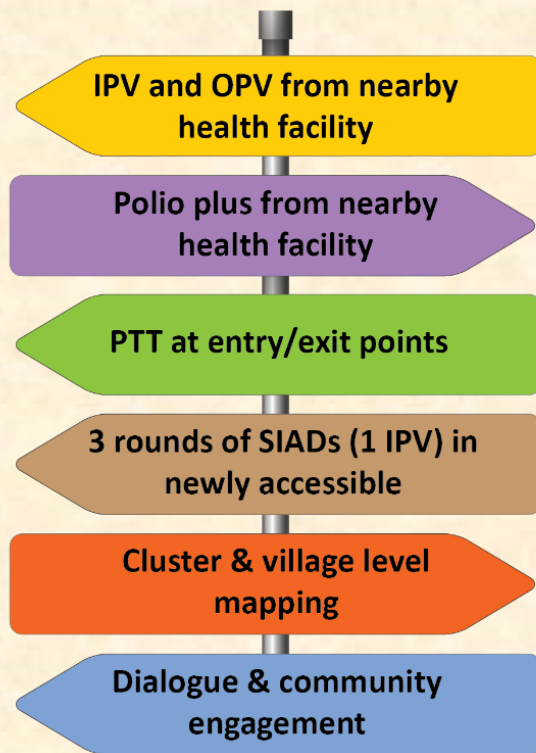
Inaccessible children: May 2016- Aug 17

Overall access improved, recent deterioration in Kandahar



Region	May NID	Aug SNID	Aug NID	Oct NID	Nov SNID	Dec SNID	Jan SNID	Feb SNID	Mar NID	Apr SNID	May NID	Jul SNID	Aug NID	Sep NID
East	131,781	73,355	71,085	23,204	24,213	17,488	19,156	18,932	21,002	34,528	26,734	21,841	23,366	23,852
North	3376	0	0	6,206	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90,213
NE	165,333	101,434	197,192	176,377	105,539	105,024	104,200	104,280	0	0	4,350	17,913	105,462	11,391
South	22,811	49,403	28,798	141,142	120,597	18,192	78,254	12,4161	40,989	42,793	35,705	64,528	85,887	85,445
SE	400	1,215	12,101	46,808	13,827	12,651	1,500	20,455	24,051	23,075	14,040	16,253	19,121	4,860
West	0	132,806	38,260	0	0	749	183,100	0	12,970	70	70	4,367	1,769	3,798
CR	0	0	70	0	75	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	650	0
Total	323,701	358,213	347,507	390,373	264,251	154,178	386,207	156,083	99,012	100,466	80,899	124,920	241,168	219,559

Addressing inaccessibility

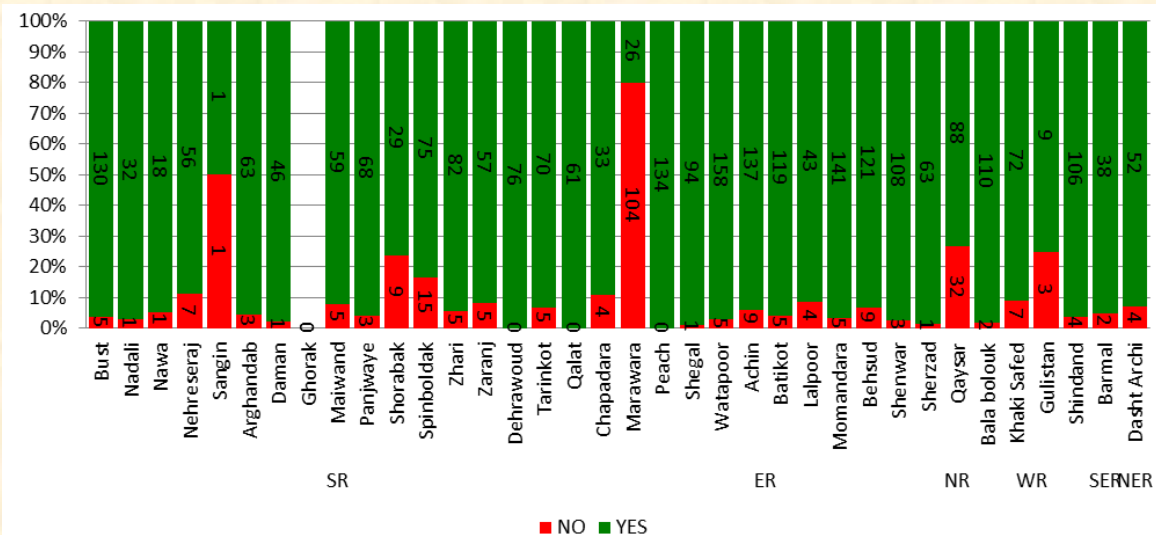


- Maintaining program neutrality
- Quality Access Team established
- 23 Community facilitators in place for key provinces

Monitoring in access compromised areas

- Remote monitoring:
 - Being conducted in VHRDs (on day 4)
 - Data used for action on revisit day, followed by re-survey
 - Remote monitoring expanded to 100 districts in September NID
- Third party monitoring by independent partners in inaccessible areas
- National EOC focal points
- Information from PCM, LQAS, remote and third party monitoring triangulated

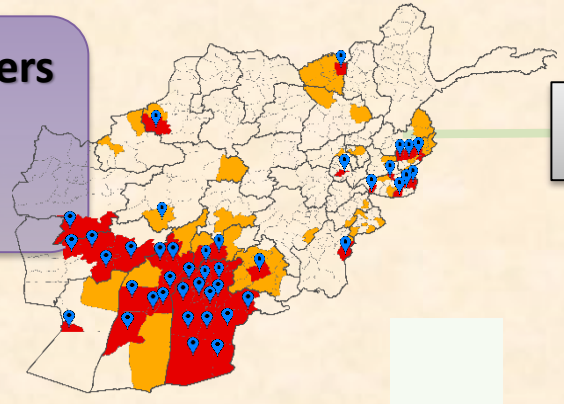
Did the vaccination team visit your house to administer polio drops to your under 5 years age?



Remote monitoring helps reaching out to the missed children

200,000 numbers in VHRD & HRD were shared with EOC for RM by MNOs (AWCC, Etisalat, Roshan, MTN, Salam)

Up to **400 subscribers per district** are randomly selected for RM during NIDs/SNIDs



EOC has a roster of **150 call center operators**
Up to 60 operators are invited and trained at EOC to conduct a RM per round

➤ **Day 6:** Operators conduct **follow-up survey** by calling to missed areas
 ➤ Findings are shared with regional teams

District teams recover missed children on revisit day

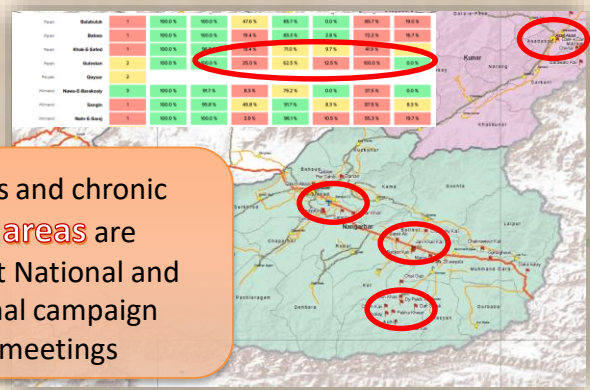
National EOC sends the **findings on missed areas and children to regional EOCs** by Thursday to consider for revisit day

➤ **Day 3 and 4:** RM is conducted of the campaign before revisit day
 ➤ Up to **10,000 households** are targeted for survey (with around 40% success rate)
 ➤ Information about missed areas and missed houses collected



