

# NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

## PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES FROM 11 APRIL TO 8 MAY 2023



UPDATES

### • Campaign in Ramadan

More than 3 million children were vaccinated in a campaign in 26 districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in April during the last week of Ramadan. Over 24,000 frontline workers went door-to-door vaccinating children under five against the disability-causing poliovirus. While a campaign in Ramadan was challenging for frontline staff, it was conducted to prevent virus transmission during the high travel season before Eid.

### • Surveillance review

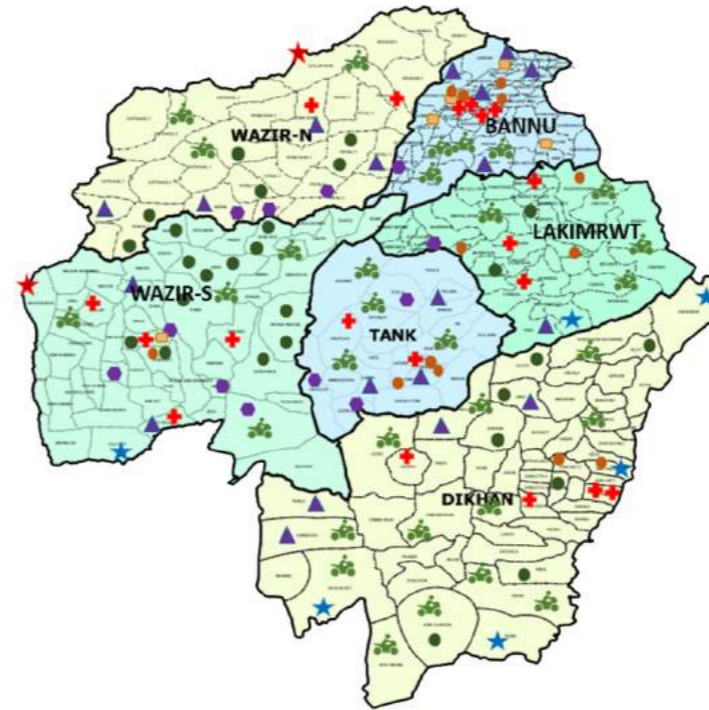
A surveillance review was conducted in South Waziristan Upper and Lower – two of the seven endemic districts of high epidemiological importance – from 16 to 20 April. It included a desk review of all documents, a field review of active and passive surveillance sites, validation of AFP cases as

well as assessing the knowledge of healthcare practitioners and assessing the cold chain and functionality of the surveillance system. The review showed that while both districts have a functional surveillance system, improvement is needed to enhance sensitivity to ensure AFP cases and environmental circulation are not missed.

### • EMRO meeting

A team from the National Emergency Operations Centre participated in the 8th intercountry meeting of the World Health Organization's polio staff in Amman, Jordan, from 7 to 9 May, which brought together polio team leads from endemic, outbreak and high-risk countries from the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The forum reviewed the global and regional situation of polio eradication efforts and identified regional and country priorities for 2023.

### Transit vaccination in southern KP in April 2023



1,195 transit teams, including those in the seven endemic districts of southern Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, vaccinated over 1 million people across Pakistan during April, throughout Ramadan and the high-travel season of Eid.

★ International Cross-border PTPs			
No. of Transit Points	No. of Teams	Target Age Group	Vaccination April 23
2	18	All age group	8,270
+ Hospitals/Inter-provincial/Inter-district STPs			
No. of Transit Points	No. of Teams	Target Age Group	Vaccination
19	25	< 05 Years	35,016
★ Ring vaccination: Inter-district STPs			
No. of Transit Points	No. of Teams	Target Age Group	Vaccination
06	24	< 10 Years	21,784
■ Mehsud Belt Ring-fencing STPs			
No. of Transit Points	No. of Teams	Target Age Group	Vaccination
11	24	All age vaccination	46,390
● Bus Stops/Terminals STPs			
No. of Transit Points	No. of Teams	Target Age Group	Vaccination
15	31	< 05 Years	33,534
▲ Check posts STPs			
No. of Transit Points	No. of Teams	Target Age Group	Vaccination
21	40	< 05 Years	20,167
● Ramadan/Eid STPs			
No. of Transit Points	No. of Teams	Target Age Group	Vaccination
19	42	< 05 Years	21,669
🚚 Nomads Immunization Teams			
No. of Teams	Target Age Group	OPV	IPV
31	5 Years	5,313	1,611

