

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

MARCH 2019



In March 2019, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme continued to implement the National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication (NEAP) 2018-19, focusing on reaching every child in Pakistan with the polio vaccine in order to ultimately stop poliovirus circulation. From 25-28 March 2019, the programme carried out a Sub-National Immunization Days campaign (SNID) in 97 districts and towns across the country to vaccinate a total of 20.5 million children. In addition, almost 29,258 children between the ages of 5 and 10 years were also vaccinated in seven Union Councils of Rawalpindi to further boost immunity against the virus. A total of 141,000 personnel helped to facilitate this SNID campaign across all provinces.

March 2019 also marked the introduction of all-age polio vaccination for travelers crossing the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The official inauguration of the all-age vaccination initiative took place on 25 March 2019 at the border crossings at Friendship Gate and Torkham. The all-age vaccination initiative at the border crossings serves as a practical implementation of the recommendation of the 20th meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (IHR), which took place in February 2019, and is the latest of many examples of cross-border cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The two countries continue

to work closely together to ensure synchronization of strategies, tools and activities on both sides of the border.

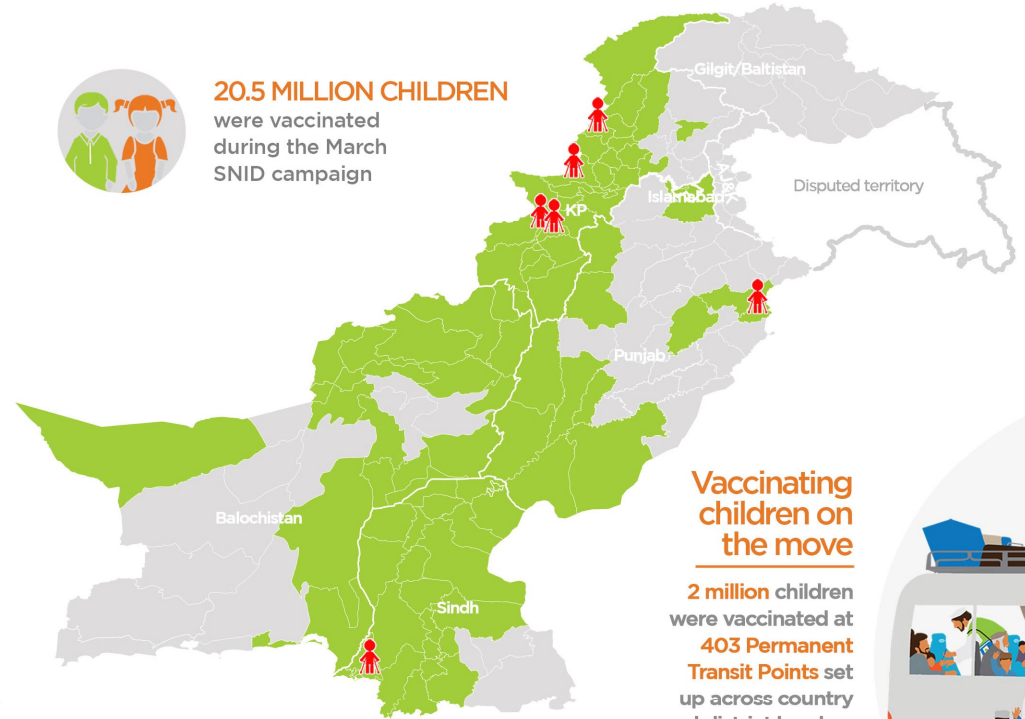
So far in 2019, six cases of wild poliovirus have been reported including one case from Karachi in Sindh province, one from Lahore in Punjab province, and four cases from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, including one each from districts Bajaur, Khyber, Hangu and Bannu. Wild poliovirus circulation in various areas of Pakistan is also evidenced by the extensive environmental surveillance network of the programme that keeps detecting the virus within sewerage water samples of core reservoir areas and additional districts like Lahore and Rawalpindi. As of March 2019, up to 47% of environmental samples tested positive for the poliovirus, compared to 20% at the same time last year.

To reach zero-polio, the programme remains fully committed to ensuring peak performance through strengthened ownership and accountability at every level. To this end, an accountability framework has been developed and its implementation will start in April. Throughout March 2019, a series of Provincial and District Task Force meetings were held to review progress, operational gaps, coordination, planning and the means to address any gaps.

MARCH 2019 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



20.5 MILLION CHILDREN were vaccinated during the March SNID campaign



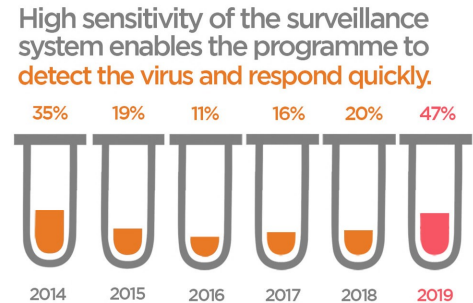
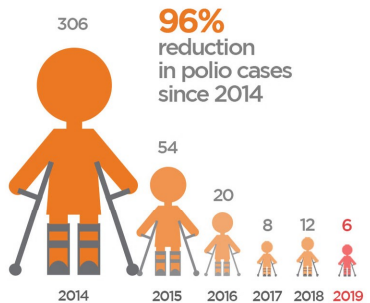
Vaccinating children on the move

2 million children were vaccinated at **403 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 2018	March 2019	March 2018	March 2019	March 2018	March 2019
1 Pakistan	6	20%	47%	17 Pakistan	28
0 Islamabad	0	33%	0%	1 Islamabad	0
0 Punjab	1	4%	36%	2 Punjab	4
0 Sindh	1	19%	53%	7 Sindh	12
0 KPTD	2	n/a	44%	0 KPTD	4
0 KP	2	20%	35%	3 KP	6
1 Balochistan	0	10%	48%	4 Balochistan	2
0 GB	0	0%	0%	0 GB	0

*Point in time comparison, data as of 12 April 2019



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

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

- 39.4M** average no. of children < 5 targeted during NIDs
- 260,000** frontline workers
- 2,100** social mobilizers
- 95%** vaccine acceptance