Social mobilisers recover remaining **missed children** during catch-up activities

RM findings and chronic **missed areas** are presented at National and sub-national campaign review meetings



ACTION PLAN
REGIONAL AND DISTRICT TEAMS DEVELOP PLAN OF ACTION AND IMPLEMENT THEM BEFORE NEXT CAMPAIGN

Refusals (August 2017)



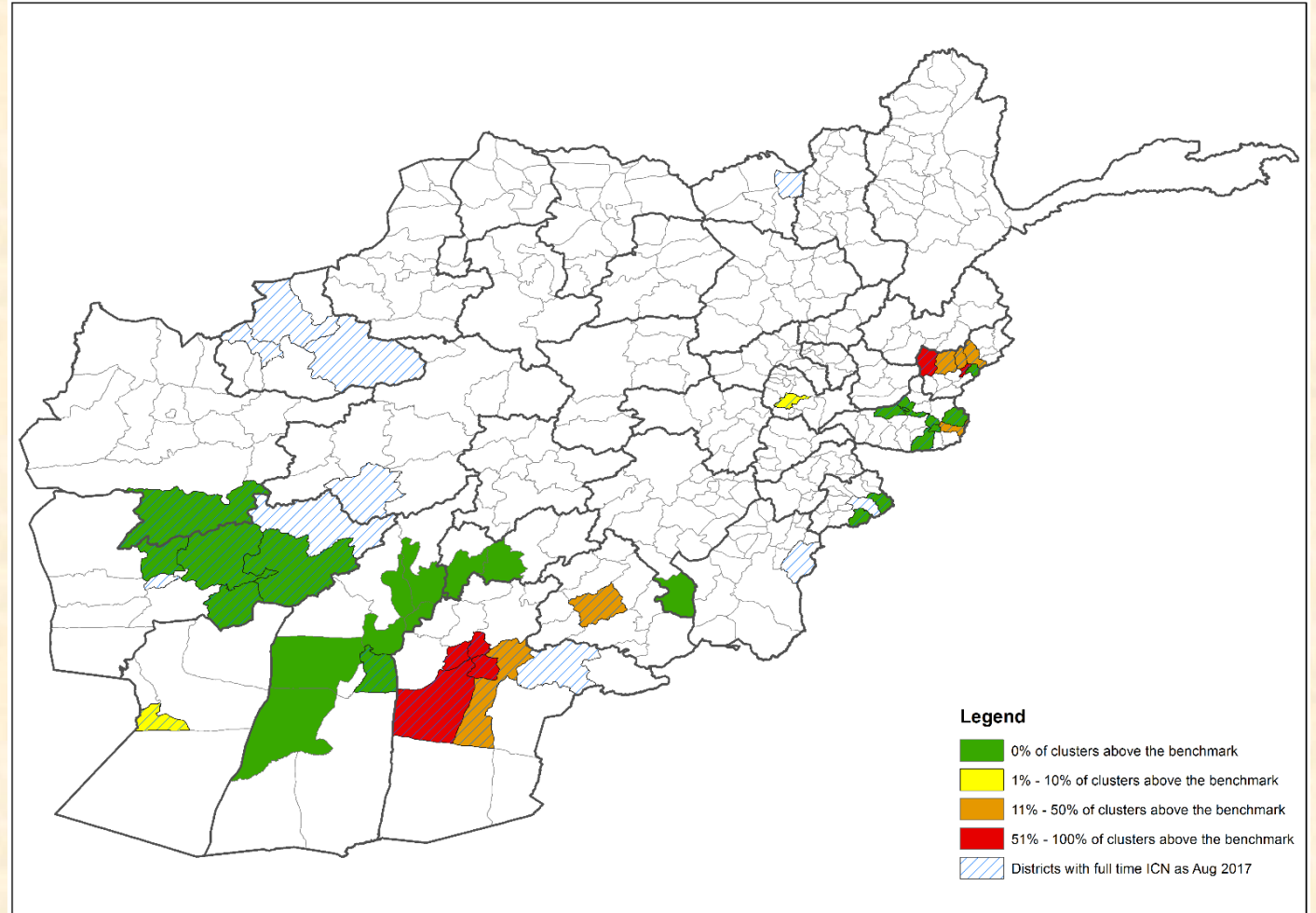
A number of districts where there are high number of clusters with more than 1% children remained missed due to **REFUSAL**. Particularly, Kandahar City, Arghandab, Zahrai, Panjway, Asadabad, Chapadara have a high number of clusters with high refusals remaining



Reasons of chronic refusals are **multi-layered and complex** which require a long-term engagement and convincing strategy at multiple levels



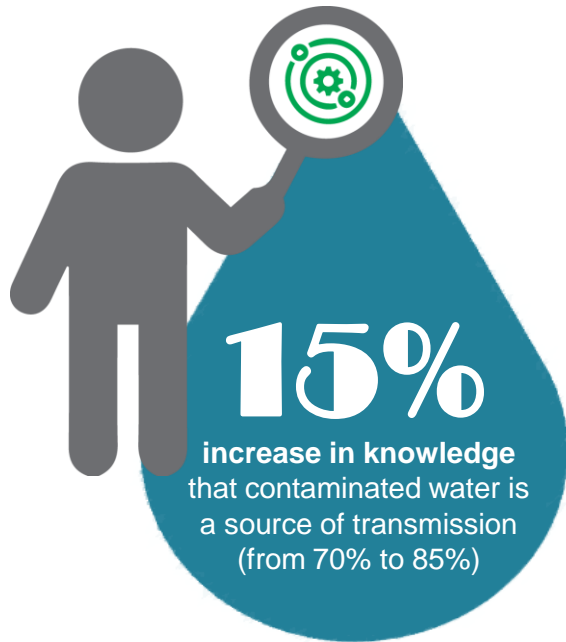
Pockets of group refusals that cannot be negotiated at individual/family level (e.g. Bermal in Paktika among Pakistan refugees)



Source: ICN Catch-up records and data for August 2017; data for September/Oct staggered campaign under process

Improvements in acceptance, intention & trust.