\*PTPs = Permanent Transit Points TTPs = Temporary Transit Points  
STPs = Special Transit Points

114

Is the number of environmental surveillance sites across Pakistan after an additional site was added at the National Institute of Health in Islamabad.

24,269

Frontline health workers participated in the vaccination campaign in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa during the last week of Ramadan.

05

Environmental samples have tested positive for wild poliovirus in Pakistan so far in 2023. The latest detections were from Hangu and Peshawar in April. In addition, a variant VDPV3 sample was also detected from Ghotki, Sindh in February.

98%

Of the total 58,554 stool samples received at the polio laboratory from Pakistan and Afghanistan were tested and reported within 14 days of receipt, in line with global standards.

### Expansion of surveillance network

The recent addition of an environmental site to Pakistan's polio surveillance network is a significant step in the country's poliovirus containment plan. This site specifically monitors the wastewater from the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio at the National Institutes of Health in Islamabad.

Through the incorporation of this site, the Polio Programme is now equipped to promptly respond to any potential spread of poliovirus, should containment be breached at the facility level.

The programme is continually enhancing the sensitivity of its polio surveillance network. The number of environmental surveillance sites has been increased in phases from 71 in 2021 to 114 sites by April 2023, reflecting the crucial role of a robust surveillance network at this stage for polio eradication.

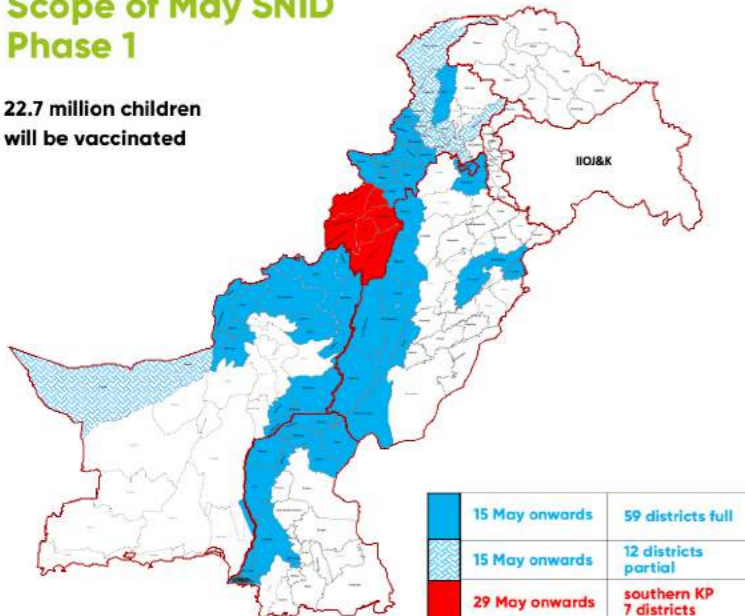
The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio at NIH Islamabad – one of 17 such facilities worldwide – serves both Pakistan and Afghanistan, providing essential poliovirus testing of stool and environmental samples collected in both countries. It was expanded through the addition of a new building in 2022 to support the ever-increasing laboratory workload.

**Note:** This newsletter covers updates from 11 April to 8 May. The previous issue was not published due to Eid holidays.

For any further details or queries, kindly contact us at [EOCPakistan@gmail.com](mailto:EOCPakistan@gmail.com)

### Scope of May SNID Phase 1

22.7 million children will be vaccinated



## CAMPAIGN DETAILS

- 1,769,713 – children will be vaccinated in Balochistan
- 421,455 – children in Islamabad
- 3,505,512 – children in KP
- 10,859,863 – children in Punjab
- 6,174,456 – children in Sindh