

# PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

## May 2021

### PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE



#### WPV1 + cVDPV2 Cases:

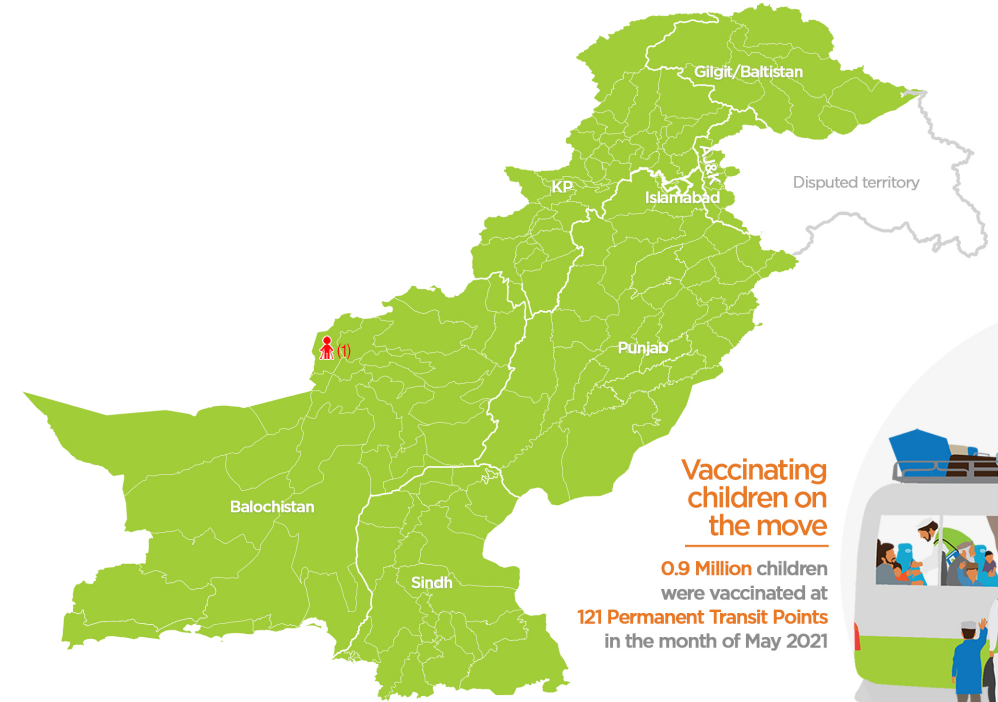
- In the month of May, no new WPV1 case was confirmed in Pakistan. The total case count of WPV1 in 2021 remained one.
- The surveillance system confirmed one new cVDPV2 case in the month of May, which was reported in April 2021 for examination. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in Pakistan reached 8, as of the end of May 2021. The geographic representation of the newly announced case is as below:
  - Balochistan:** Killa Abdullah (1)

#### Additional activities:

- The virtual meeting of the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) was held and chaired by the IMB Chair Sir Liam Donaldson on 18 May 2021. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan represented the country at the conference and updated the forum on the state of polio eradication in Pakistan. The SAPM informed IMB that Pakistan has made significant progress in containing the spread of poliovirus and only one WPV1 case has been reported so far in 2021. The SAPM also provided an update on the last recommendations made by IMB. The IMB praised Pakistan's accomplishments and addressing specific challenges. Following a full programmatic review, IMB formulated recommendations to guide the programme, also provided to the frontline workers.
- The Emergency Committee for the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) on the international transmission of poliovirus conducted its twenty-eighth meeting on 4 May 2021. Dr Shahzad Asif Baig, the National Emergency Operation Centre Coordinator, participated in the online

meeting and updated the Committee on the current state of polio eradication activities in Pakistan. The Committee unanimously agreed that the risk of international spread of poliovirus remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and recommended the extension of Temporary Recommendations for a further three months. The Committee recognizes the concerns regarding the lengthy duration of the polio PHEIC but concludes that the current situation is extraordinary, with clear ongoing substantial risk of international spread and utmost need for coordinated international response.

- The National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) team conducted a meeting with the Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in Peshawar. The main objective of the meeting was to orientate the CS on the methodology of the Lots Quality Assessment Sampling (LQAS). The CS was informed that LQAS is a monitoring exercise used to assess the quality of a campaign, identifying the issues and remaining challenges. The team also gave the CS an overview of the LQAS process, including the selection of UCs, areas, houses, children, and the supervision of the field monitors. The CS thanked the NEOC team for walking him through a detailed presentation and committed to monitoring of low performing areas to increase campaign quality.
- A virtual meeting with the donors and partners of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme was organized on 5 May 2021. Presiding the meeting, the NEOC Coordinator delivered programmatic updates, highlighting recent progress and remaining challenges, and responded to questions. This is part of a series of engagements to promote continuous support for polio eradication.



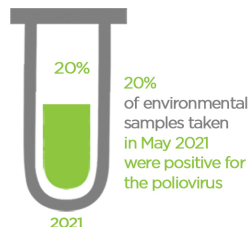
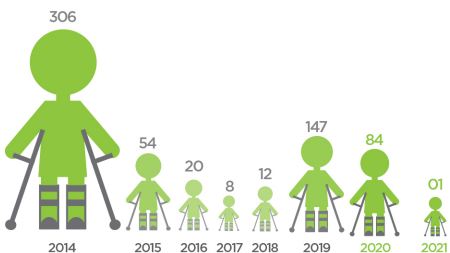
**Vaccinating children on the move**  
0.9 Million children were vaccinated at 121 Permanent Transit Points in the month of May 2021



National Immunisation Days (NIDs) Campaign  
 Wild Poliovirus Case (2021)

No. of wild polio cases		Proportion of positive environmental samples		No. of infected districts (WPV1 cases, environmental samples)	
May 2020	May 2021	May 2020	May 2021	May 2020	May 2021
54	1	61%	20%	53	22
0	0	0%	0%	0	0
0	0	0%	0%	0	0
0	0	20%	60%	1	1
2	0	55%	19%	8	5
19	0	87%	16%	22	6
20	0	16%	12%	9	4
13	1	83%	32%	13	6

\*Point in time comparison; data as of 11 June 2021. Copyright: NEOC/2021



Environmental samples are taken from 60 detection sites which is the largest environmental footprint in the world

## Coverage of Children Not Reached During Campaigns

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

