

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

DECEMBER 2018



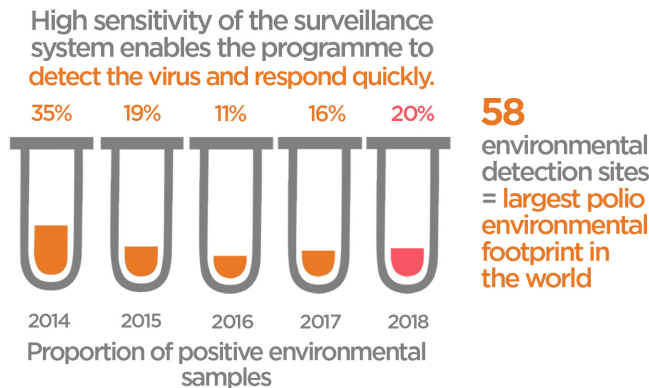
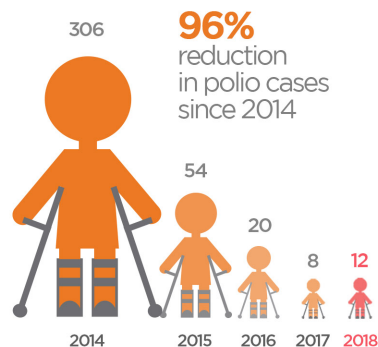
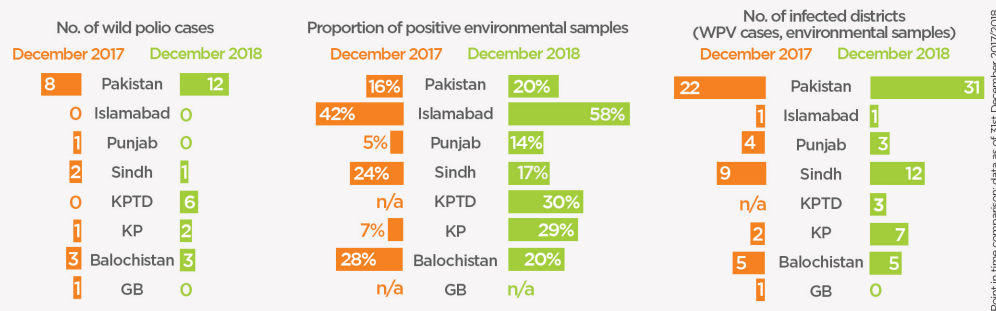
As per the National Emergency Action Plan for 2018-2019, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme launched a National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaign between 10-13 December. This campaign vaccinated a total of 39.8 million children through a workforce of 260,000 personnel. According to independent post-campaign monitoring, the campaign coverage, based on finger mark, was 93% across Pakistan. The number of children who remained unvaccinated went down by 28% across Pakistan in the December NIDs as compared to the September NIDs. This trend was also observed in the core reservoirs, including a drop of 48% in Gadap Town, Karachi. The December campaign was also synchronized with Afghanistan. In addition, a total of 1.6 million children were vaccinated in December 2018 at 381 Permanent and Temporary Transit Points set up across the country.

Four new polio cases were reported in Pakistan in the last month of the year, bringing the total number of the polio caseload for Pakistan to 12. Three cases were reported from the Bajour district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal District (KPTD), while the one other case was reported from the Lakki Marwat district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The programme launched a detailed case investigation, while the January NIDs will be the first case response. Meanwhile, an extensive Routine Immunization

outreach activity was conducted in 25 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Bajaur district from 31 December to boost children's immunity against vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio.

Meanwhile, the extensive environmental surveillance network established by the programme detected the poliovirus in up to 20% of environmental samples in December, as compared to 16% at the same time last year. The virus therefore continues to circulate in the core reservoir areas across Pakistan, including populous districts and cities such as Karachi, Peshawar, Bannu, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Killa Abdullah, Pishin and Quetta.

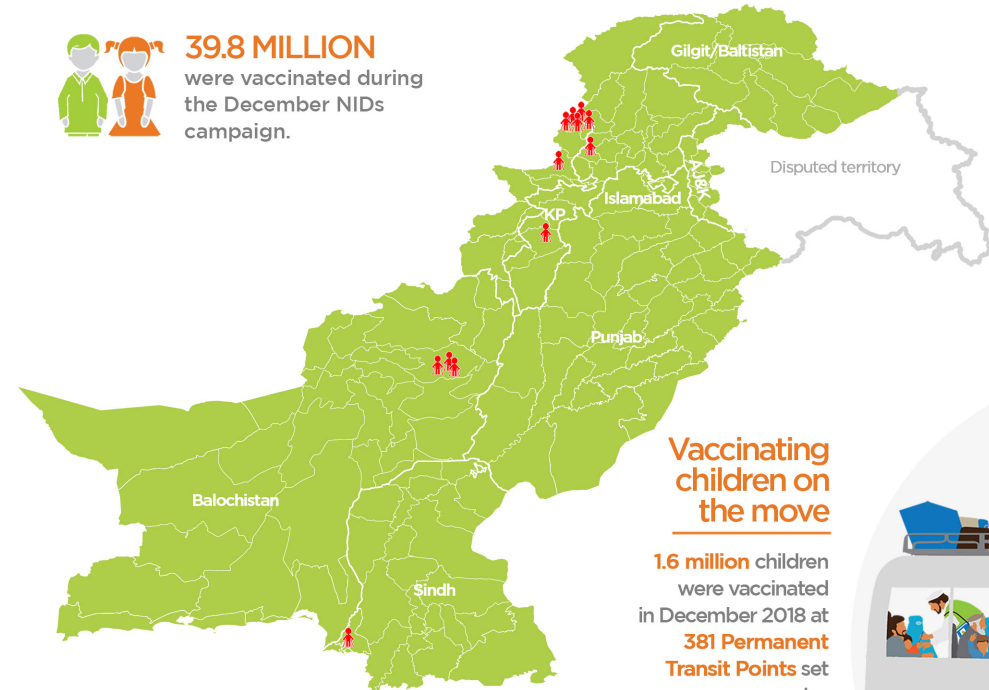
The programme was also fully engaged in preparations for a number of high level partner delegations and meetings. This included the visit of Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director of the World Health Organization, and of Jean Gough, the UNICEF South Asia Regional Director in mid-December. Hereafter, the programme shifted its focus towards extensive planning for the consultation of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on polio eradication in early January, as well as the upcoming visit of Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization, and Chris Elias, President of the Global Development Division of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



DECEMBER 2018 POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS



39.8 MILLION were vaccinated during the December NIDs campaign.



Vaccinating children on the move

1.6 million children were vaccinated in December 2018 at **381 Permanent Transit Points** set up across country and district borders and other important transit points such as bus stops, railway stations and highways.



PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE

