

# PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

JULY 2018



July 2018 marks the beginning of the polio eradication planning year, and as such, the National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for 2018/2019 was finalized for implementation. According to the NEAP 2018-2019, the programme is committed to pursuing its core strategies such as rapidly detecting, containing and eliminating the poliovirus while maintaining and increasing population immunity through targeted vaccination campaigns. Furthermore, the NEAP also outlines the implementation of a number of new strategies and improvements to the programme, which include a comprehensive vaccination schedule comprised of four National Immunization Days (NIDs) and five Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs); enhancements to current levels of data analysis, monitoring and surveillance; further improvements to synchronization and coordination of operations with the Afghan Polio Eradication Programme; as well as improved quality and outreach of the programme through a 'Communication for Eradication' strategy that will leverage interactive approaches and feedback from communities to shape future communication initiatives.

In finalizing the NEAP framework, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme greatly benefited from the recommendations emanating from the June Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting as well as from an external review conducted by a team of international public health experts commissioned by the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB). The group of experts visited Pakistan from 3-11 July and conducted a thorough national and provincial analysis of the structure, strategies, and oversight mechanisms of the Pakistan Polio Programme.

Their findings will be shared during the next IMB meeting which is scheduled for September 2018. In an initial debrief to the Ministry of Health, the public health experts found the polio programme to be a very strong programme that is well-positioned to eliminate the poliovirus.

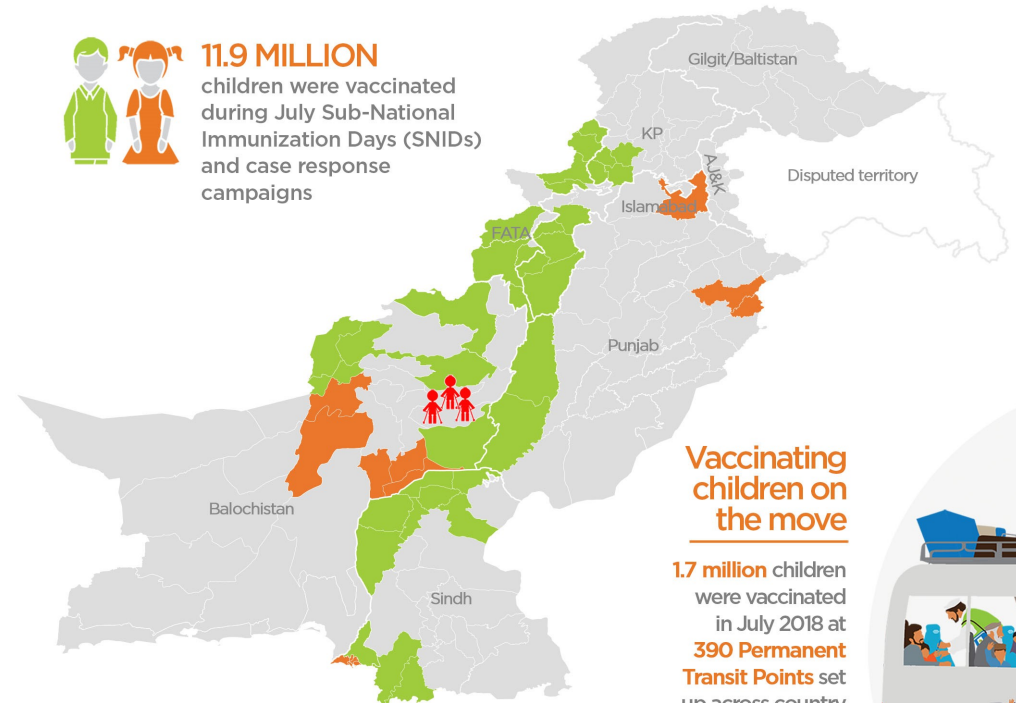
As of 31 July, three wild poliovirus cases have been reported from Dukki district in Balochistan, while no wild polio virus case has been found in Pakistan's high risk core reservoir areas. While the number of wild poliovirus cases remains low and restricted to one district, the environmental surveillance system indicates that the poliovirus continues to circulate across multiple areas of the country with 13% of environmental samples testing positive for the wild poliovirus, compared to 16% at the same time last year.

From 2-5 July a Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) campaign was conducted in 60 districts across Pakistan. A total of 10.5 million children were vaccinated by 73,000 vaccinators during the campaign. In response to the cases in Dukki and the positive environmental samples, campaign activities were held in Zhob, Sibi and Naseerabad divisions in Balochistan, as well as in parts of large cities such as Lahore, Rawalpindi and Sheikhpura in Punjab. These response activities helped to further vaccinate and boost immunity levels of up to 1.4 million vulnerable children. Meanwhile, the programme continued to implement vaccinations through 390 Permanent Transit Points (PTP) across all major transit points nationwide. In July, these PTPs vaccinated a total of 1.7 million children.

## JULY 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

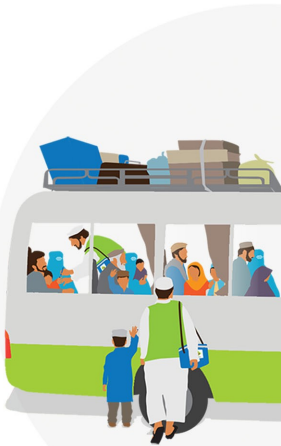


**11.9 MILLION** children were vaccinated during July Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) and case response campaigns



### Vaccinating children on the move

**1.7 million** children were vaccinated in July 2018 at **390 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

Province	July 2017	July 2018
Pakistan	3	3
Islamabad	0	0
Punjab	1	0
Sindh	0	0
FATA	0	0
KP	0	0
Balochistan	1	3
GB	1	0

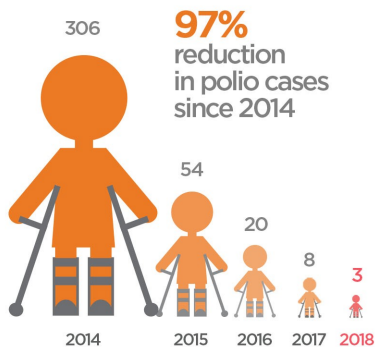
Proportion of positive environmental samples

Province	July 2017	July 2018
Pakistan	16%	13%
Islamabad	71%	43%
Punjab	6%	6%
Sindh	16%	17%
FATA	n/a	17%
KP	8%	20%
Balochistan	34%	9%
GB	n/a	n/a

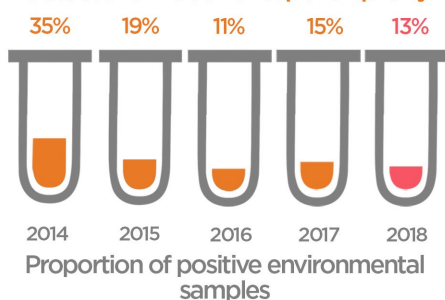
No. of infected districts (WPV cases, environmental samples)

Province	July 2017	July 2018
Pakistan	13	20
Islamabad	1	1
Punjab	3	3
Sindh	4	8
FATA	0	1
KP	1	3
Balochistan	3	4
GB	1	0

\*Point in time comparison; data as of 31st July 2017/2018.



High sensitivity of the surveillance system enables the programme to detect the virus and respond quickly.



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

## PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

