



NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

Newsletter (21 August - 5 September 2023)



Key Events/Activities

The **Engineer-in-Chief GHQ** Lt. General Kashif Nazir visited **National EOC** on 24th August 2023. He reaffirmed full support of Pakistan Army for Polio eradication.



The **GPEI Strategy Committee mission** visited Pakistan from 29 August - 1 September 2023. During the visit, the mission held meetings/interactions with the Federal Health Minister, Engineer-in-Chief GHQ, National EOC team, and the Senior Government Leadership & PEI teams of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.



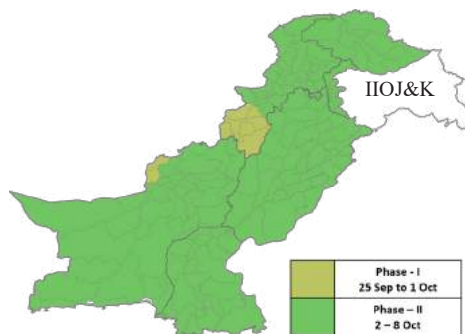
The meeting of the **National Polio Management Team (NPMT)** was held on 28th August at the National EOC Islamabad.

Supplementary Immunization Activities

An **outbreak response campaign in 175 high risk UCs of Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad is in progress (4 - 10 September)** aiming to vaccinate 1.05 million children.



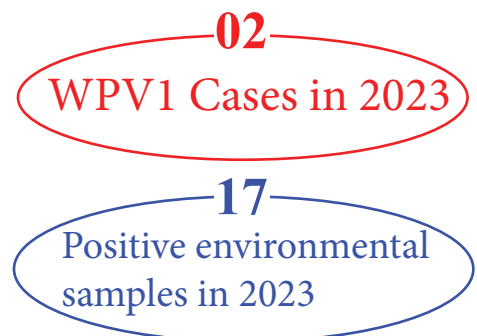
A **nationwide (NID) campaign will be conducted in September – October**, in two phases. Phase-1 from 25 September - 1 October in South KP (except 69 RUR UCs) with bOPV, and in Districts Killa Abdullah and Chaman with fIPV+bOPV. Phase-2 from 2 - 8 October in all other provinces / districts / areas of the country (Punjab, Sindh, KP, Balochistan, AJK, GB, Islamabad) with bOPV



Surveillance

Two new positive environmental samples (one each from Rawalpindi and Lahore) were reported taking the total number of positive samples in 2023 to 17.

The **number of human Polio cases** in Pakistan in 2023 remains two (reported from Bannu on 20th February and 11th July 2023).



Details of new positive environmental samples:

- Rawalpindi:** The environmental sample was collected on 10th August from the 'Safdarabad' site. This is the second positive sample from Rawalpindi this year. An outbreak response round in Rawalpindi is in progress (4 - 10 September).
- Lahore:** The environmental sample was collected on 15th August 2023 from the 'Outfall Station-F' site. This is the first positive sample from this particular site and the third positive sample from District Lahore at large this year. An outbreak response round in Lahore is in progress (4 - 10 September).

Other Activities

Women healthcare workers from the Pakistan Polio Programme met **Melinda French Gates**, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in a **virtual roundtable on 29th August** to share updates and launch the next phase of the 'Female Frontline Worker Co-Design Initiative'.

Participants shared their experiences from this initiative, which aims to systematically listen to and learn from female frontline workers to help solve final barriers to ending polio in Pakistan.



Reach the Unreached Activity

The **Round-II of 'Reach the Unreached (RUR)' activity** in South KP is in progress (28 August - 7 September)

