

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

MARCH 2018



Over the past four years, Pakistan has achieved major success with 97% reduction in polio cases: from 306 in 2014 to only eight reported in 2017, which is a historic low. In March 2018, the first polio case of this year was reported from Dukki district in Balochistan province. The response to the new case is currently ongoing with the objective of protecting every child in the community and stopping further circulation of the virus.

In order to stop virus transmission and to achieve high population immunity, particularly in the core polio reservoirs, Pakistan Polio Programme is currently focusing on addressing any operational gaps and implementing innovative strategies. This includes closer coordination across the common Pakistan-Afghanistan epidemiological bloc; a special focus on reaching children on the move; and targeted community engagement efforts to bring the resistant communities on board. Moreover, the programme continues to prioritize polio surveillance, with two additional environmental sample sites established in March, bringing the total number of environmental detection sites across the country to 55.

This is the largest such network in the world. Among 169 environmental samples processed for the first quarter of 2018, 21 samples or 13% of total samples are positive for the polio virus, compared to 17% in the first quarter of 2017.

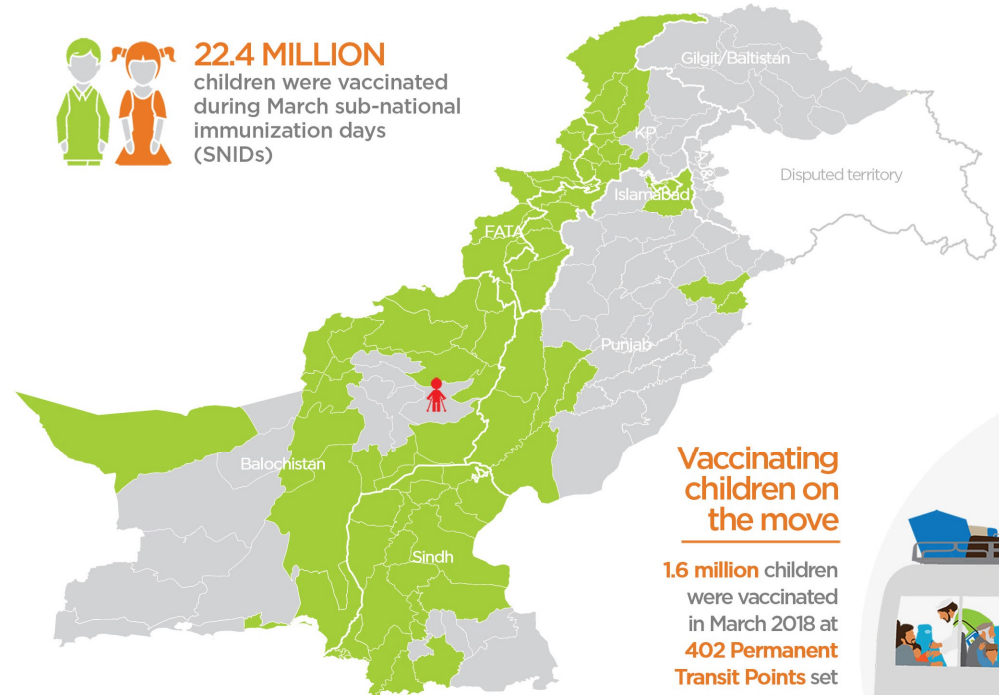
Following January and February National Immunization Days, a sub-national immunization campaign took place from 12-15 March 2018 in "high-risk" 95 districts/-towns, resulting in vaccinating 22.4 million children under 5 years of age by a workforce of more than 145,000 vaccinators. According to independent post-campaign monitoring, the campaign achieved an average coverage of 94.2%.

On 19 March 2018, the National Polio Management Team (NPMT) met in Islamabad to review the implementation progress of the current National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) and chalk out strategic direction for the low transmission season 2018/19. The NPMT concluded that the efforts must continue to curb transmission in the core polio reservoirs while stressing the need for efficient and targeted communication activities in support of eradication.

MARCH 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

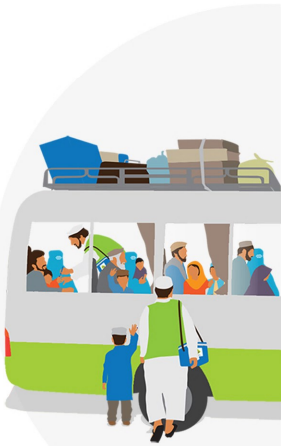


22.4 MILLION children were vaccinated during March sub-national immunization days (SNIDs)



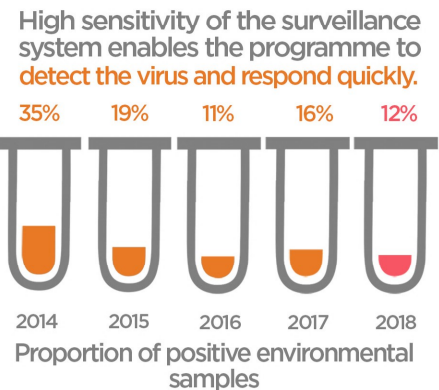
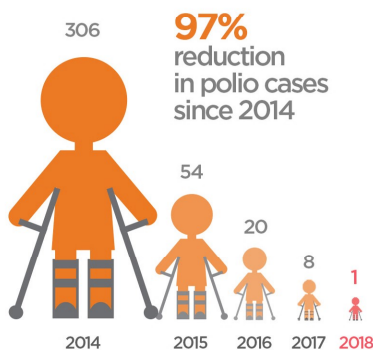
Vaccinating children on the move

1.6 million children were vaccinated in March 2018 at **402 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)	
March 2017	March 2018	March 2017	March 2018	March 2017	March 2018
2	1	17%	13%	12	17
0	0	67%	33%	1	1
1	0	6%	4%	3	2
0	0	13%	18%	3	7
0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0
0	0	8%	21%	1	3
0	0	45%	10%	3	4
1	0	n/a	n/a	1	0
0	0			3	4
1	0			1	0

Please note: this is a point in time comparison, data as of 31 March 2017/2018.



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

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

