

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

JANUARY 2018



With polio at the lowest levels in the history of Pakistan, the programme has launched an all-out and hopefully final assault on the disease in 2018. During this second half of the 2017/2018 National Emergency Action Plan implementation season – from January to May 2018 – monthly campaigns have been planned with the intention of stopping poliovirus transmission within the few remaining sanctuaries of Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta block and the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The first of this scheduled campaigns was successfully implemented in January.

This first nationwide polio vaccination campaign this year took place from 15-18 January 2018 resulting in vaccinating more than 39.3m children under 5 years of age by a team of almost 260,000 dedicated frontline workers. Additionally, in response to the detection of wild poliovirus in sewage samples in Lahore as well as in Peshawar and Kohat districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, case response campaigns were conducted, immunizing a total of 330,000 children.

Identified challenges and strategies endorsed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in its November 2017 meeting, the intensive vaccination schedule will focus on addressing operational gaps to achieve high

population immunity in the core reservoirs, while keeping children safe from polio throughout the country.

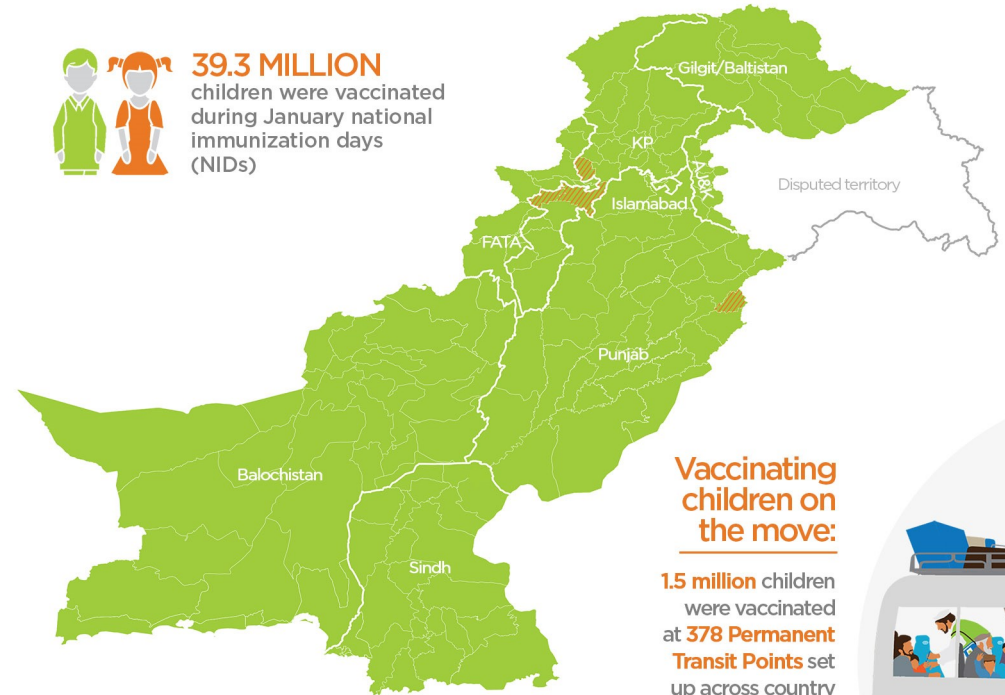
A second key focus will be to mitigate the risk posed by frequent population movements within the country; in this light, the programme has done extensive work to better understand the movement patterns of different mobile population groups -- ensuring that they are part of the vaccination campaigns. Furthermore, to ensure that the mobile populations are vaccinated at their arrival and departure points, 387 Permanent Transit Points have been established along inter-province and country border crossings and other important transit points such as bus and railway stations. Last year, a total of 18.2m children were vaccinated at transit points.

In 2018, the Pakistan programme will further strengthen its close coordination with the Afghanistan Polio Eradication programme to ensure that all children moving frequently across borders are fully vaccinated against polio. Strategies and tools have been aligned and all major activities including vaccination campaigns have been synchronised. Priority areas include Killa Abdullah district, specifically Chaman and Gulistan Tehsil.

JANUARY 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

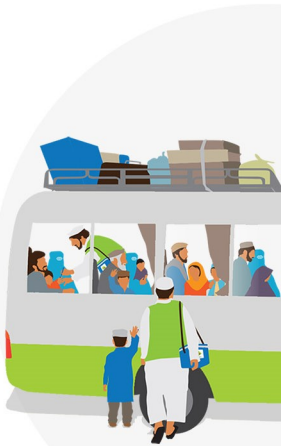


39.3 MILLION children were vaccinated during January national immunization days (NIDs)



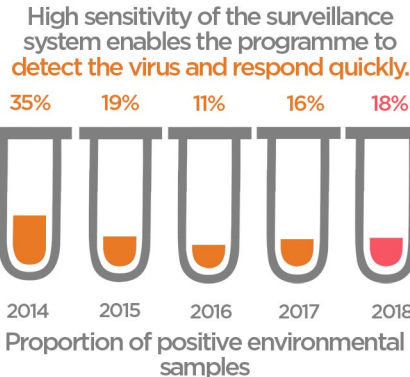
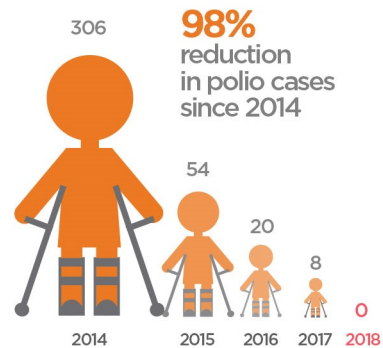
Vaccinating children on the move:

1.5 million children were vaccinated at **378 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)	
January 2017	January 2018	January 2017	January 2018	January 2017	January 2018
1	0	19%	18%	8	6
0	0	0	100%	0	1
1	0	11%	0	3	0
0	0	6%	14%	1	2
0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
0	0	13%	40%	1	2
0	0	60%	20%	3	1
0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0

*Point in time comparison data as of 31 January, 2017/2018



53 environmental detection sites = largest polio environmental footprint in the world

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

