

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

April 2021



PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE



WPV1 + cVDPV2 Cases:

- In the month of April, no new WPV1 case was confirmed in Pakistan. The total case count of WPV1 in 2021 remained one.
- The surveillance system confirmed one new cVDPV2 case from Balochistan in the month of April. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in Pakistan reached to 7, as of end of April 2021. The geographic representation of the new case is as below:
 - Balochistan:** Mastung (1)

Campaigns in April 2021:

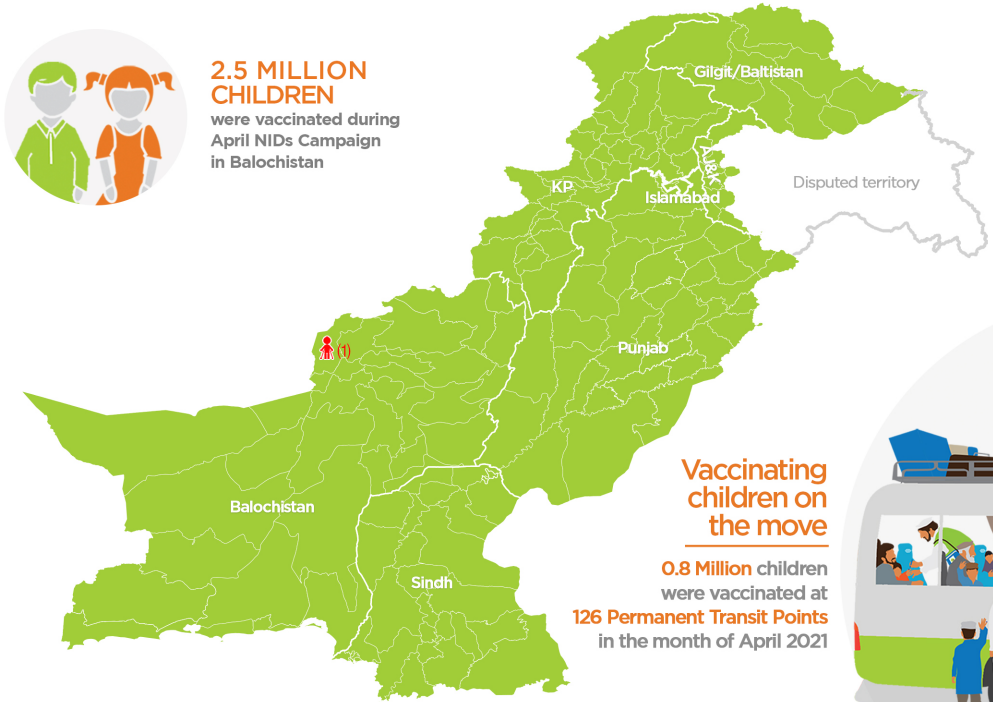
- A five-day National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaign was launched in Balochistan from 11-15 April 2021 due to an earlier postponement. The campaign set out to reach a target of 2.5 million children aged under five years in all 33 districts of the province. Approximately 22,000 frontline workers participated in the campaign to reach all eligible children in the province including the high-risk mobile population.
- The national, provincial and district facilitators were deployed to provide optimal support to the polio field teams for the implementation of campaign activities. During the campaign, the polio teams followed strict COVID-19 protocols, adopting preventive measures as wearing masks and maintaining social distancing while conducting door to door vaccination. The full protection from the armed forces and Law Enforcement Agencies was also provided to the frontline workers.

Additional activities:

- The Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan and the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) Coordinator, Dr Shahzad Asif Baig participated in the virtual high-level meeting of the Global Polio Partners Group (PPG) convened on 28 April 2021. Apprising the PPG, the SAPM stated that due to intensified and unwavering efforts of Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme and with continued support of the global partners, the polio situation in Pakistan has improved with a consistent decline of polio cases in the country. He further enlightened the forum on the concerted efforts taken by the programme to improve quality of the campaigns despite the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. The forum was also updated on various key initiatives including workload rationalization, enhanced community engagement and use of tOPV and fIPV, to overcome the challenge of dual transmission across the country.
- As part of intra-campaign activities, the NEOC Coordinator, Dr Shahzad Asif Baig along with core team members visited district Killa Abdullah in Balochistan, to monitor the campaign activities. During the visit, the NEOC team held discussions with communities, organized meetings with the district and provincial authorities and also interacted with the religious leaders. In the post-visit brief, the NEOC Coordinator remarked that given the current issues in Balochistan, the provincial team will be provided enhanced support for enhanced advocacy, communication, and monitoring activities.



2.5 MILLION CHILDREN were vaccinated during April NIDs Campaign in Balochistan



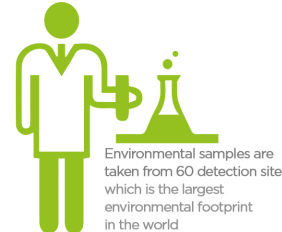
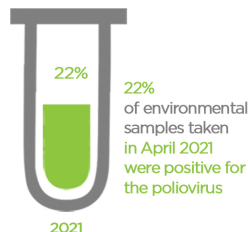
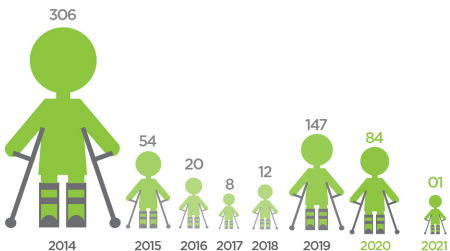
Vaccinating children on the move

0.8 Million children were vaccinated at 126 Permanent Transit Points in the month of April 2021



No. of wild polio cases		Proportion of positive environmental samples		No. of infected districts (WPV1 cases, environmental samples)	
April 2020	April 2021	April 2020	April 2021	April 2020	April 2021
48	1	61%	22%	51	21
0	0	0%	0%	0	0
0	0	0%	0%	0	0
0	0	25%	60%	1	1
1	0	53%	19%	8	5
17	0	87%	19%	21	6
20	0	19%	12%	9	3
10	1	83%	37%	12	6

*Point in time comparison; data as of 27 May 2021. Copyright: NEOC/2021



Coverage of Children Not Reached During Campaigns

Percentage of Still Missed Children (Out of Target) in Tier 1 Districts during NIDs (2016-2021)

