



Pakistan continues to sustain performance improvements to its Polio Eradication Programme. This is evident as no polio case has been reported from the high risk core reservoir areas in the past 6 months, while the annual polio caseload has declined from 306 cases in 2014, to 8 cases in 2017. Improvements to programme quality and enhanced nationwide confidence in the programme within communities has been a direct result of high quality data driven operations, a strong and effective communications strategy, and a robust one team approach where all partners work together under strong government leadership and oversight.

Despite such progress, several challenges remain. For example, operational gaps persist and pockets of communities continue to resist vaccination. Between May and early June 2018, two additional polio cases were reported from the Dukki district in Balochistan province, bringing the total number of confirmed wild poliovirus cases in 2018 to three. All three of these cases have come from 2 adjacent Union Councils of the same district. A rapid response to these polio cases is currently underway, with the objective of protecting every child in the community and stopping further virus circulation. While these three wild poliovirus cases of 2018 are limited to one district, results from tests of sewage water samples collected from selected sites across Pakistan reveal that the wild polio virus continues to circulate across large parts of the country, particularly in key urban centres of Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Karachi and Quetta. As of May 2018, 13% of environmental samples have been found

positive for the poliovirus, compared to 17% at the same point in time last year. To close these gaps and stop virus transmission, the programme is committed to implementing high-impact campaign activities and employing innovative strategies to overcome existing challenges.

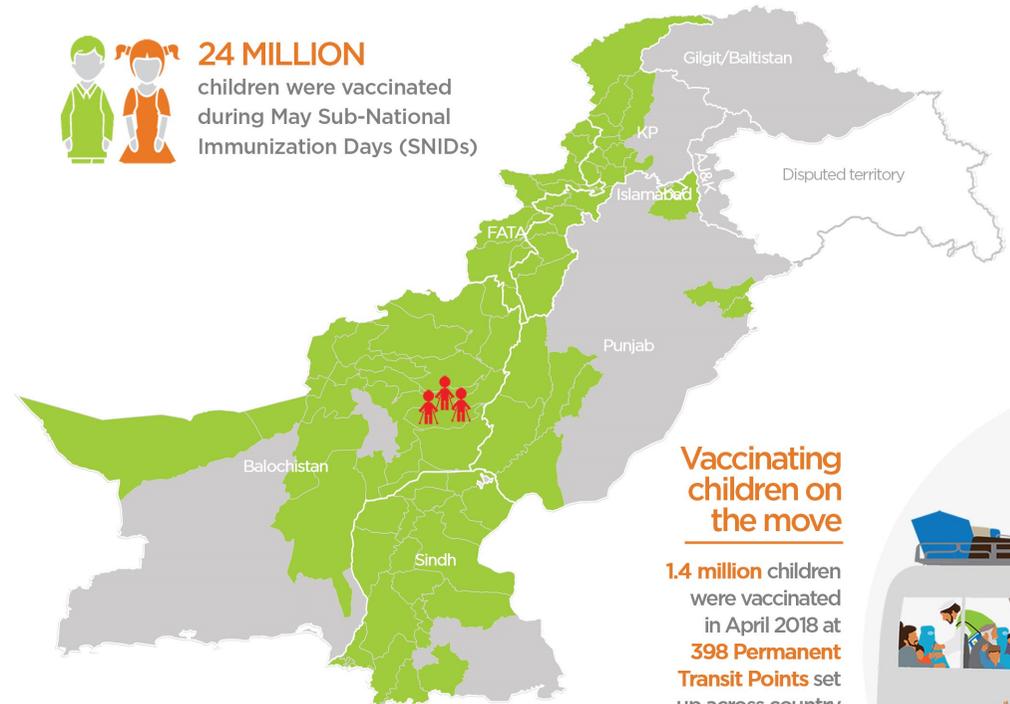
In May 2018, a sub-national polio immunization campaign took place from 7-10 May, in 109 districts/towns across Pakistan, resulting in the vaccination of 24 million children under 5 years of age by a workforce of more than 161,000 frontline workers. According to independent post-campaign monitoring, the campaign achieved an average coverage of 94.4%.

The programme has also intensified its community engagement efforts, supported by the strategic use of media. As per the most recent deliberations of the National Polio Management Team Meeting on 2nd June 2018 and the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which met in Islamabad on 4th to 5th June, the programme intends to further analyse and evaluate existing operational processes, challenges as well as impact and social data to determine how to further maximise vaccination coverage. Moreover, the TAG has also endorsed the programme strategy including the vaccination campaign schedule for the 2018/2019 NEAP implementation season, which includes up to 4 national immunization days (NIDs), complemented by 5 sub-national immunization days between July 2018 and June 2019.

## MAY 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



**24 MILLION** children were vaccinated during May Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs)



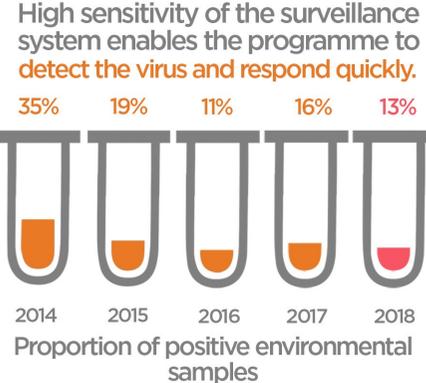
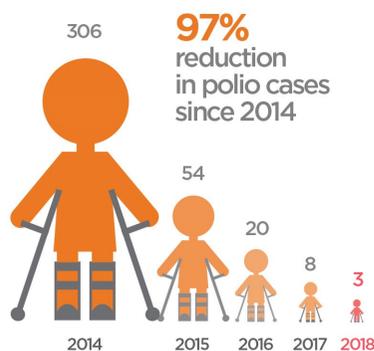
### Vaccinating children on the move

1.4 million children were vaccinated in April 2018 at 398 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)	
May 2017	May 2018	May 2017	May 2018	May 2017	May 2018
2	3	17%	13%	13	18
0	0	80%	20%	1	1
1	0	6%	5%	3	2
0	0	16%	18%	4	8
0	0	n/a	0%	0	0
0	0	9%	18%	1	3
0	3	39%	10%	3	4
1	0	n/a	n/a	1	0

\*Point in time comparison; data as of 30 May 2017/2018.



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

## PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

