

NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE FOR 28 FEBRUARY- 13 MARCH, 2023



- The first phase of a campaign to immunize more than 21 million children under the age of five against paralytic poliovirus kicked off in 30 districts on March 13. The second phase will be held in April.
- Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel represented Pakistan at the seventh meeting of the World Health Organization's Regional Subcommittee for Polio Eradication and Outbreaks on 28 February and informed the forum that Pakistan was working with a heightened sense of urgency to interrupt wild poliovirus transmission in 2023.
- A team of WHO's Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Unit, led by Director

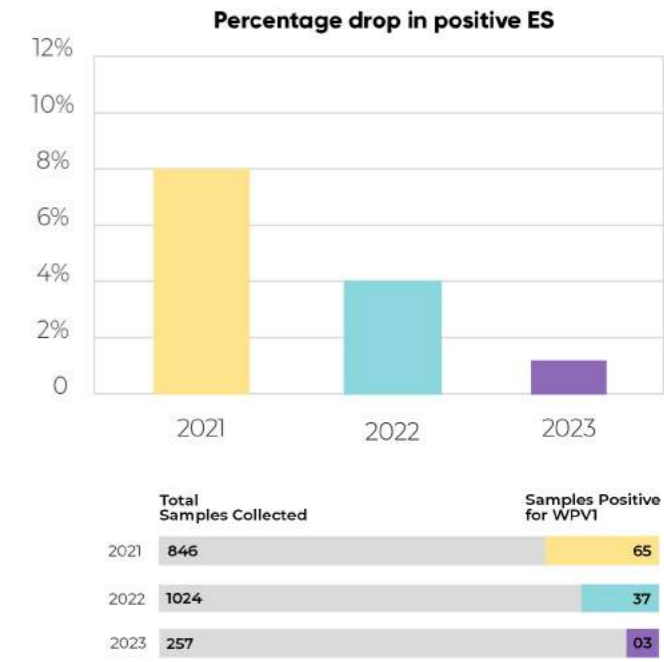
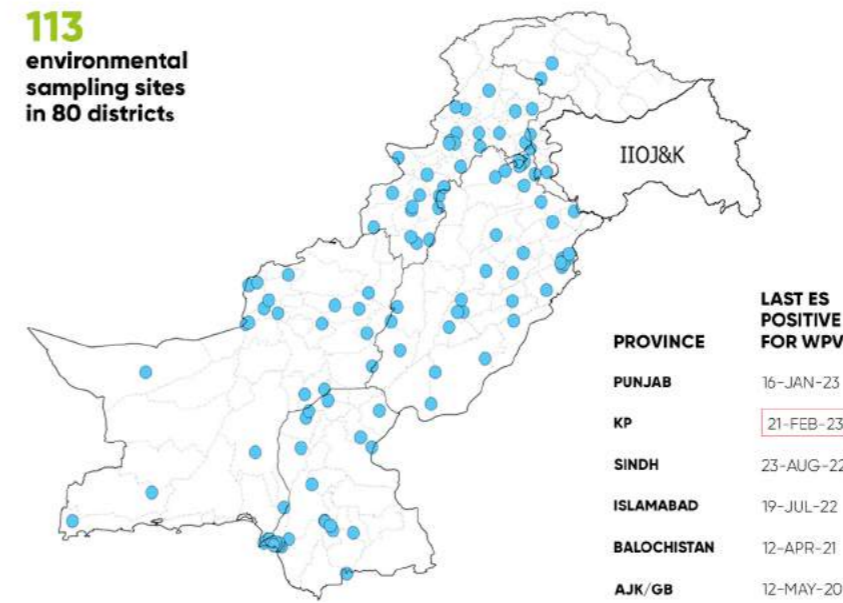


Dr Gaya Gamhewage, visited the NEOC on 8 March – International Women's Day – and met with the Polio Eradication Programme's Core Team.