But still challenges remain



89%

of caregivers
intend to give their
child polio drops
every time

16%
increase



56%

feel recent vaccinators are
better than those in past

caregiver **belief**
that polio paralysis
would be curable
declined
dramatically

43%



08%



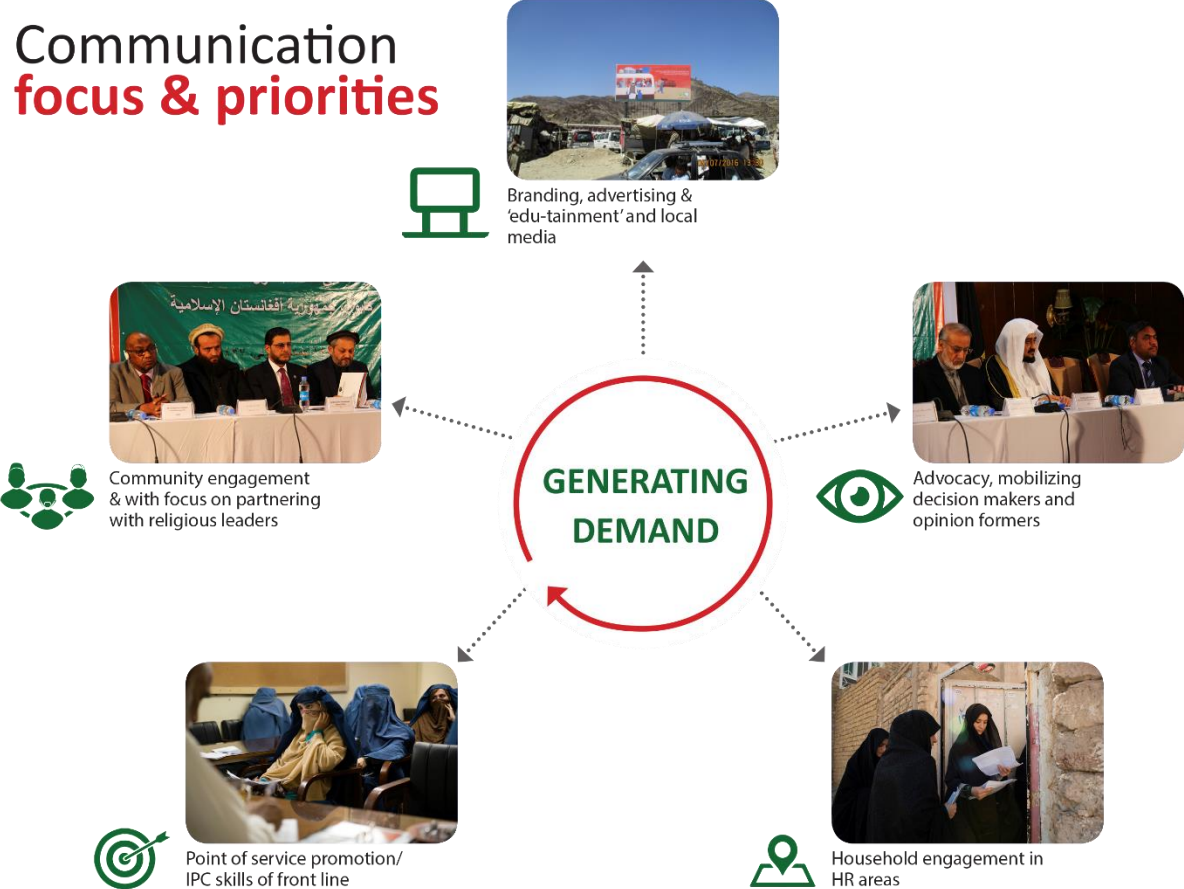
Awareness of
'destructive
rumours' declined
from 64% to 23%

Believed true
decreased from
42% to 16%



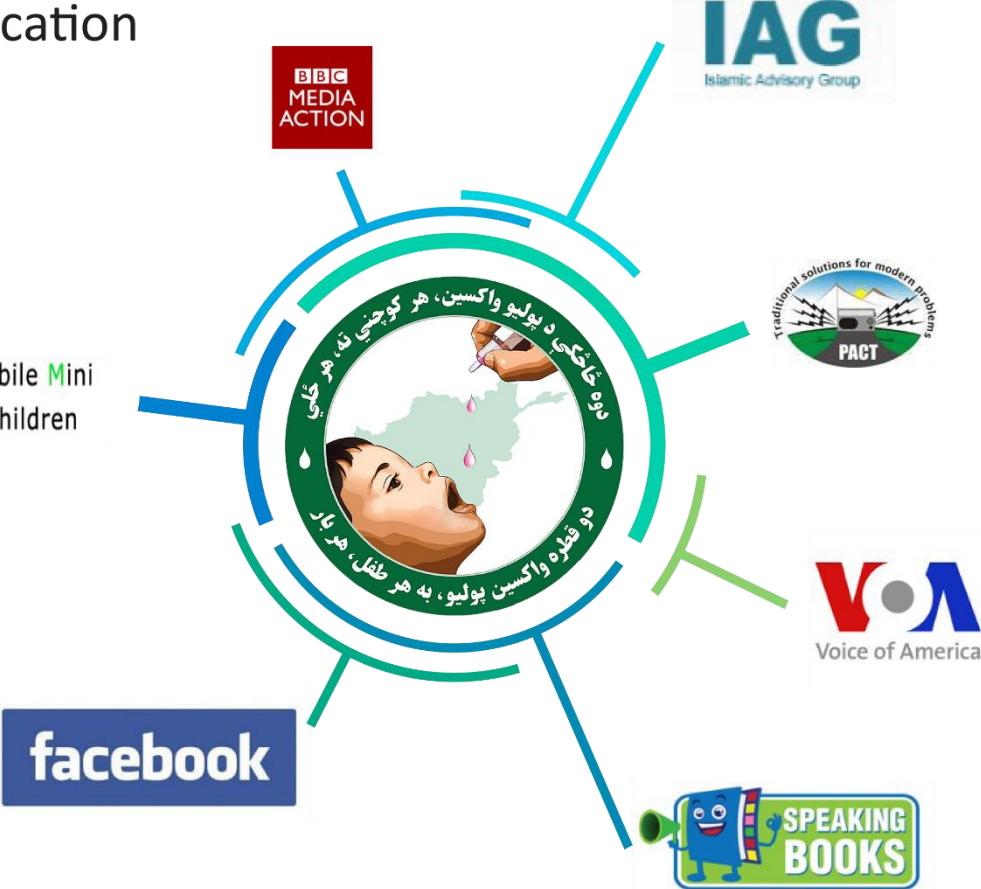
Aggressive national communication strategy with particular emphasis on household & community engagement in high risk areas

Communication focus & priorities



Communication Partners

Afghan Mobile Mini
Circus for Children



Targeted interventions to resolve refusals: Focus on Kandahar Province



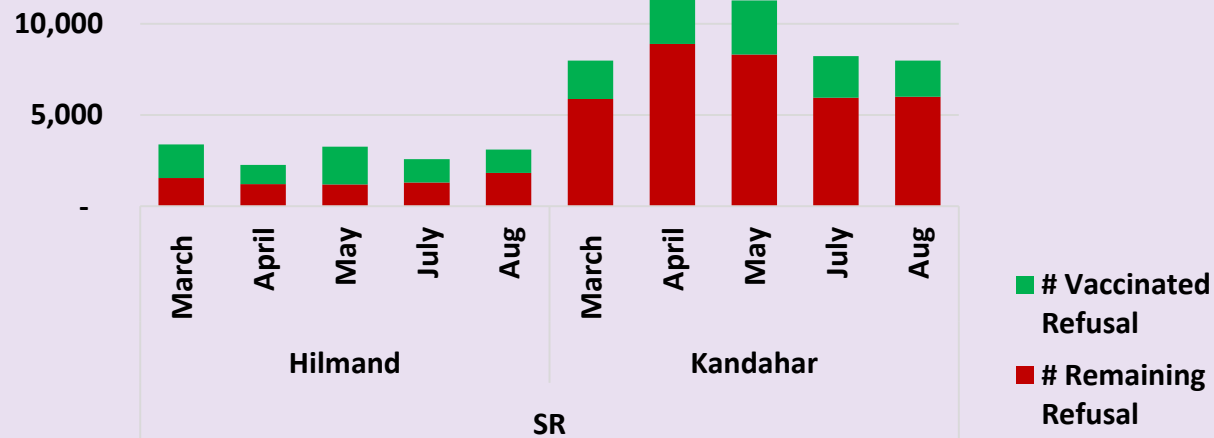
Engagement of local influential mullah imams: high risk clusters in Panjwai, Spinboldak, Arghandab and Zahrai;
(Up to September 2017 successfully convinced and vaccinated a total of more than 1500 children)

Mobilised a religious mobile team to conduct community meetings with refusals families
(798 children of refusal families vaccinated from June to Sep 2017)

