

# PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

MAY 2019



In the month of May, Pakistan reported an additional 9 polio cases, including 2 from North Waziristan, 3 from Bannu, and 1 each from district D.I Khan, Lakki Marwat, Torghar and Shangla. This brings the total number of wild polio virus cases in Pakistan to 26. Of these 26 cases, more than 75% have been reported from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and its newly merged tribal districts.

At the same time, up to 49% of environmental samples tested positive for the poliovirus in Pakistan as of May 2019, indicating a 36% increase as compared to the same point in time last year. In provinces such as Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan, the proportion of positive environmental samples has increased by up to 35%, 46% and 43% respectively, compared to May 2018.

To respond to the polio outbreaks reported in April, two case response campaigns were implemented in the month of May. One case response was held in 94 Union Councils in Lahore city from 13-19 May, while the other was held in 30 Union Councils in Larkana, Dadu, Kambar and Khairpur in Sindh from 22-28 May. Through these campaigns up to 1.07 million children were vaccinated against the polio, with the intent of significantly boosting immunity levels and preventing further vulnerability of children to the virus. Meanwhile, the programme continues its regularly planned activities, such as continued coordination

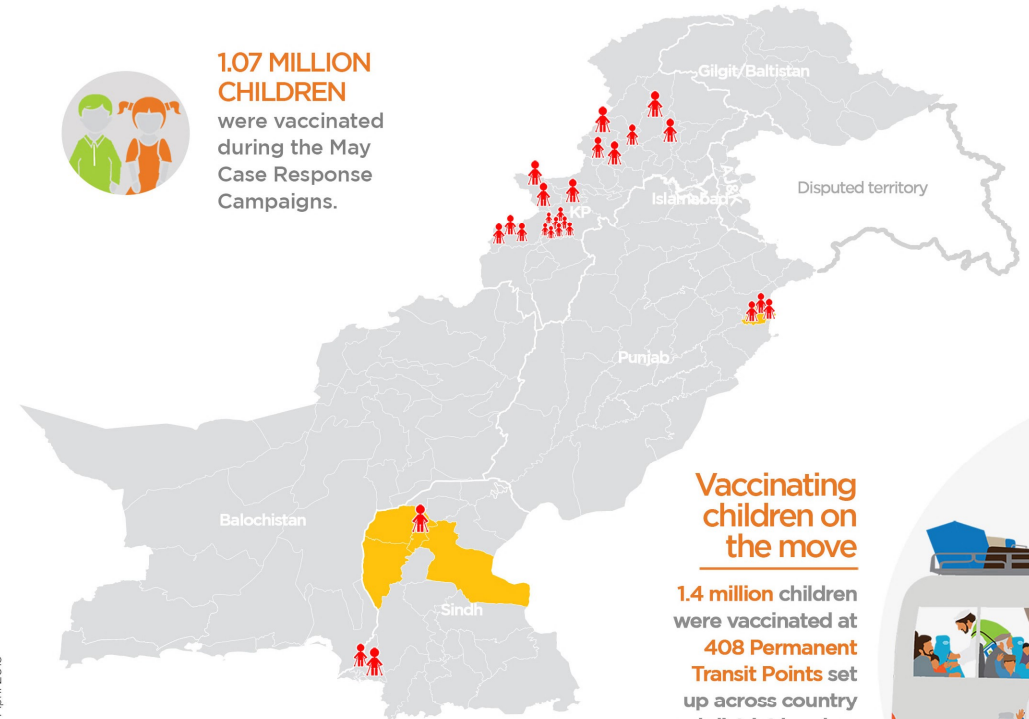
with the Afghanistan Polio Eradication Programme and the use of 408 Permanent Transit Points located nationwide to vaccinate any children on the move.

As the planning cycle for the National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for 2018-2019 comes to a close, the Pakistan programme has also been focusing its efforts on planning for the upcoming programmatic cycle. In this regard, national and provincial teams have been drafting a National Emergency Action Plan Extension Document for the period of July-December 2019. The NEAP extension document will address the remaining challenges faced by the programme - such as the issue of chronically missed children, massive population movements across the border with Afghanistan and within country, and anti-vaccine propaganda that has been fueling refusals. Solutions to these challenges will be further outlined - including improved campaign modalities, the launch of an aggressive perception management campaign to combat misinformation on the polio vaccine, and work towards the provision of 'Polio Plus packages' that will consist of improved basic health services and access to healthcare, enhanced routine immunization, and interventions which address sanitation issues and waste management. In addition, the NEAP extension will emphasize enhanced accountability and management as means to boost efficiency of all programme operations and activities.

## MAY 2019 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



**1.07 MILLION CHILDREN** were vaccinated during the May Case Response Campaigns.

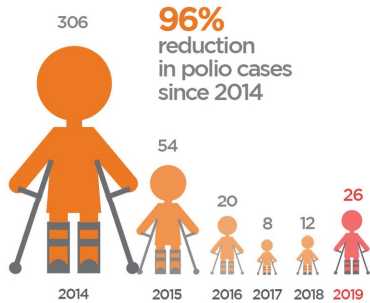


**Vaccinating children on the move**  
1.4 million children were vaccinated at 408 Permanent Transit Points set up across country and district borders and other important transit points such as bus stops, railway stations and highways.



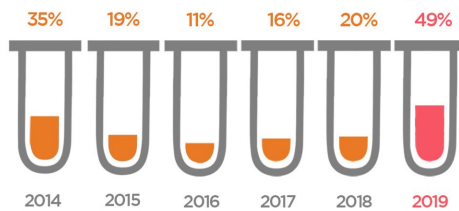
| No. of wild polio cases |          | Proportion of positive environmental samples |          | No. of infected districts (WPV cases, environmental samples) |          |
|-------------------------|----------|--|----------|--|----------|
| May 2018                | May 2019 | May 2018                                     | May 2019 | May 2018   | May 2019 |
| 3 Pakistan              | 26       | 13% Pakistan                                 | 49%      | 20 Pakistan  | 37       |
| 0 Islamabad             | 0        | 33% Islamabad                                | 33%      | 1 Islamabad  | 1        |
| 0 Punjab                | 3        | 6% Punjab                                    | 41%      | 3 Punjab   | 5        |
| 0 Sindh                 | 3        | 17% Sindh                                    | 63%      | 8 Sindh  | 15       |
| 0 KPTD                  | 7        | 25% KPTD                                     | 42%      | 1 KPTD   | 5        |
| 0 KP                    | 13       | 20% KP                                       | 38%      | 3 KP   | 6        |
| 3 Balochistan           | 0        | 11% Balochistan                              | 54%      | 4 Balochistan  | 5        |
| 0 GB                    | 0        | 0% GB  | 0%       | 0 GB   | 0        |

\*Point in time comparison; data as of 30 April 2019



**96%** reduction in polio cases since 2014

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



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

## PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