- The systematic process of listening to frontline health workers during surveys and workshops, which was initiated in July 2022, concluded on 2 March. The initiative used a bottom-up, data-informed approach to better understand the experiences of women on the frontlines and hear their ideas for how the programme can better support them to do their jobs safely and effectively. A two-day workshop was also held for male health workers from southern KP, which was the last in the series of 14 workshops. The NEOC is currently in the process of reviewing some of the devised solutions and working towards implementation.

Polio Environmental Surveillance Network

113 environmental sampling sites in 80 districts



Poliovirus detections

After four months, wild poliovirus has been detected in environmental samples from the polio endemic region of southern Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. A sample collected from sewage in DI Khan on 21 February was positive for wild poliovirus type-1 (WPV1) and is genetically related to the one virus cluster that remains in circulation in Pakistan.

Immunization drives have been held in DI Khan in January and February, while the next campaign is planned in April during the second week of Ramadan, before the high-travel season of Eid begins.

Although wild polio is being detected in sewage samples, no child has been paralyzed by the virus since September 2022.

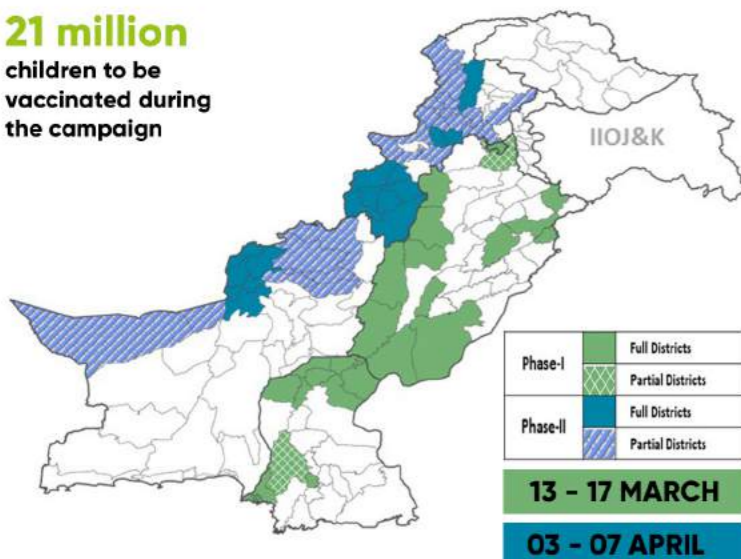
In addition, a sewage sample collected from Ghotki district on 14 February tested positive for the variant poliovirus type-3, more commonly known as VDPV3. This is the first time in two years that a variant poliovirus has been detected in Pakistan.

District, provincial and federal teams have made a coordinated emergency response plan to contain the outbreak, and epidemiological investigations to determine the route of the virus and identify infected populations will be conducted during this week.

Ghotki was covered in the nationwide campaign in January, while another immunization drive is underway until 17 March.

Sub-National Immunization Days

21 million children to be vaccinated during the campaign



CAMPAIGN DETAILS

- 11,358,755** children will be vaccinated in Punjab
- 421,455** children in Islamabad
- 5,634,107** children in Sindh
- 3,128,338** children in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
- 998,594** children in Balochistan

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Environmental samples have tested positive for poliovirus so far in 2023, including one variant type-3 poliovirus (VDPV3) in Ghotki.

141,990

Frontline workers are participating in the ongoing SNID campaign.

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

PROVINCE	WPV1 CASES		LAST WPV1 CASE	LAST VDPV3 POSITIVE ES
	No. of Cases	No. of Districts		
	2022	2022		
PUNJAB	0	0	21-OCT-20	2021
SINDH	0	0	14-JUL-20	14-Feb-23
KP	20	3	15-SEP-22	-
BALUCHISTAN	0	0	27-JAN-21	-
AJK / GB	0	0	13-FEB-17	-
ISLAMABAD	0	0	27-SEP-08	-
PAKISTAN	20	3	15-SEP-22	14-Feb-23