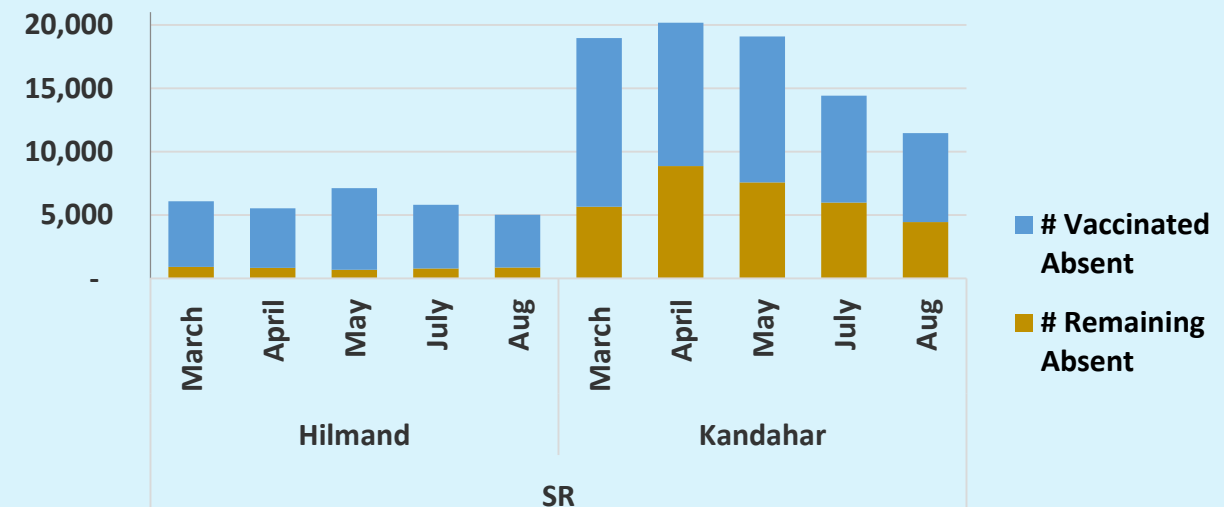
Cluster-level Refusal Resolution Committees: in high refusal clusters of Kandahar City, Zheray, Dand, Spinboldak and Panjwayi

Collation and use of **local fatwa of famous religious institutes and supportive letters signed by senior doctors** to convince community gatekeepers.

ICN reduces missed children due to Refusal after campaign



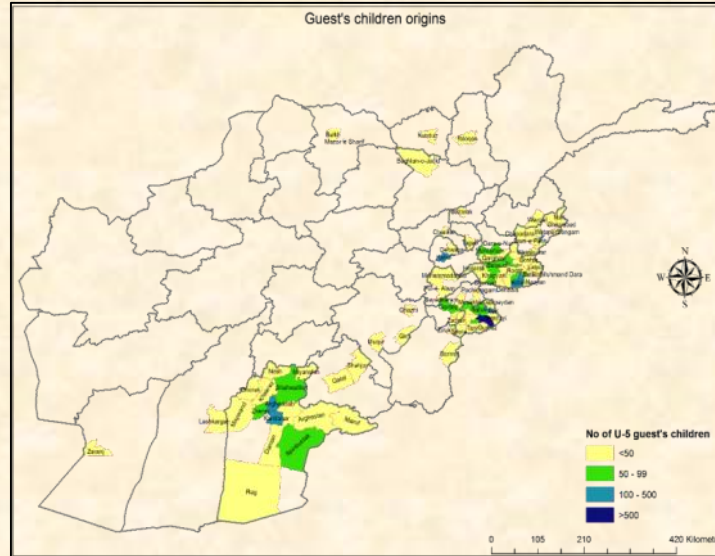
ICN reduces missed children due to Absence after campaign



High-risk mobile populations (HRMP)

- 4 HRMP categories identified:
 - Long distance travelers
 - Nomads
 - Straddling populations
 - Returnees and refugees
- Cross border coordination for addressing HRMPs moving across border
- Database and mapping of all 4 categories of HRMPs
- PTT and CBT plans reviewed based on HRMP movement patterns
- Temporary settlement points included in SIA microplans
- OPV+IPV given to returnees at UNHCR and IOM centres

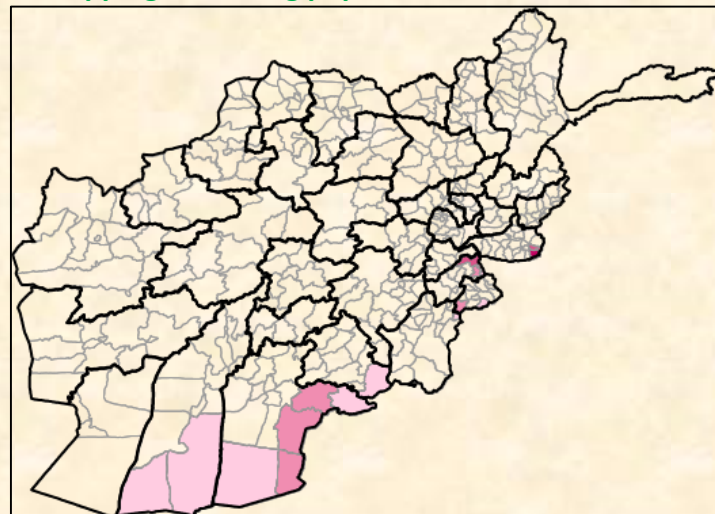
ICN survey for identifying guests & travelers



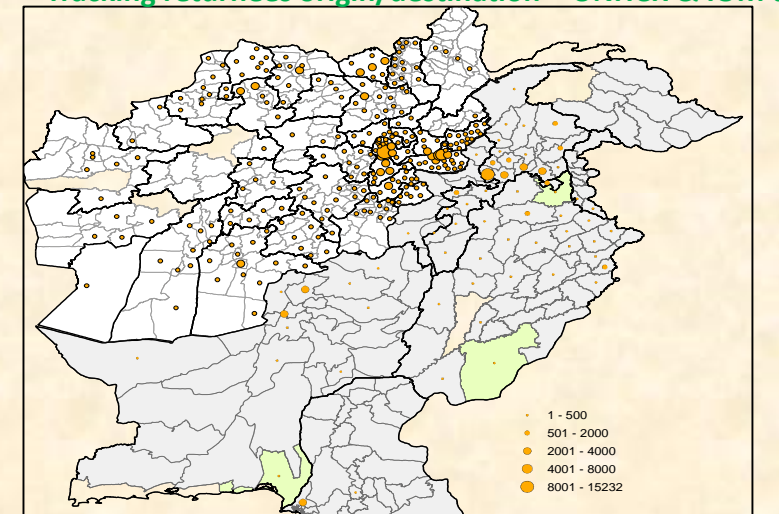
Mapping nomads' movement patterns



Mapping straddling populations



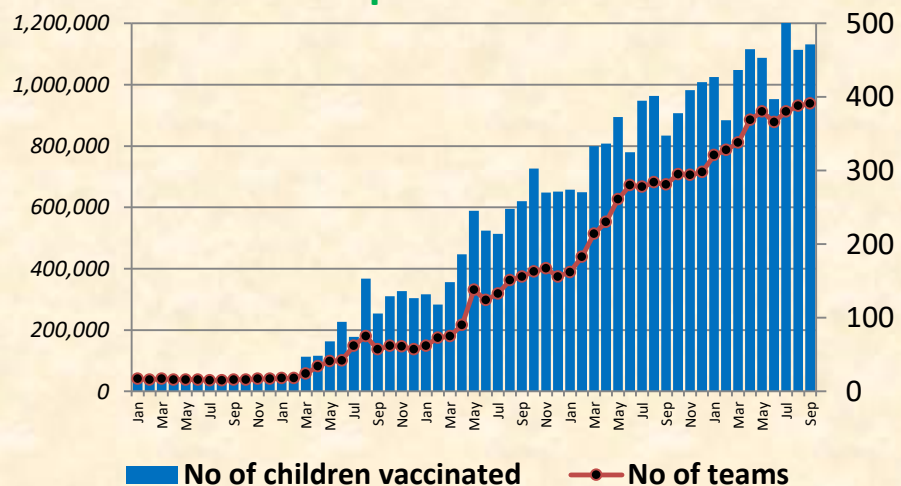
Tracking returnees origin/destination – UNHCR & IOM data



