

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

OCTOBER 2017



On World Polio Day, observed on 24 October, Pakistan paid special tribute to the country's valiant Sehat Muhafiz, or "Guardians of Health," who set an inspiring example of dedication as frontline vaccinators in the fight against polio. Pakistan has made tremendous progress in the eradication efforts over the past three years. In 2014, 306 children were crippled by the virus compared to only five so far this year. The recent success would not have been possible without the hard and effective work of more than 250,000 frontline workers who ensure that all children under the age of five in Pakistan receive the safe polio vaccine.

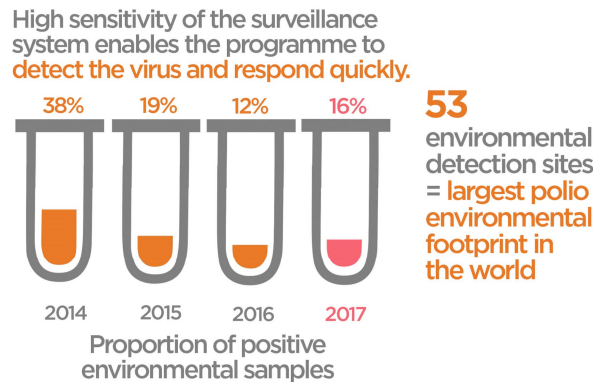
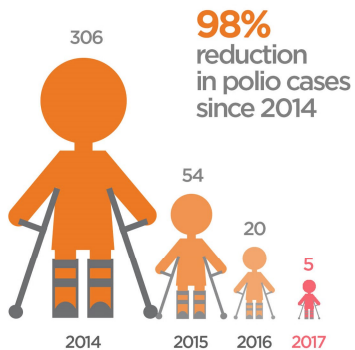
However, despite these encouraging results, Pakistan still remains one of the last three remaining countries in the world which have not yet stopped the wild poliovirus transmission, alongside Afghanistan and Nigeria. Pakistan's strong polio surveillance system continues to detect the virus in different parts of the country. Environmental surveillance data shows continued transmission in Karachi, the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, and Quetta block.

To address these challenges, the programme is focusing on reaching missed children and continuously improving campaign performance, especially across the current "hotspots" where the virus is circulating. In October 2017, Pakistan conducted sub-national immunization days (SNIDs) resulting in vaccinating more than 22 million children under the age of 5 in a total of 95 districts which are considered at high risk of virus transmission. It was the second of the nine high-quality supplementary immunization activities, including five national immunization days, to be implemented in Pakistan during the 2017-2018 low transmission season for polio.

Following the most recent polio case which occurred in Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and positive environmental samples from North Sindh and Loralai district of Baluchistan, a synchronized case response campaign was held in October 2017 resulting in vaccinating more than 4 million children.

No. of wild polio cases		Proportion of positive environmental samples		No. of infected districts (cases, environmental samples)	
October 2016	October 2017	October 2016	October 2017	October 2016	October 2017
18	5	10%	16%	23	19
0	0	0	50%	0	1
0	1	5%	5%	4	3
7	1	11%	22%	5	8
2	0	n/a	n/a	1	0
8	1	11%	7%	6	2
1	1	22%	29%	3	4
0	1	n/a	n/a	0	1

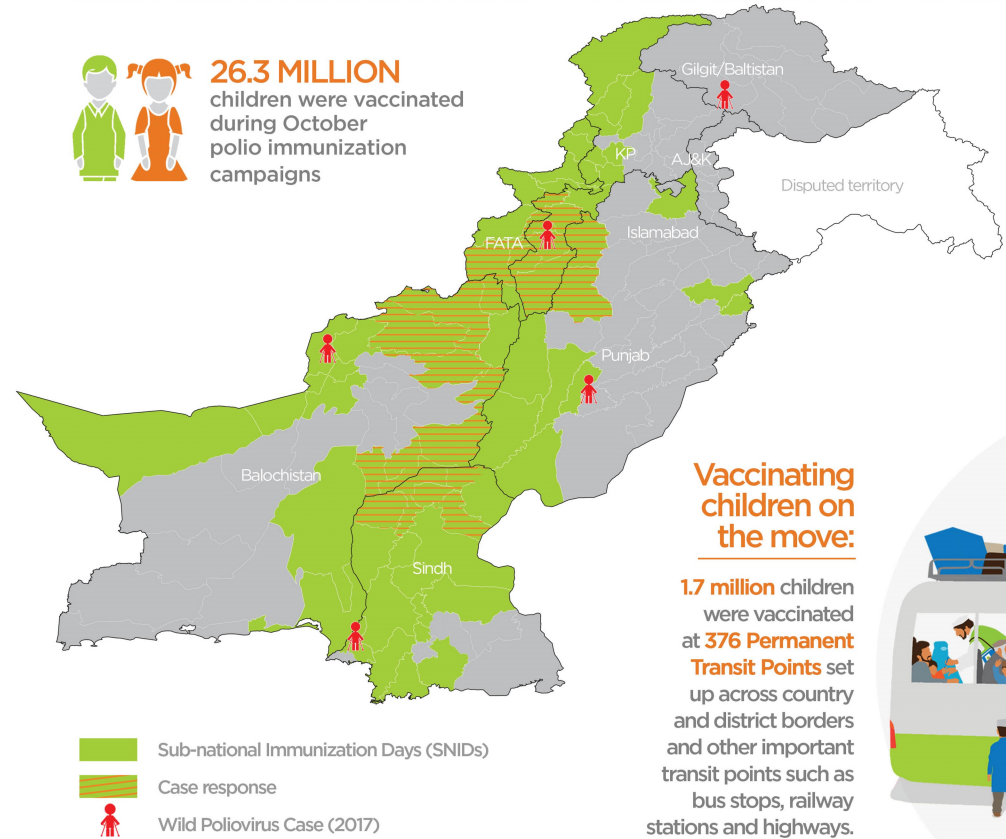
*Point in time comparison, data as of 31 October 2016/2017



OCTOBER 2017 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



26.3 MILLION children were vaccinated during October polio immunization campaigns



PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

