



# NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

Newsletter (1 - 15 December 2023)



## Key Events/Activities

The Honorable Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the **National Task Force** for Polio Eradication in Islamabad on December 06, 2023.



Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan, addressed the **“Reaching the Last Mile”** forum related to Polio in COP28 UAE.



**Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan met with Bill Gates**, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, on the sidelines of the high-level segment COP28 UAE. Views were exchanged on the Polio eradication efforts in Pakistan.

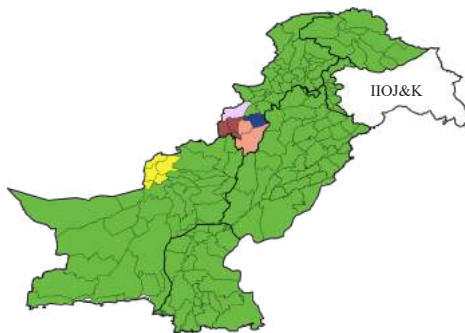


## Supplementary Immunization Activities

### November NID Campaign

The November nationwide (NID) Polio vaccination campaign was conducted from November 27 - December 3.

However, in South KP (5 Districts), Quetta Block, and certain other areas, the campaign was rescheduled and conducted on different dates. Additionally, the campaign in districts DI Khan & Tank has been postponed.



All Provinces	27 Nov – 3 Dec
North Waziristan	13– 17 Nov
Quetta, Kabbullah, Chaman & Pishin	24 Nov – onwards
South Waziristan Upper & Lower	11 – 13 Dec
Lakimwrt	18 – 22 Dec
DIKHAN & Tank	Postponed

A total of **44.9 million** children were vaccinated in the campaign:

- 23.1 m children vaccinated in Punjab
- 10.6 m children vaccinated in Sindh
- 7.09 m children vaccinated in KP
- 2.6 m children vaccinated in Balochistan
- 0.74 m children vaccinated in AJK
- 0.28 m children vaccinated in GB
- 0.46 m children vaccinated in Islamabad

## Surveillance

**One Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) case was reported from District Orakzai** taking the total number of WPV1 cases in Pakistan in 2023 to **six**. Details are mentioned below:

- The affected child is a 9-month-old boy from UC Esakhel.
- The child had onset of paralysis on 24th October 2023.
- This is the first Polio case from District Orakzai and the sixth case from Pakistan at large this year.
- Genetically this case is 99.7% linked with the environmental sample of Lahore (Multan Road) which was collected on 26th September 2023, which is the continuation of the imported cluster in 2023.

**06**  
WPV1 Cases in 2023

**90**  
Positive Environmental  
Samples in 2023

In response to the case, a three level call was conducted and detailed epidemiological investigation has been initiated. The recent Polio vaccination campaign in the district was conducted on November 27 - December 3. The next campaign (NID) is planned from January 8 – 12, 2024.

**26 new positive environmental samples** were reported taking the total number of positive samples in 2023 to **90** (five from Peshawar; four from Quetta; three from Karachi East; two each from Chaman & Karachi Keamari; and one each from Pishin, Hub, Karachi Central, Karachi South, Karachi Malir, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Bannu, Kohat and Tank).

## Other Activities/Updates

**Chair of the Polio Oversight Board, Dr. Chris Elias, called on Federal Health Minister, Dr. Nadeem Jan.** They discussed ongoing polio eradication efforts in Pakistan, preventive strategies for cervical cancer, and initiatives to tackle nutrition.



The event for the **‘Launch of Poliovirus Surveillance in Patients with PIDs’** was held on December 5th and 8th, 2023, in Islamabad and Karachi, respectively.

