

# PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

APRIL 2018



The polio caseload in Pakistan has dropped drastically from highs of 306 in 2014 to only 1 case so far in 2018. However, results from environmental sampling suggest that the polio virus still circulates in core-reservoirs across Pakistan, although with lesser intensity. From a highly sensitive national surveillance system comprised of a network of 55 environmental detection sites, 13% of environmental samples have been found positive for polio as of April 2018, compared to 18% at the same point in time last year. In order to stop the virus transmission and achieve high population immunity, the programme is committed to identifying remaining gaps, prioritizing high impact campaign activities and employing innovative strategies to overcome challenges to polio eradication.

The final national immunization campaign of the current low season for poliovirus transmission was implemented between 9-11 April 2018. This campaign helped to vaccinate 38.9 million children under 5 years of age by a workforce of 260,000 frontline workers, comprised of up to 62% females. According to independent post-campaign monitoring, the campaign achieved an average coverage of 92.5%. An additional case response campaign was also implemented between 23-25 April in 12 districts of Sibi and Zhob divisions of the Balochistan province after the first polio case of 2018 was found in this area. In order to increase the immunity of children living in high-risk areas, a combined bOPV-IPV campaign was carried out in Killa Abdullah, Mohmand agency, Peshawar, Khyber and FR Peshawar from 23-30 April as well.

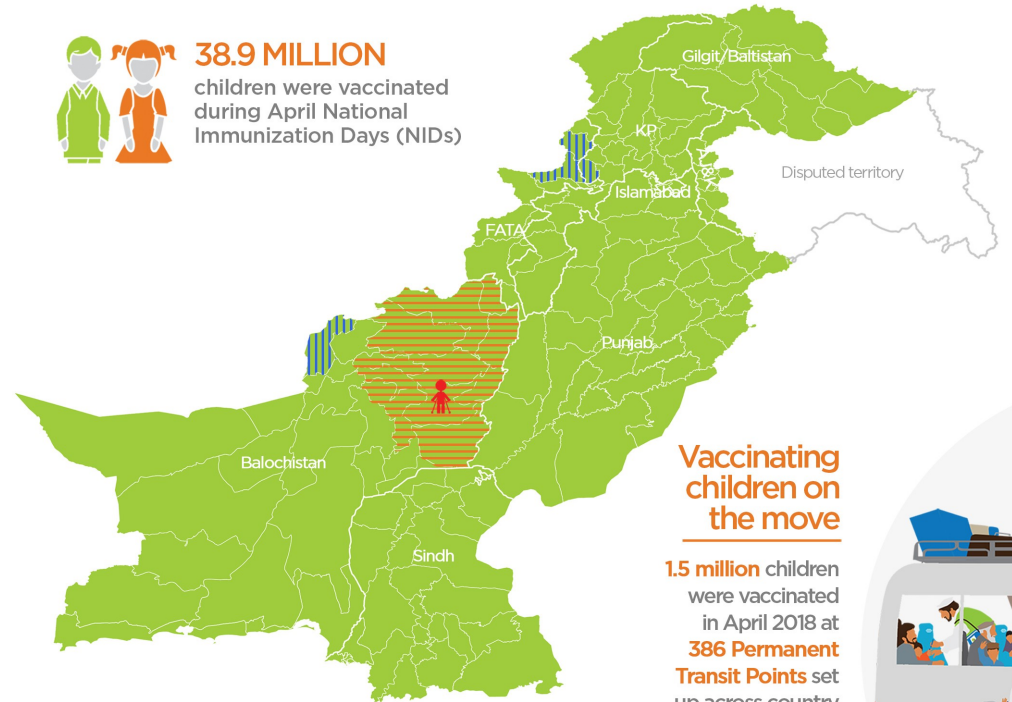
Programme partners also conducted a series of meetings in April to map out strategic direction for the upcoming National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for 2018-2019. Discussions were held amongst various task teams to finalize programme priorities, agree on operational activities and pave the way forward while considering existing challenges and needs.

Beyond this, the programme remains focused on vaccinating all children of Pakistan including an intensified focus on the use of communication for eradication to build trust in and demand for polio vaccination. Strategic use of media and targeted community engagement helps to address concerns of parents and caregivers and improve vaccine acceptance. Meanwhile, vaccinations are carried out at transit points such as interprovincial and country borders, bus stations, railways and other arrival and departure points serve to vaccinate children "on the move." From the start of 2018, these 386 Permanent Transit Points have helped vaccinate 6 million children. Meanwhile, given heavy cross border movements between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the shared epidemiological block of both countries, the Pakistan programme is committed to strengthening coordination with Afghanistan. Extensive efforts have been made to ensure alignment of tools and strategies and synchronization of vaccination campaigns, with a view to root out virus circulation in hotspot areas such as Killa Abdullah, Gulistan and Chaman.

## APRIL 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

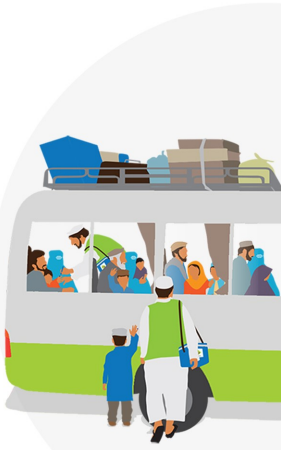


**38.9 MILLION** children were vaccinated during April National Immunization Days (NIDs)



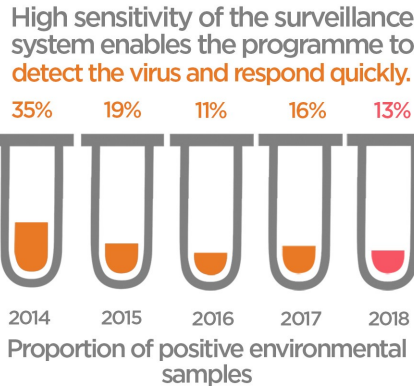
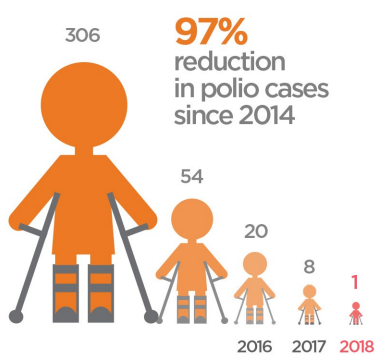
### Vaccinating children on the move

1.5 million children were vaccinated in April 2018 at **386 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)	
April 2017	April 2018	April 2017	April 2018	April 2017	April 2018
2	1	18%	13%	13	18
0	0	75%	25%	1	1
1	0	6%	3%	3	2
0	0	17%	19%	4	8
0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
0	0	8%	19%	1	3
0	0	44%	11%	3	4
1	0	n/a	n/a	1	0

\*Please note: this is a point in time comparison; data as of 30 April 2017/2018.



**55** environmental detection sites = largest polio environmental footprint in the world

## PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

