

NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES FROM MAY 23 - JUNE 05, 2023



UPDATES

• World Health Assembly

Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel represented Pakistan at the 76th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva and highlighted Pakistan's progress on polio eradication in an address on May 25. The minister said that in the last leg of eradication, Pakistan is doing everything possible to achieve success, adding that the polio programmes of both endemic countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, continue to vastly expand their hunt for the virus and mount robust campaigns to reach all children.

• Rotary International Convention

NEOC Coordinator Dr Shahzad Baig was among keynote speakers at the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia. Speaking on May 30, Dr Baig highlighted the efforts of polio frontline workers and said Rotary's spirit of "service above self" is witnessed in the everyday work of polio eradication in Pakistan. He remembered the people martyred in the line of fulfilling their polio duties and highlighted the exceptional commitment



at all levels of the government in Pakistan to reach the finish line for polio eradication.

• Wild poliovirus detection

Three more wild polioviruses were detected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with two positive environmental samples in Peshawar and one in Hangu confirmed during this reporting period. According to the Pakistan Polio Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health, all three viruses are genetically linked to the YB3A genetic cluster – the lineage of wild poliovirus that remains in circulation in Afghanistan.

• Collaboration

The Pakistan Polio Programme has forged a new collaboration with Chughtai Lab, a private medical diagnostic centre, to benefit polio workers. The agreement was signed at the National Emergency Operations Centre by NEOC Deputy Coordinator Dr Mansoor Ali Wassan and Chughtai Lab Regional Executive Manager Husnain Bukhari on May 30. Under the partnership, the lab will provide between 30–50% discount on tests and diagnostic procedures to frontline workers.



Technical Advisory Group Meeting: Strengthening Polio Eradication Efforts

The Technical Advisory Group on Polio Eradication convened in Doha, Qatar from June 1 to June 4 for four days of intensive discussions among TAG members, representatives from the Polio Eradication Programmes of Pakistan and Afghanistan, key stakeholders including government officials from Qatar, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, as well as donors and regional representatives from WHO and UNICEF.

The meeting built upon the outcomes of the previous TAG meeting held in October 2022, which led to significant strategic shifts in the programme and the categorization of Pakistan into distinct polio endemic districts, outbreak districts, risk reduction areas, and maintenance districts. This categorization has proven valuable in effectively allocating resources and tailoring interventions in priority areas based on specific needs.

On the concluding day, the TAG presented its recommendations to both Pakistan and Afghanistan. These recommendations encompassed various aspects such as the optimal number of vaccination campaigns, implementation of social intervention packages and outbreak response strategies, among others.

These recommendations will serve as crucial guidance for both countries as they work towards interrupting transmission this year, as envisioned in the global eradication strategy.

20,775

Frontline health staff are part of the ongoing OPV and fIPV campaign in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

01

Child has been paralyzed by wild polio in Pakistan in 2023, while four cases have been reported from Afghanistan so far.

76

Environmental samples collected from one-time sampling sites in the endemic districts of southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in May have reached the Polio Lab for testing.

09

Environmental samples have been reported as positive for wild polio in Pakistan this year so far, which constitute 1% of all samples tested.

For any further details or queries, kindly contact us at EOPakistan@gmail.com

Campaign in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (as of June 05)

fIPV (04–59 months) OPV (0–59 months)

DI Khan	Bannu	North Waziristan	S.Waziristan Lower	Tank	Lakki Marwat
fIPV 277,941	fIPV 238,107	fIPV 124,351	fIPV 49,515	fIPV 61,457	fIPV 180,938
OPV 298,290	OPV 259,519	OPV 134,196	OPV 49,213	OPV 65,693	OPV 194,861

* Campaign not conducted in Upper South Waziristan