



NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

Newsletter (1 - 15 October 2023)



Key Events/Activities

The Honorable Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the National Task Force for Polio Eradication on 2nd October 2023 at the Prime Minister's House, Islamabad. After the meeting, the Honorable Prime Minister launched the October Nationwide Polio Vaccination Campaign by administering Polio vaccine to the children.



The Federal Minister for Health represented Pakistan at the 70th session of the Regional Committee of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region in Cairo. During a session on Polio Eradication, the Minister emphasized Pakistan's unwavering commitment to eradicating polio. He highlighted the substantial progress made in Pakistan's battle against polio as is evident from the decline in the number of polio cases, positive environmental samples and genetic clusters over the years.



Supplementary Immunization Activities

The October Nationwide (NID) Polio vaccination campaign was conducted from 2 – 6 October across the country. However, in the following areas / districts, it was planned and conducted as follows:

- Killa Abdullah & Chaman: 25 Sep–2 Oct
- South Waziristan Upper: 25 - 28 Sep
- South KP and Mastung: 9 – 13 October



In districts Killa Abdullah and Chaman, Fractional IPV+OPV was administered to the children, while in all other districts, OPV was administered. The Vitamin-A supplement was also administered to the children aged between 6 – 59 months.

As per the data reported so far, 45.1 million children have been vaccinated in the campaign including 23.1 million children in Punjab, 10.5 million children in Sindh, 7.4 million children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 2.6 million children in Balochistan, 0.7 million children in AJK, 0.3 million children in GB and 0.5 million children in Islamabad.

A total of 425,387 frontline Polio workers performed duties in the campaign.

Surveillance

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

- The affected child is an 18-month-old girl from UC Ghora Bakakhel.
- Child had onset of paralysis on 13th September 2023.
- This is the third case from district Bannu and Pakistan at large this year.
- Genetically this case is linked with the second polio case of District Bannu which was detected in July 2023.

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WPV1 Cases in 2023

38
Positive environmental samples in 2023

Six new positive environmental samples were reported (two from Peshawar and one each from Bannu, Dera Bugti, Hub and Lahore) taking the total number of positive environmental samples in 2023 to **38**.

Other Activities/Updates

Honorable Prime Minister launching the October Nationwide Polio Vaccination Campaign.



The Cross Border Coordination Meeting on Polio between Pakistan and Afghanistan was held on 11 – 12 October in Islamabad. It was a joint meeting between the national and regional / provincial teams of both countries.



In the Mehsuld Belt, the house-to-house Polio vaccination campaigns resumed in September 2023. The campaign was conducted from 25th to 28th September in 28 UCs of the Belt vaccinating 15,377 children. The remaining six UCs of the belt will be covered during Phase-2 of the campaign in the area planned in October.