



As the Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative enters the low transmission season, wild polio virus case numbers are the lowest ever, while immunity of children continues to improve. However, despite this historic progress, challenges remain. Two new wild poliovirus cases with an onset of paralysis in September 2018 were reported from Gadap, Karachi and Khyber tribal district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Moreover, poliovirus continues to be detected across the country through environmental surveillance, further indicating that pockets of under-immunised children are allowing the virus to survive and spread. In September, up to 17% of environmental samples were tested positive for poliovirus.

As unvaccinated children in Pakistan remain vulnerable to polio, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative is currently implementing its National Emergency Action Plan 2018-19 focused on implementing high-impact vaccination campaigns and employing innovative strategies to close any immunity gaps and stop virus transmission once and for all.

From 24-27 September, the first nationwide immunization campaign of the low transmission season was held across Pakistan, vaccinating up to 39.3 million children under the

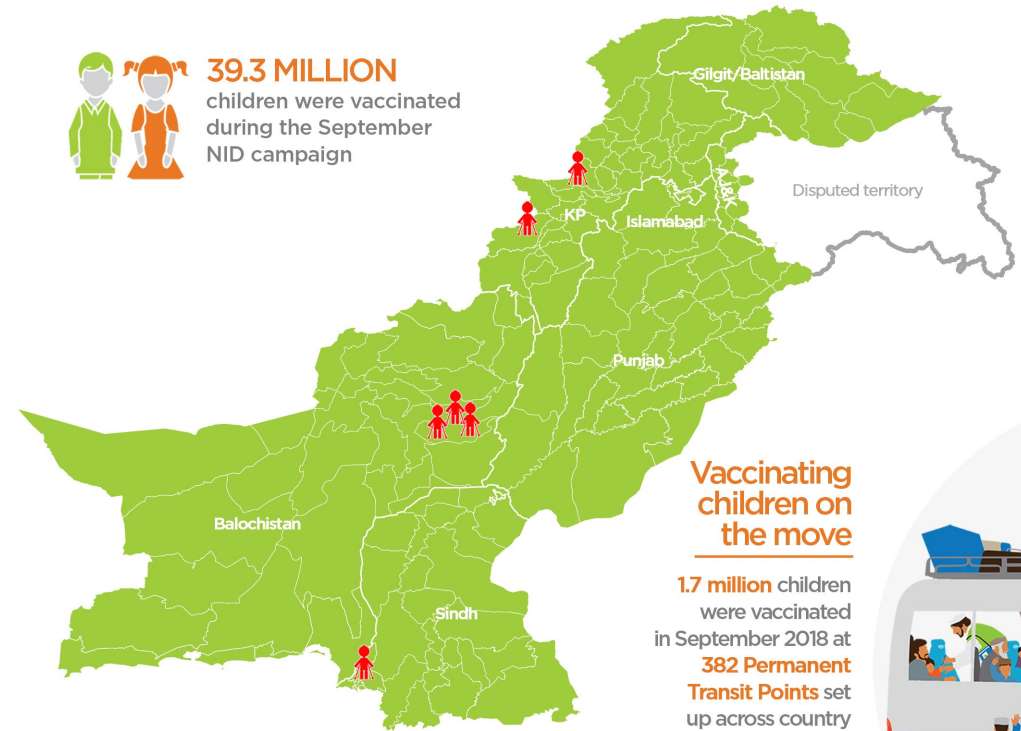
age of five. The campaign was inaugurated by the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. To further boost immunity levels of children against polio, a combined bOPV-IPV campaign was also held in Quetta and Pishin districts from 3-10 September, and in Karachi from 30 August to 6 September. Meanwhile, the Pakistan programme continues to work jointly with the Afghanistan programme to synchronize and coordinate immunization activities. It also continues to vaccinate children on the move through the use of up to 382 Permanent Transit Points across the country, which has helped vaccinate up to 17 million children since the start of the year.

The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) for polio eradication also lauded the efforts of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative in its September 2018 report entitled 'Review of Polio Endemic Countries.' The findings and recommendation of the report were led by a multi-disciplinary team that visited Pakistan in early July 2018. While commending the progress made to date, the IMB highlighted the need to focus on reaching the target of ≥95% for campaign vaccination coverage consistently in all provinces by addressing remaining operational issues and pockets of community resistance.

SEPTEMBER 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

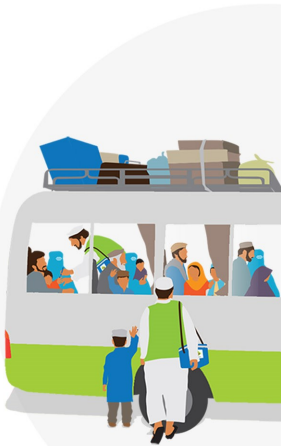


39.3 MILLION children were vaccinated during the September NID campaign



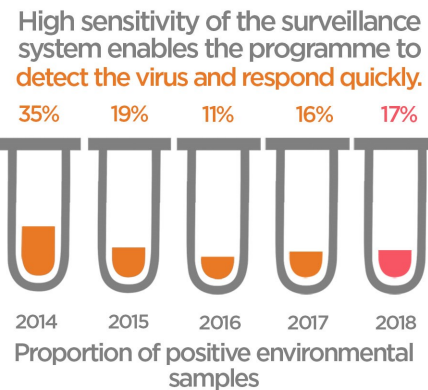
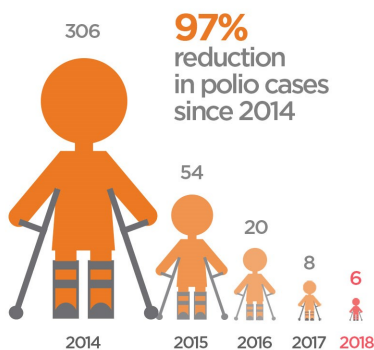
Vaccinating children on the move

1.7 million children were vaccinated in September 2018 at 382 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)	
September 2017	September 2018	September 2017	September 2018	September 2017	September 2018
5	6	16%	17%	25	20
0	0	56%	56%	1	1
1	0	5%	10%	3	3
1	1	22%	19%	11	8
0	1	n/a	33%	2	0
1	1	6%	26%	4	2
1	3	29%	13%	4	5
1	0	n/a	n/a	0	1

*Point in time comparison; data as of 30th September 2017/2018



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

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

- 38.6M** average no. of children < 5 targeted during NIDs
- 260,000** frontline workers
- 2,100** social mobilizers
- 95%** vaccine acceptance