

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

AUGUST 2019

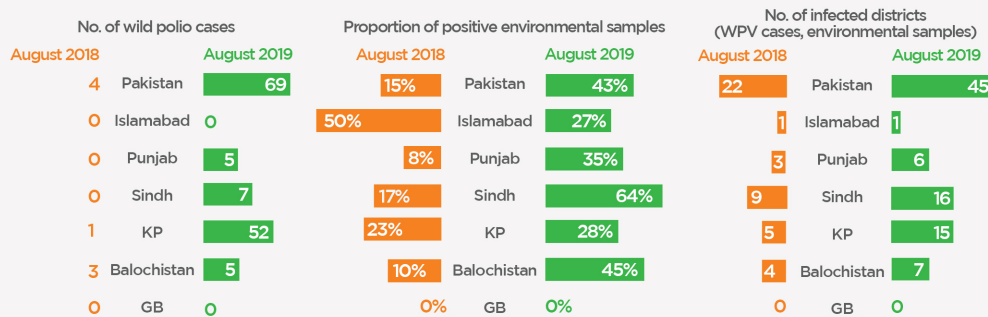
In the month of August, the polio virus case count in Pakistan increased to 69. 16 new cases were reported from districts across Pakistan, including 4 cases from Lakki Marwat, 3 from Bannu, 2 cases from Hyderabad, and 1 case each from North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Hangu, Torghar, Killa Abdullah, Jamshoro, Karachi. Meanwhile, 44% of samples collected from 60 surveillance sites across Pakistan tested positive for the poliovirus. Based on the geographic distribution of cases and the results from environmental surveillance, the virus is predominantly impacting vulnerable children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, with smaller pockets of virus transmission affecting children in Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh.

With the rapidly changing polio epidemiology across the country, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme has been greatly focused on improving immunity of vulnerable children to the virus. A case response campaign was thereby implemented from 26-29 August in 46 districts of Pakistan. A total of 8.3 million were administered OPV during the case response in order to provide them with enhanced protection and immunity to eradicate the polio virus.

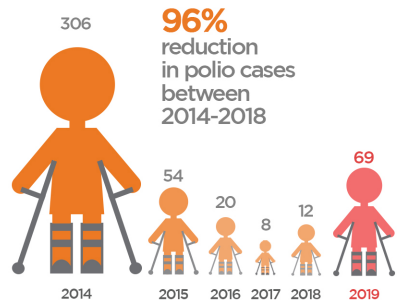
August also saw a series of important consultations, workshops and review meetings in order to

strengthen coordination and planning across the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme. This began with the National Emergency Action Plan Orientation Workshop for District Commissioners on 1-2 August, which helped familiarize district administration with the structures, processes, and objectives of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme for the upcoming year. This was then followed by the National Task Force Meeting on 21 August, which was convened and chaired by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. At this meeting, the Prime Minister extended his full support to the polio programme and guaranteed that all levels of government bureaucracy would focus on improving eradication activities at district and provincial levels. The Prime Minister also emphasized the need for enhanced risk perception and awareness about the virus ahead of polio eradication campaigns.

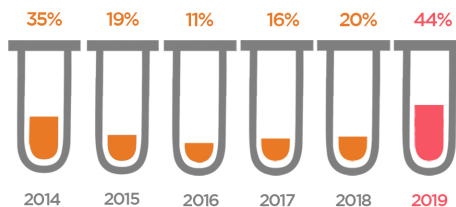
Lastly, the bi-annual Technical Advisory Group consultation was held on 29-30 August, wherein experts of the Technical Advisory Group provided comprehensive recommendations to improve all aspects of programme operations, including programme management, campaign planning and implementation, community outreach activities, and synergy initiatives with the Expanded Programme on Immunization and other relevant programmes.



*Point in time comparison, data as of 31 August 2019



High sensitivity of the surveillance system enables the programme to detect the virus and respond quickly.

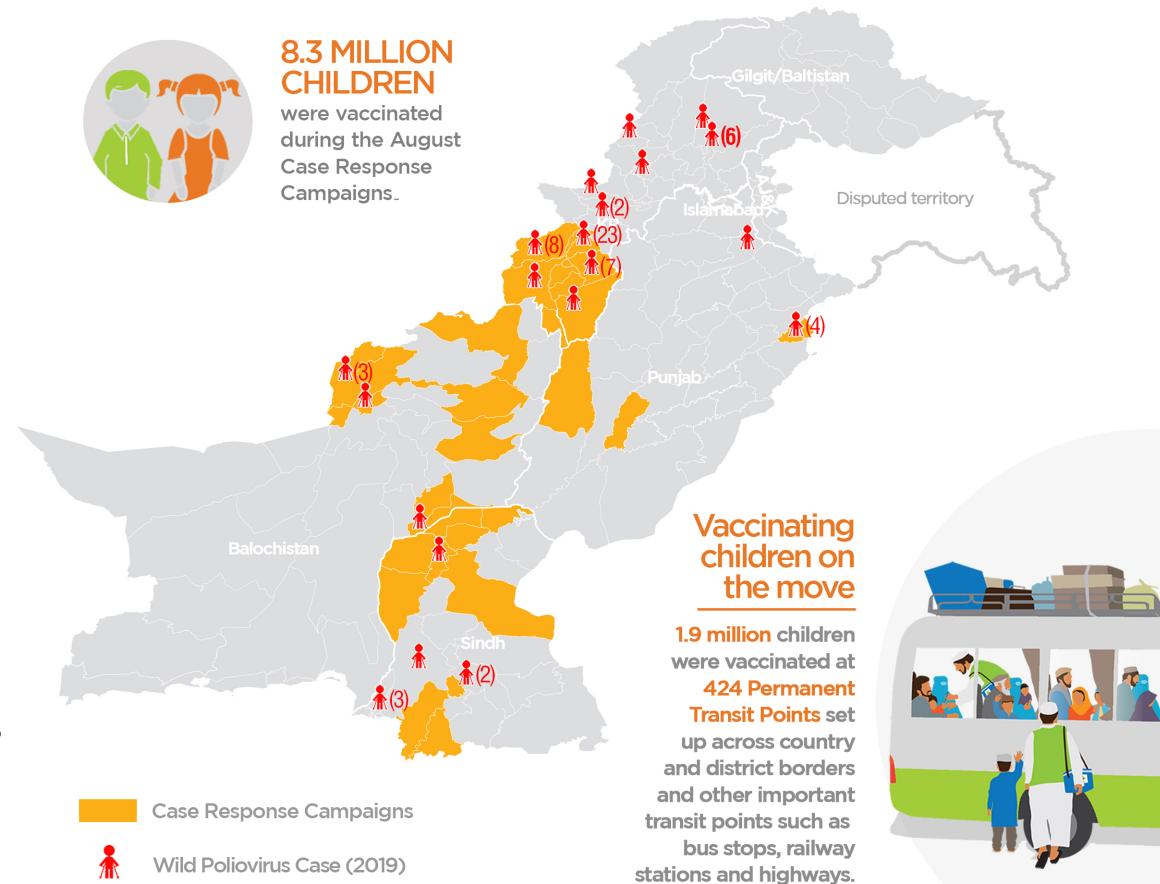


60 environmental detection sites = largest polio environmental footprint in the world

AUGUST 2019 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



8.3 MILLION CHILDREN were vaccinated during the August Case Response Campaigns.



PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