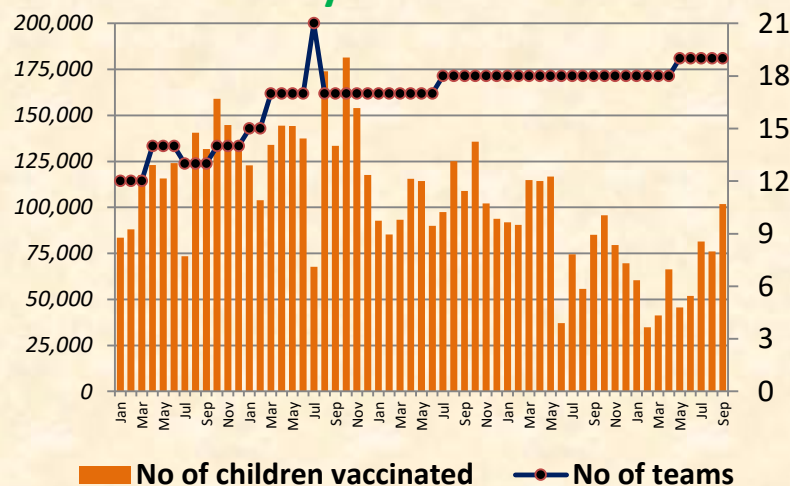
Strategies to address HRMPs

Type	Permanent transit teams	Cross border teams	SIA
Long distance travel within reservoir	PTTs strategically placed to vaccinate travellers <10 yrs to/from bordering and/or inaccessible areas	CBTs vaccinate children <10 yrs crossing borders	ICN/other data sources used to identify areas with guests – focused for coverage in SIA (trainings, implementation and monitoring)
Straddling population	PTT on routes of straddling population movement	Vaccination of straddling population while crossing borders	Settlements identified and included in SIA microplans
Nomadic population	Seasonal TTs on nomadic routes deployed during the movement season	Cross border teams on identified border crossing points, strengthened during movement season	Nomad specific SIA conducted during movement season in East Nomadic settlements included in all SIAs
Returnee refugees	PTTs reinforced on travel routes from Torkham and Friendship gates	Vaccination posts at UNHCR/IOM centers and Torkham/Friendship gates vaccinating with OPV (10y), IPV and measles	Villages/districts of final destination identified through UNHCR/IOM data, microplans revised and areas focused in SIAs

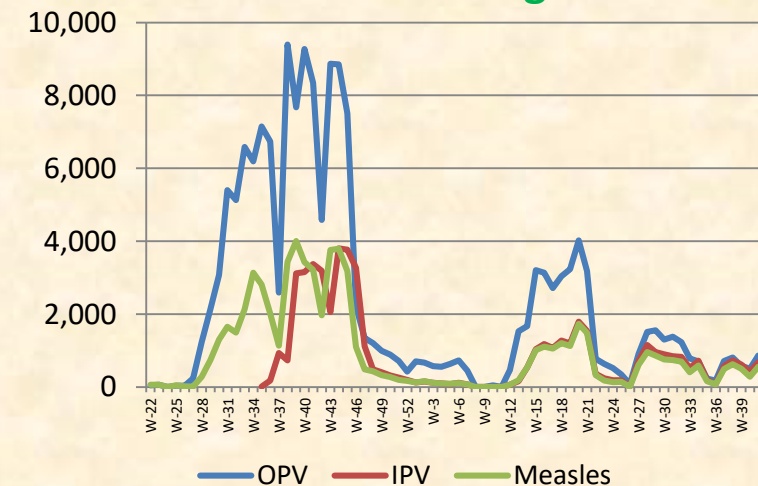
Vaccination at permanent transit teams



Vaccination by cross border teams



Vaccination of returnee refugees 2016-17



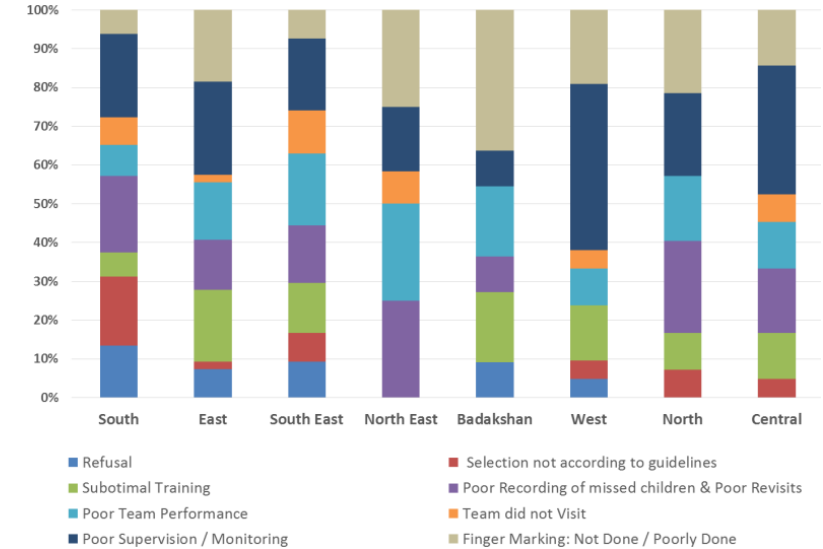
Other interventions

- Investigation of failed lots for corrective actions
- FLW selection & implementation of accountability framework
 - Selection committees established at provincial level
 - FLW registration and tracking from national level
 - Special focus to engage more females as FLWs in high risk areas
 - Tracking performance and payment through call center
 - Poor performing FLWs removed

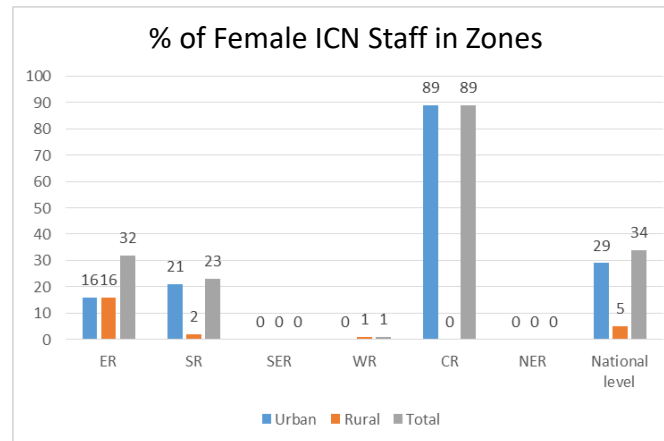
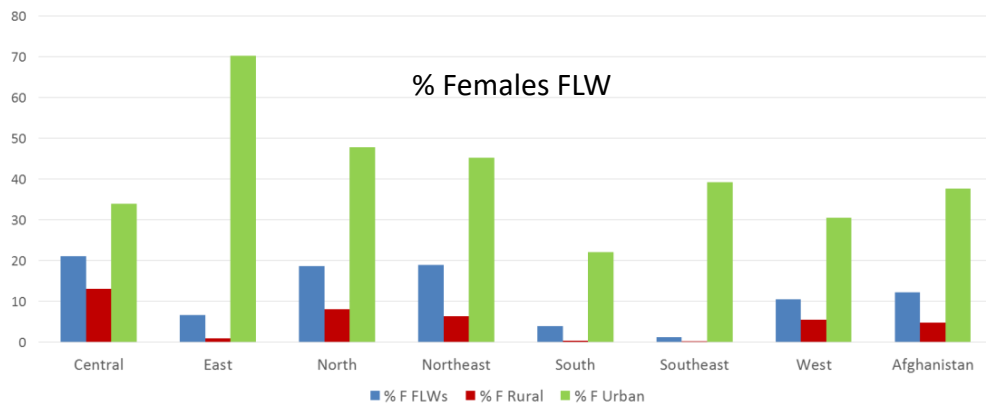


