

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2018



2017 proved another historic year for Pakistan's polio eradication programme as an overall 97% drop in cases was registered since 2014. With polio at the lowest levels in the history of Pakistan, the programme continues its final assault on the disease in 2018.

The second nationwide immunization campaign of the year took place from 12-14 February 2018, resulting in vaccinating 39 million children under 5 years of age by a workforce of 260,000 Sehat Muhafiz. According to independent post-campaign monitoring, the campaign achieved the coverage of 89.2%. Moreover, in response to virus circulation in Killa Abdullah district in Balochistan, a case response campaign was carried out there from 1-4 February 2018, successfully vaccinating up to 296,040 vulnerable children against polio.

Intense focus on core polio reservoirs including Karachi, Quetta Block, Peshawar and the Twin Cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, as well as targeted community engagement efforts have been helping the programme reach its ultimate goal of eradication.

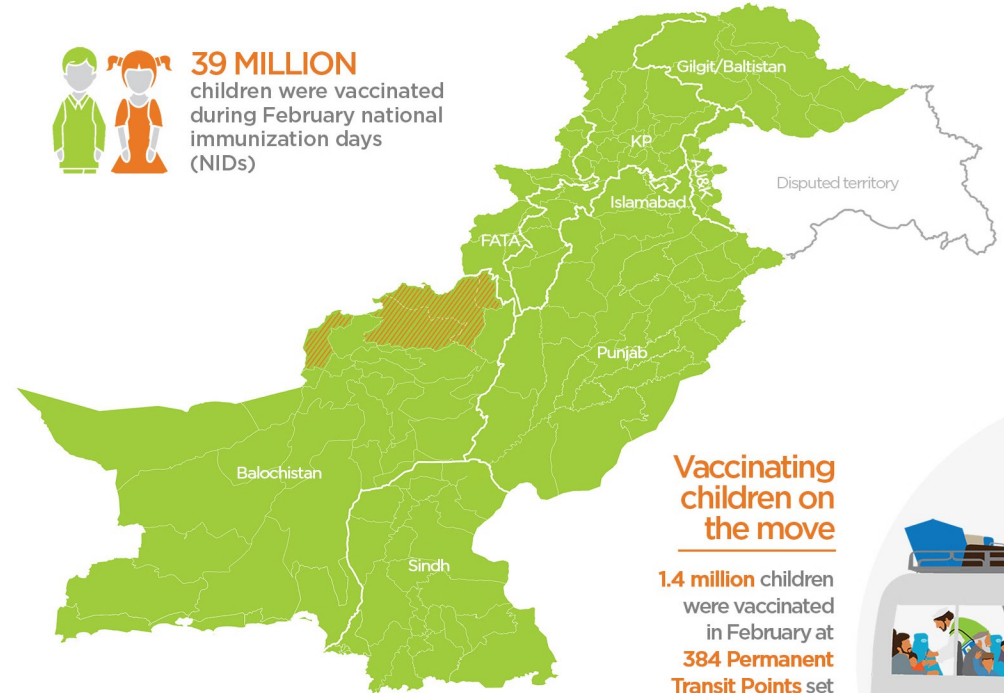
The sensitive polio surveillance system indicates that the proportion of positive environmental samples as of February 2018 was 14%, compared to 18% at this point last year. The challenge, however, remains ahead. The primary areas of concern remain Karachi, Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Quetta, Islamabad and Rawalpindi where the virus continues to circulate. Moreover, high levels of population movement within the country and across the 2,000+ kilometer border between Pakistan and Afghanistan pose another significant risk to efforts to eradicate polio.

To respond to these challenges, the programme is focusing on achieving highest immunity levels among children living in the core polio reservoirs and closer coordination across the common Afghanistan-Pakistan epidemiological bloc for poliovirus transmission. Key strategies have been aligned and all major activities including vaccination campaigns are synchronized. To mitigate the risk posed by frequent population movements within the country, the programme has done extensive work to better understand the movement patterns of different mobile population groups to ensure that they are part of the vaccination campaigns.

FEBRUARY 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



39 MILLION children were vaccinated during February national immunization days (NIDs)



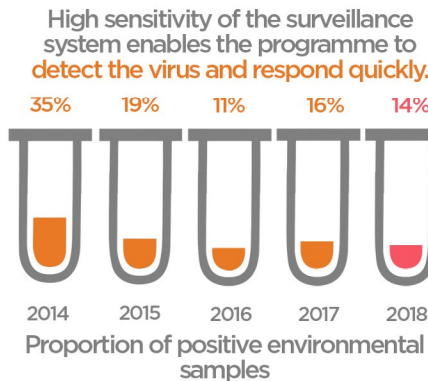
Vaccinating children on the move

1.4 million children were vaccinated in February at **384 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 (WPV cases, environmental samples) | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|--|---------------|
| February 2017 | February 2018 | February 2017 | February 2018 | February 2017 | February 2018 |
| 2 | 0 | 18% | 14% | 11 | 12 |
| 0 | 0 | 50% | 50% | 1 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 9% | 33% | 3 | 2 |
| 0 | 0 | 9% | 15% | 2 | 5 |
| 0 | 0 | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 12% | 14% | 1 | 2 |
| 0 | 0 | 53% | 10% | 3 | 2 |
| 1 | 0 | n/a | n/a | 1 | 0 |

*Please note: this is a point in time comparison, data as of 28 February 2017/2018.



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

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

