



4

WPV CASES IN OCTOBER



19

TOTAL WPV CASES IN 2018



10

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN OCTOBER



26,385

CHILDREN TARGETED IN RECOVERY CAMPAIGN



48,800

FRONTLINE WORKERS

(Overall 30% female:26.5% urban workers, 5% of rural)



7,000

SOCIAL MOBILIZERS

(Overall 30% female)



44

PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS

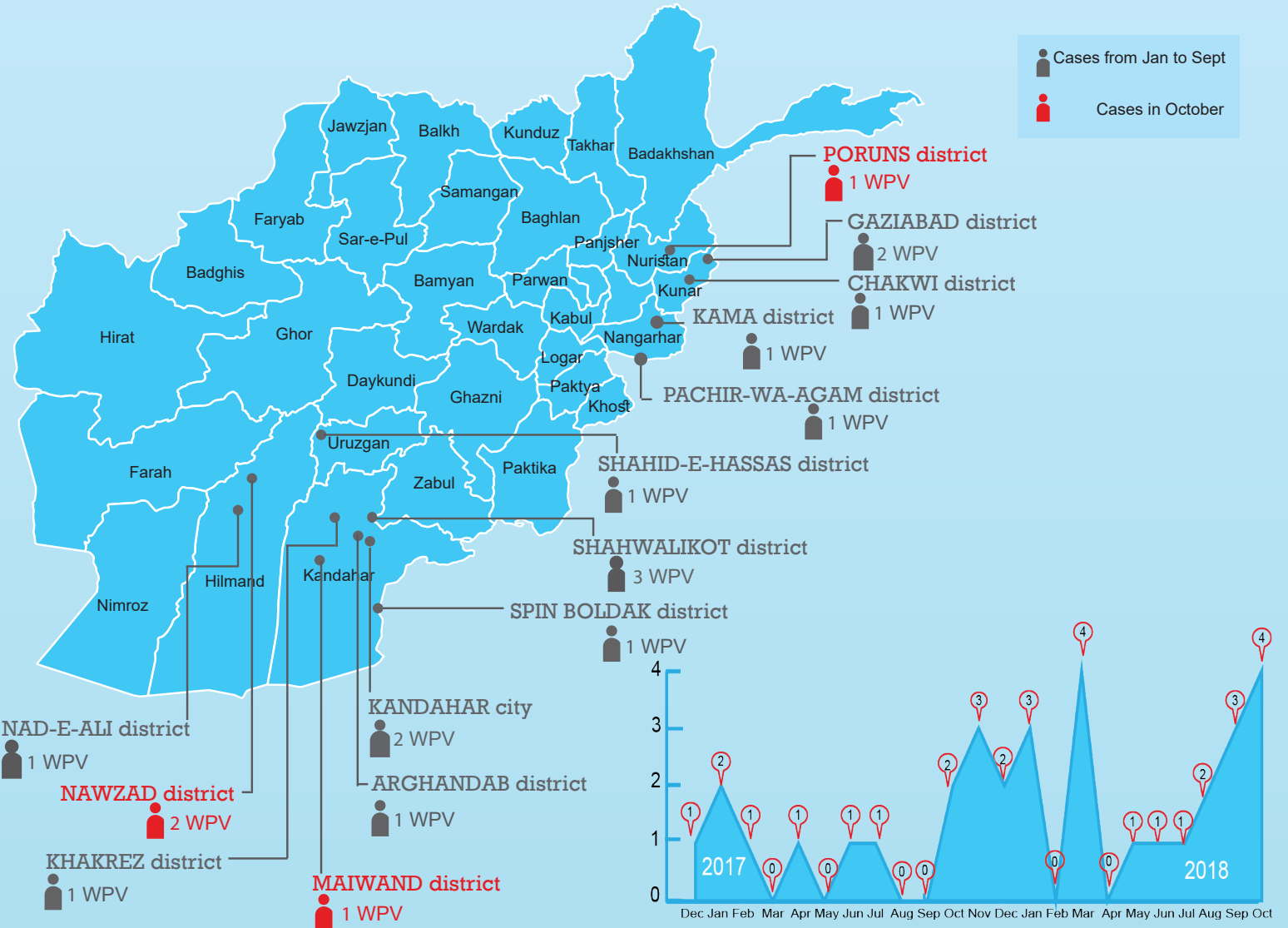


15

CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION POINTS

POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN

OCTOBER 2018



Data as of 31 October 2018



POLIO TRANSMISSION

- 4 new wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases were reported in October. 2 from Nawzad district of Helmand province and 1 each from Maiwand district of Kandahar and Poruns district of Nuristan province.
- The National Rapid Response Team (NRRT) carried out detailed epidemiological investigation of the newly confirmed WPV1 case from Poruns district of Nuristan province.



