

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

AUGUST 2017

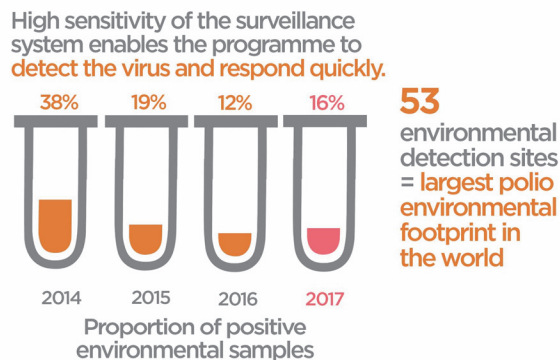
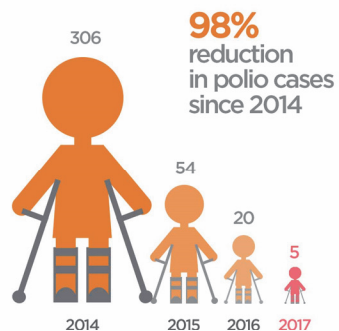
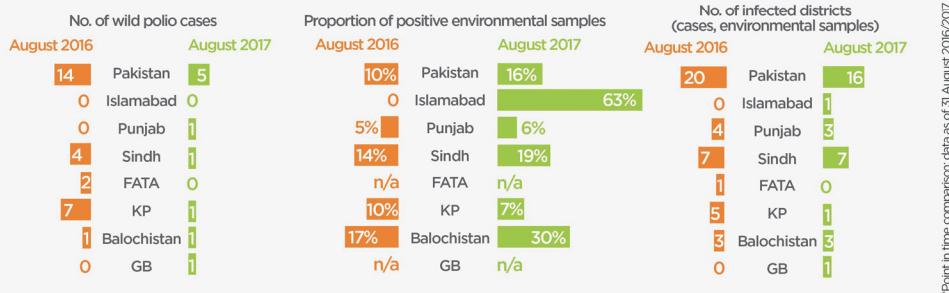


Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi chaired a meeting of the National Task Force on Polio Eradication on 25 August, reaffirming that polio eradication will remain a priority for Pakistan. Strong government leadership and broad support across Pakistan has led to the best polio epidemiology ever seen in the country. The number of cases has declined from 306 in 2014 to 54 in 2015, and to 20 in 2016. So far this year, the number of polio cases reported in Pakistan is five.

The two cases at the start of the year from Lodhran district in Punjab and from Diamir district in Gilgit Baltistan were quickly contained through efficient case responses. The two cases in the polio core reservoirs, one from Killa Abdullah district in Baluchistan and one from Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town in Karachi, Sindh province, have aggressive plans in place to contain the poliovirus circulation. The response to the most recent case from Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, reported in September 2017, is underway with the objective of protecting other children in the community, and stopping circulation of the virus.

While the number of polio cases in Pakistan is at its historic low, environmental surveillance data shows that the poliovirus continues to circulate. The proportion of positive environmental samples as of August 2017 increased compared to August 2016 (10% in 2016 vs. 16% in 2017). In particular, the transmission increased in Karachi, the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, and the Quetta block (Pishin Killa Abdullah and Quetta).

As a result, the August 2017 polio vaccination campaigns took place in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi and their adjoining districts. Similarly, campaigns were carried out in Quetta, Pishin and Killa Abdullah in response to the polio case reported in June 2017 from Killa Abdullah. The programme, in preparation for the low season for polio transmission beginning in September, is also systematically addressing the needs and responding to challenges identified by the National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP), focusing on reaching missed children and continuously improving campaign quality.

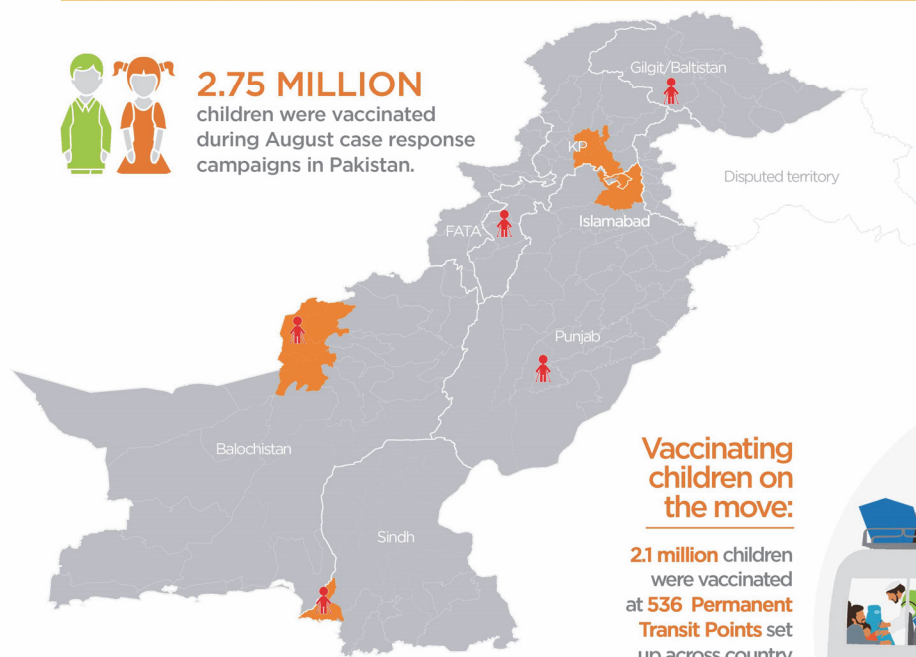


AUGUST 2017 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



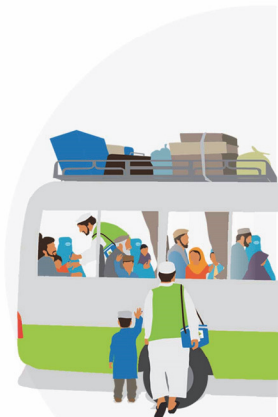
2.75 MILLION

children were vaccinated during August case response campaigns in Pakistan.



Vaccinating children on the move:

2.1 million children were vaccinated at **536 Permanent Transit Points** set up across country and district borders and other important transit points such as bus stops, railway stations and highways.



PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