Investigation of failed lots

Major Reason Lots failed in regions from Oct NID 16- May NID 17



Engagement of females as FLWs



Accountability in action

Category	# Removed (Sep NID)
FLWs	215
ICM	98
PCM	131
LQAS surveyors	17
Comm Sup	72*
Soc Mobilizers	517*

*Data for whole year 2017

Other interventions

- National Emergency Action Plan updated for the remaining part of 2017 with new work-plan & working modality of EOC (June 2017)
- District wise review of East, South and Southeast regions
- Incorporating **ICN as one of the two vaccination team** members
- **Modification of training kit** including strengthened monitoring of training sessions
- Surveillance:
 - Conduct internal surveillance review
 - Maintain and expand reporting sites & reporting volunteers as per the evidence
 - Review and expansion of environmental sampling
 - Healthy children sampling (in districts with no AFP cases reported for more than 6 months)
- Seroprevalence survey in 2 phases (1st completed)
- Implementation of 'PEI support to EPI' SOP with focus on microplanning, monitoring and mobilization; strong coordination mechanism in place at National EOC including EPI, PEI & BPHS



Summary: challenges and mitigation



Risk/Focus

Mitigation/Action

Continued transmission in Southern region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southern corridor action plan: 15 districts of Helmand and Kandahar; district specific plans; special & staggered campaigns with national level monitoring
Transmission in Eastern region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robust vaccination response to detected transmission• Desk analysis and field review of surveillance
Changing security dynamics: Inaccessibility, particularly in South and East	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued dialogue and preparedness for any window of opportunity for vaccination; expansion of polio plus initiatives
Extensive population movement within the corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint mapping and planning with Pakistan team and• Specific strategies for each category of access• PTTs and CBTs at strategic locations
Selection of appropriate FLWs, involvement of females as FLWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FLW registration and tracking from national level• Selection committee formed at each province to track and intensify involvement of females as FLW

Summary: challenges and mitigation



Risk/Focus

Mitigation/Action

Campaign quality in some of the focus districts

- House-based microplan
- Long term deployment of national level staff to areas with concerns
- New tally sheet with focus on guest and absent children
- Expansion of remote and third party monitoring
- Revised training module and monitoring of training by independent monitors
- Intensification of intra-campaign transit team strategy

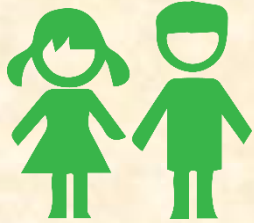
Concerns of vaccine acceptability in South region

- Engagement of local influential mullah imams: high risk clusters
- Mobilization by a religious mobile team to conduct community meetings with refusals families
- Cluster-level Refusal Resolution Committees: in high refusal clusters
- Collation and use of local fatwa of famous religious institutes and supportive letters signed by senior doctors to convince community gatekeepers.

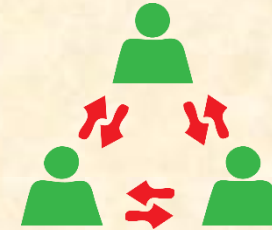
Thank you



High-risk mobile populations



Recent transmission in Afghanistan and Pakistan further underscores the importance of a systematic focus on mobile populations across the common epidemiological block



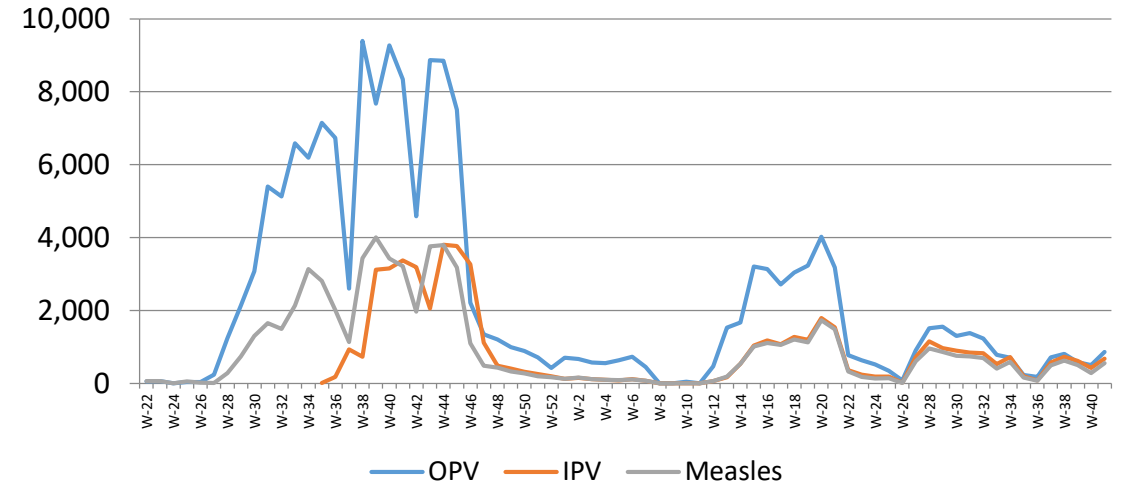
Close coordination with Pakistan at strategic and operational level

Type	Permanent transit teams	Cross border teams	SIA
Long distance travel within reservoir	PTTs strategically placed to vaccinate travellers <10 yrs to/from bordering and/or inaccessible areas	CBTs vaccinate children <10 yrs crossing borders	ICN/other data sources used to identify areas with guests – focused for coverage in SIA (trainings, implementation and monitoring)
Straddling population	PTT on routes of straddling population movement	Vaccination of straddling population while crossing borders	Settlements identified and included in SIA microplans
Nomadic population	Seasonal TTs on nomadic routes deployed during the movement season	Cross border teams on identified border crossing points, strengthened during movement season	Nomad specific SIA conducted during movement season in East Nomadic settlements included in all SIAs
Returnee refugees	PTTs reinforced on travel routes from Torkham and Friendship gates	Vaccination posts at UNHCR/IOM centers and Torkham/Friendship gates vaccinating with OPV (10y), IPV and measles	Villages/districts of final destination identified through UNHCR/IOM data, microplans revised and areas focused in SIAs

