

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

DECEMBER 2017



With eight wild poliovirus cases, 2017 proved another historic year for the Pakistan Polio Programme. This represents an overall 97% drop in cases from highs of 306 in 2014. The year 2017 saw the programme continue to enjoy the benefits of a strong foundation set through the progress of the last three years. As the year ends, the country can look forward with optimism that the programme structures are strong enough to ensure a future in which polio no longer endangers children, families, and communities.

The “one team under one roof” approach was further consolidated in 2017 and the programme continued to benefit from the highest levels of political support from across the political spectrum. The network of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) across the provinces has been essential throughout the year in ensuring improvements across all aspects of programme operations, risk management and oversight activities. Thanks to the EOCs, polio eradication efforts are now further supported by the availability of high-quality data and comprehensive, real-time risk assessment and monitoring, resulting in sustained programme performance.

Because this is a zero sum game, and the extensive surveillance system continues to isolate viruses in sewage, the programme is intensifying its efforts in identifying the remaining gaps and systematically addressing them. Key areas of focus have been identified in Karachi, Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Quetta, Islamabad and

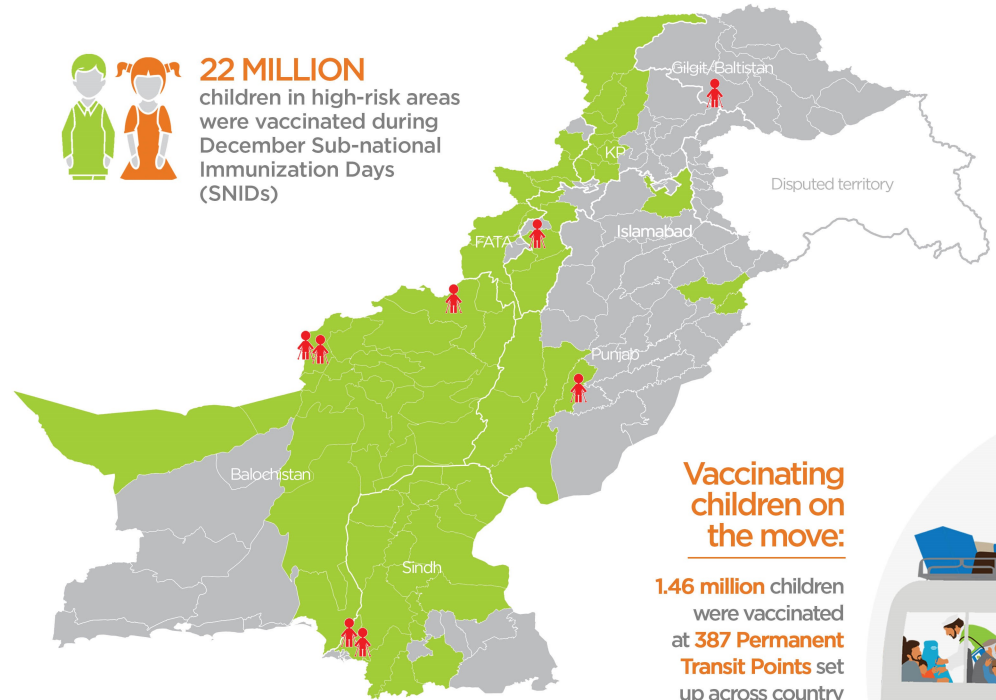
Rawalpindi where the virus continues to circulate. In response to these challenges, the microplanning processes have been strengthened to ensure all children are part of the vaccination campaigns, the monitoring and supervision systems have been improved to support frontline workers, community engagement approaches have been intensified to sensitize caregivers and entire communities about the need to vaccinate. Moreover, the programme has strengthened collaboration with Afghanistan, targeting high risk mobile populations and other children on the move. These actions, taken to reach the peak performance needed to eradicate polio, were further endorsed by the Technical Advisory Group in its second annual meeting held in Islamabad on 30 November - 1 December 2017.

The last immunization campaign of 2017 took place from 18-21 December in high-risk areas of the country. More than 22 million children under 5 years of age were vaccinated by a team of almost 143,000 dedicated frontline workers. In 2018, the programme will continue to conduct regular vaccination campaigns as the last push to kick the poliovirus out of the country. With focused efforts in the current hot spots of Karachi and Killa Abudllah and while sustaining gains everywhere else, the programme intends to make 2018 the year of virus interruption in Pakistan. This is the best opportunity we have had in decades to succeed and we must positively take it.

DECEMBER 2017 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



22 MILLION children in high-risk areas were vaccinated during December Sub-national Immunization Days (SNIDs)



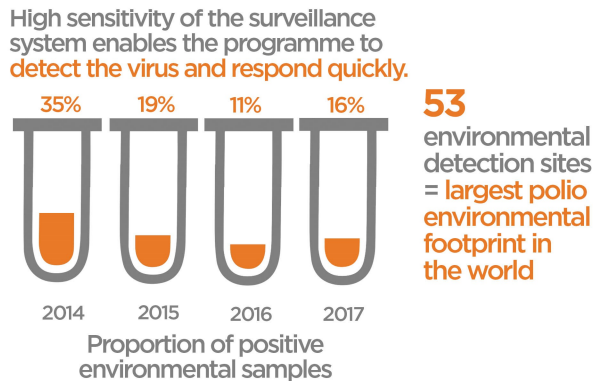
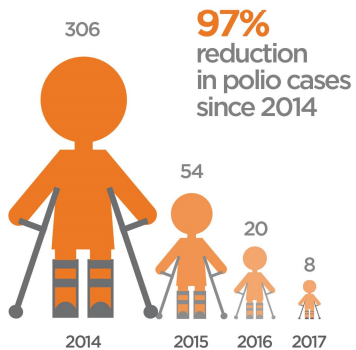
Vaccinating children on the move:

1.46 million children were vaccinated at **387 Permanent Transit Points** set up across country and district borders and other important transit points such as bus stops, railway stations and highways.



No. of wild polio cases		Proportion of positive environmental samples		No. of infected districts (cases, environmental samples)	
December 2016	December 2017	December 2016	December 2017	December 2016	December 2017
20	8	11%	16%	25	22
0 Islamabad	0	0 Islamabad	42%	0 Islamabad	1
0 Punjab	1	6% Punjab	5%	5 Punjab	4
8 Sindh	2	10% Sindh	23%	10 Sindh	9
2 FATA	0	n/a FATA	n/a	1 FATA	0
8 KP	1	12% KP	7%	6 KP	2
2 Balochistan	3	26% Balochistan	27%	3 Balochistan	5
0 GB	1	n/a GB	n/a	0 GB	1

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



PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