AFP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

- 232 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases (102 girls and 130 boys) were reported in October. Overall in 2018, 2,786 AFP cases have been reported, of which 2,574 have been discarded as “non-polio AFP” and 193 cases are pending classification.
- The Non-polio AFP rate is above 11, stool adequacy above 89%, and non-polio enterovirus rate ranges from 16 to 18%.
- 10 WPV1 positive environmental samples were reported in October. 7 from Kandahar, 1 each from Helmand, Kunar and Khost, bringing the total number of positive samples to 50 in 2018.



SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

- Recovery campaign was conducted in three districts of Kandahar: Arghandab, Dand and Kandahar city from 8 to 12 October. 26,385 children under 5 years old were targeted.



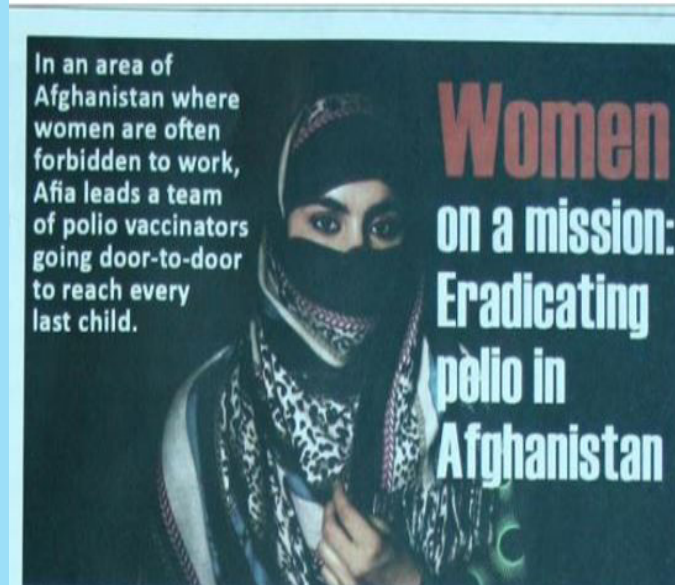
COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 15 cross-border vaccination points, 44 cross-border teams and 377 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan during October 2018.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,056,969 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 116,359 children against polio in October.
- 2,748 children were given OPV and 892 children were vaccinated with IPV respectively in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in October.
- 11,434 international travelers were vaccinated in October in compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR).

World Polio Day in Afghanistan

Afghanistan marked World Polio Day on October 24 with videos, photo stories and a social media contest. Over fifteen thousand facebook users engaged with our social media campaign, more than fifty national and local media picked up our stories and circulated through traditional media channels, such as radio, TV and newspapers. Our pinky selfie contest gained 833 votes for the 276 selfie submissions. Check out our videos: [Afghan Pride](#) & [My Paralyzed Body](#). Our partner video: [VOA Music Video](#).

Media Highlights



"Where I live, it is not safe for a woman to show her face. It is not easy to be a woman or child here. My cousin is just 11 years old and she is already engaged to be married soon. I am lucky. (my father) let me go to school and I have no pressures to get married, because I support my three unemployed brothers. However, if I wasn't working I would also be forced to marry. My job is not just saving children's lives, it is saving my own."

Southern Afghanistan is barren and stunning – a sweeping desert landscape enveloped by mountains. The area has a rich and proud history but it remains a key battleground in the ongoing conflict. This year, southern Afghanistan also has the highest number of polio cases in the world. Teams of polio vaccinators traverse the country on an almost monthly basis to try to reach every child, but inaccessible areas and distrust hamper immunization efforts. Many of these immunization campaigns are focused in Afghanistan's most conservative areas, where

inaction, because she believes that an child should be paralyzed from polio.

Afia vaccinates a child in an old military barrack surrounded by sludge. A pervasive problem across Afghanistan where poor sanitation provides fertile ground for the polio virus to spread. Afghanistan is one of only three countries in the world – "including Nigeria and Pakistan" – where polio remains endemic.

"In my country, guns and tanks are common. We don't even think about it. I come [to the barracks] to speak to parents about vaccinating their children. One of the biggest challenges I face is families that refuse the polio vaccine. They say it is unsafe, or haram [forbidden by Islamic law]."

This little boy is sleeping when vaccinators arrive at his house, and he is lucky they are female, otherwise he might have missed the vaccine. Men are not allowed inside a private house unless they are immediate family members. This is why female polio workers are so critical. Over 35% of community



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bags, or play in the sand. They encouraged me to stay in the health center. My dream is to become a



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Polio-Free Afghanistan



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