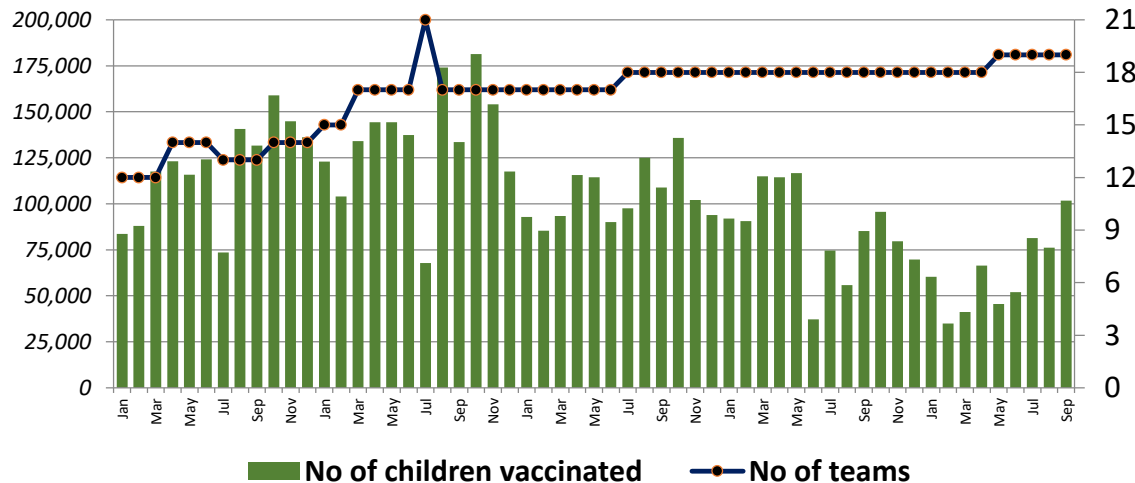
Vaccination of children on the move

- **More than 1 million children** on the move are vaccinated every month
- **19** cross border teams
- **391** permanent transit teams (mostly around inaccessible areas)
- **Vaccination of returnee refugee** at UNHCR/IOM sites with OPV and IPV

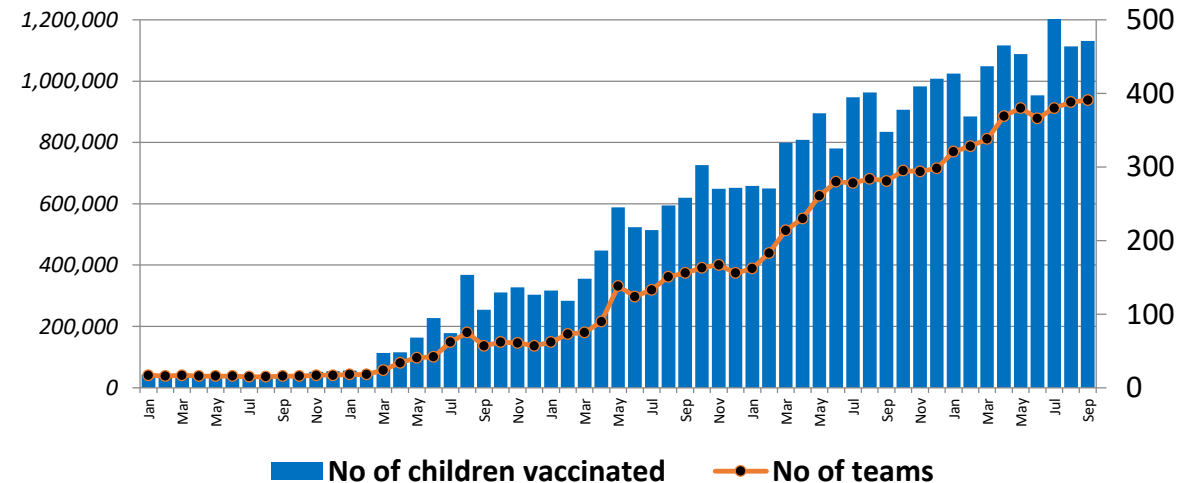
Vaccination of returnee refugees 2016-17



Vaccination by cross border teams



Vaccination at permanent transit teams



Guest children



Periodic household surveys in very high risk districts for guest children

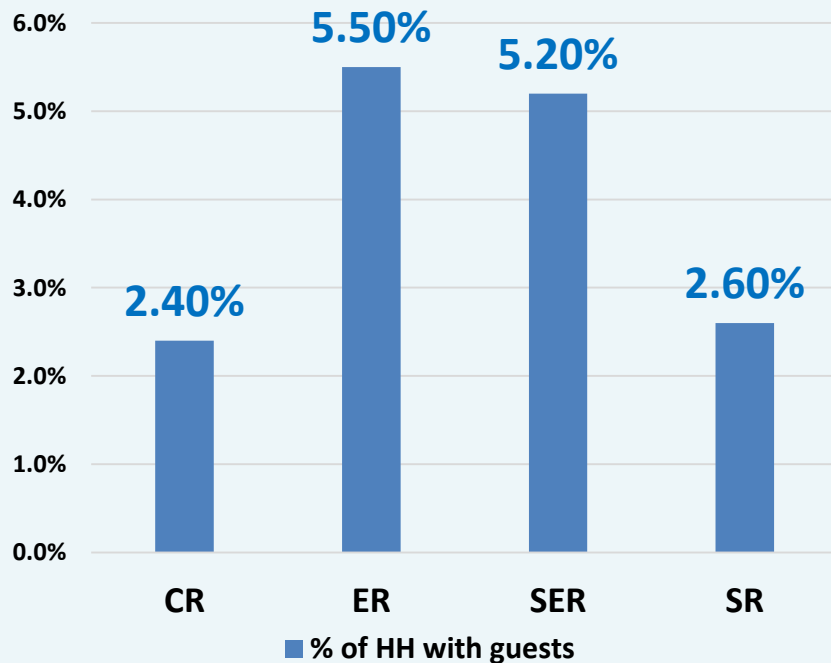
House to House tally sheet and ICN register modified to capture guest children

Focus on guest children during training

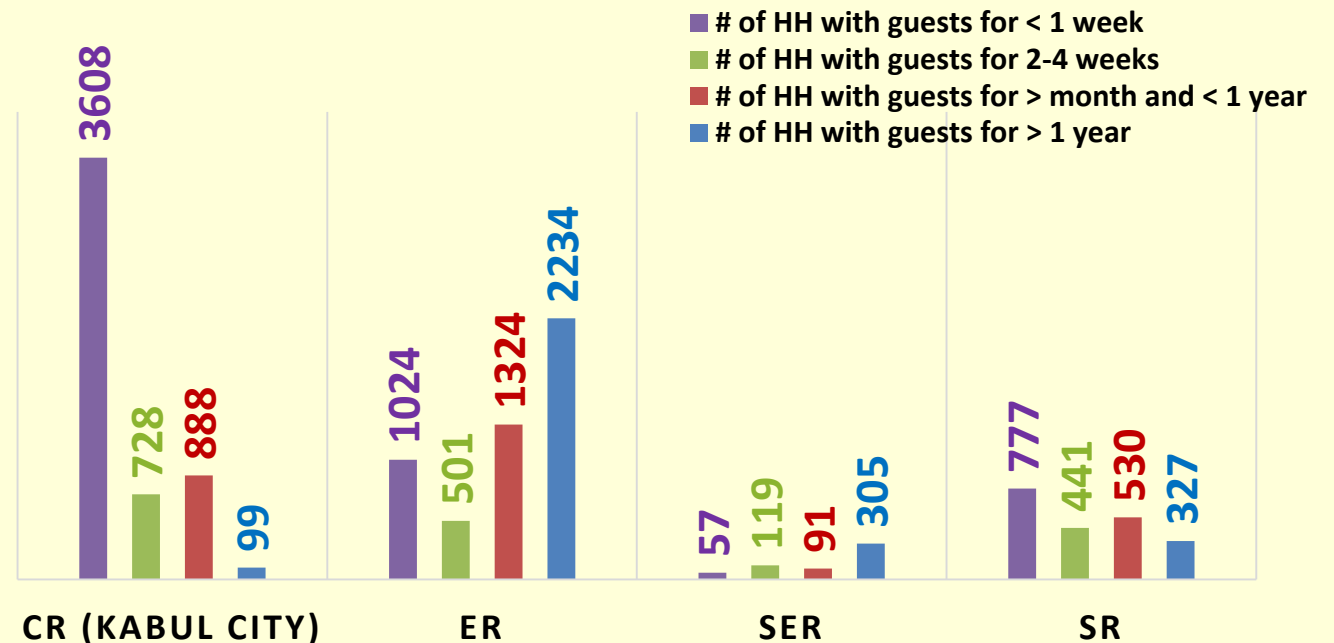
Sharing of information with Pakistan on origin and destination

Household Guest survey in ICN districts, August 2017

% of HH with guests

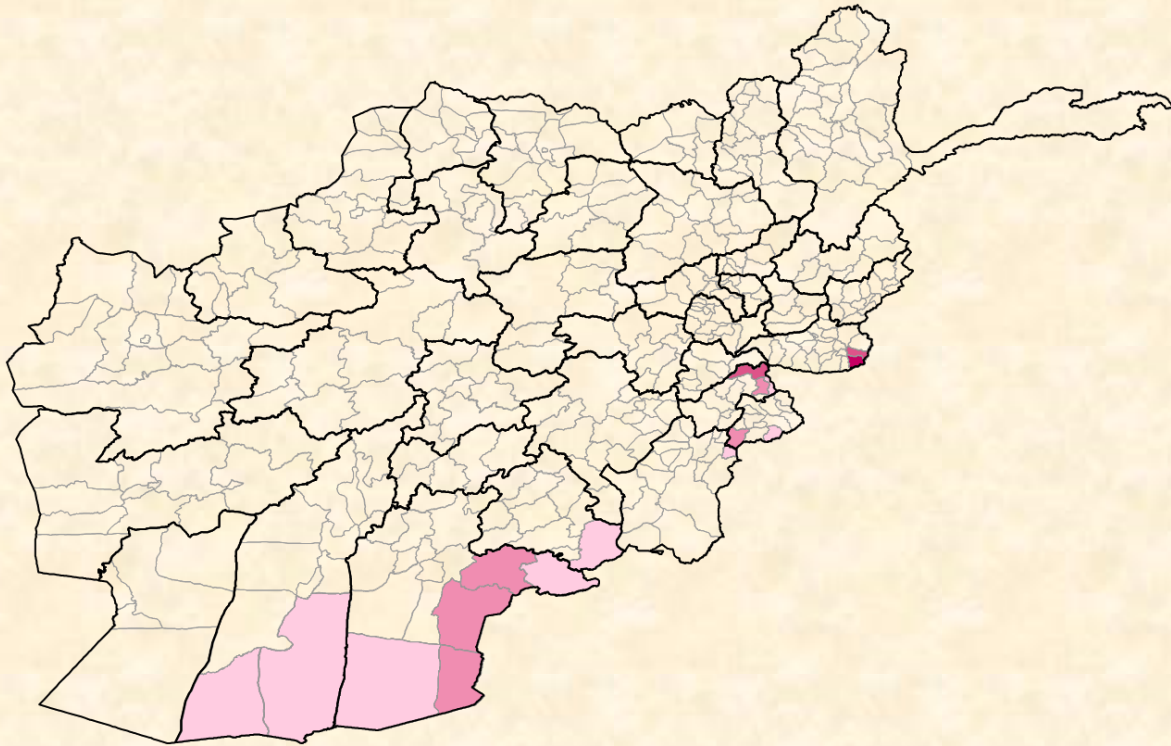


Time duration for the guests in surveyed households by ICN, August 2017



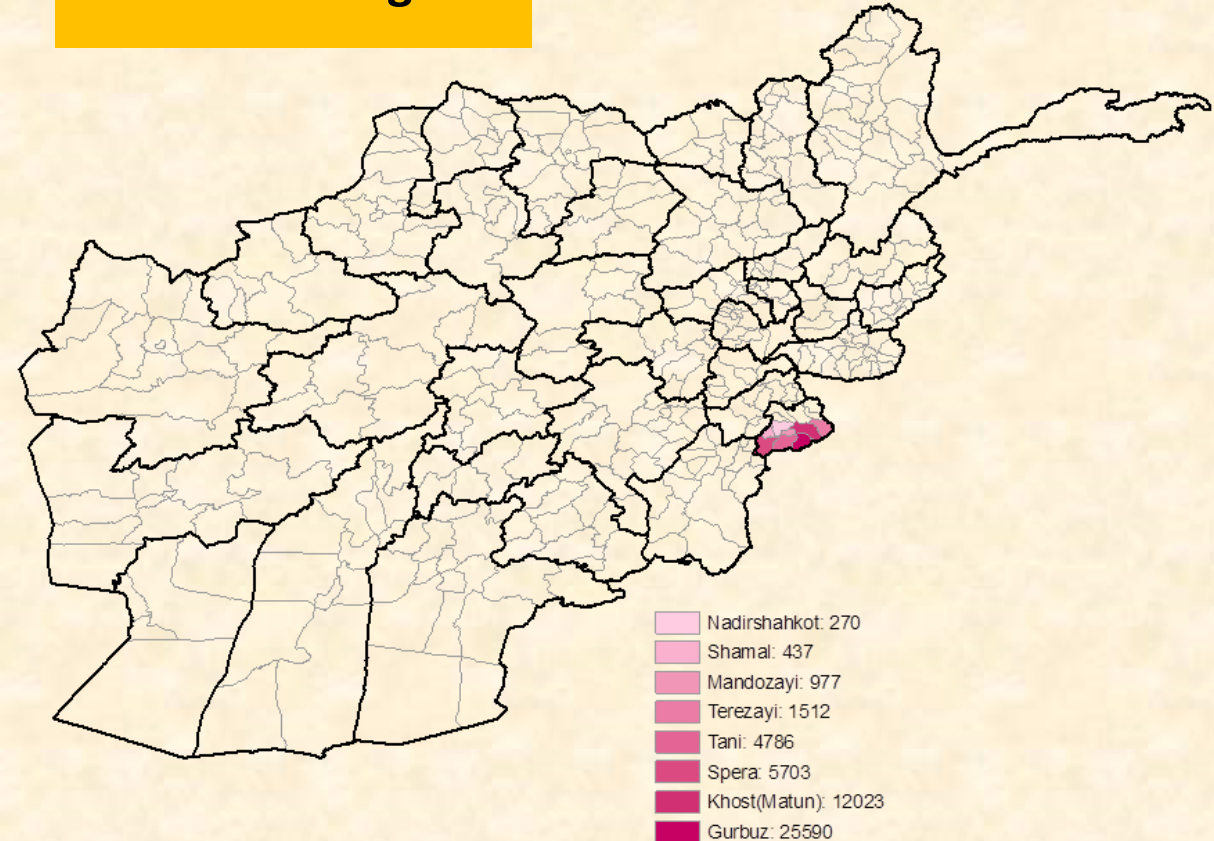
Straddling & pockets of refugee populations identified & prioritized

Districts with straddling populations – families having houses on both sides of border



- Straddling populations mapped
- Border crossing points identified
- Points of interest on both sides of the border listed – PTTs in these points strengthened

Pakistan refugees



- Biometric registration of Pak refugees by UNHCR
- Village wise data available and used to plan vaccination activities in these areas

Nomadic populations



- 1** Close working with Kuchi health directorate of Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs
- 2** Nomadic group-wise data collected during campaigns
- 3** Special nomad campaigns and specific transit teams for nomads targeting nomads
- 4** Nomadic groups crossing border identified
- 5** Border crossing points identified and PTT/CBT strengthened



Nomadic families

