

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

February 2021

پاکستان
انسداد
پولیو
پروگرام



PAKISTAN
POLIO
ERADICATION
PROGRAMME

PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE



40 Million
average no. of children < 5
targeted during NIDs



285,000
frontline workers



62%
of frontline workers
are female



2,100
social mobilizers

WPV1 + cVDPV2 Cases:

- In the month of February, no new wild poliovirus (WPV1) case was reported in Pakistan. The case count of WPV1 remained one, as of 28 February 2021.
- In February, the surveillance system confirmed four cVDPV2 cases that were detected in January 2021. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in Pakistan reached to six, as of 28 February 2021. The geographical distribution of these six cases is as follows:
 - Punjab:** DG Khan (1)
 - KP:** Nowshera (1)
 - Sindh:** Shikarpur (1), Sukkur (1)
 - Balochistan:** Pishin (1), Killa Saifullah (1)

Campaigns in February 2021:

- As part of efforts to synergize the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) activities, the Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) campaign was co-administered with bOPV to the children aged between 9 to 59 months coming for typhoid vaccination. The EPI-led TCV campaign was conducted from 1-15 February 2021, in 12 selected districts of Punjab, including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Layyah, Multan, DG Khan, Rajanpur, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujranwala, Mianwali, Pakpattan, Chakwal and two urban districts of Islamabad. During the campaign, 14,000 frontline workers, through 7,000 outreach and fixed vaccination centres, administered polio drops to a set target of 4.3 million children. While over 13 million children aged between nine months to 15 years were also vaccinated with a one-dose injectable TCV vaccine, designed to provide long-lasting immunity in children against typhoid fever.

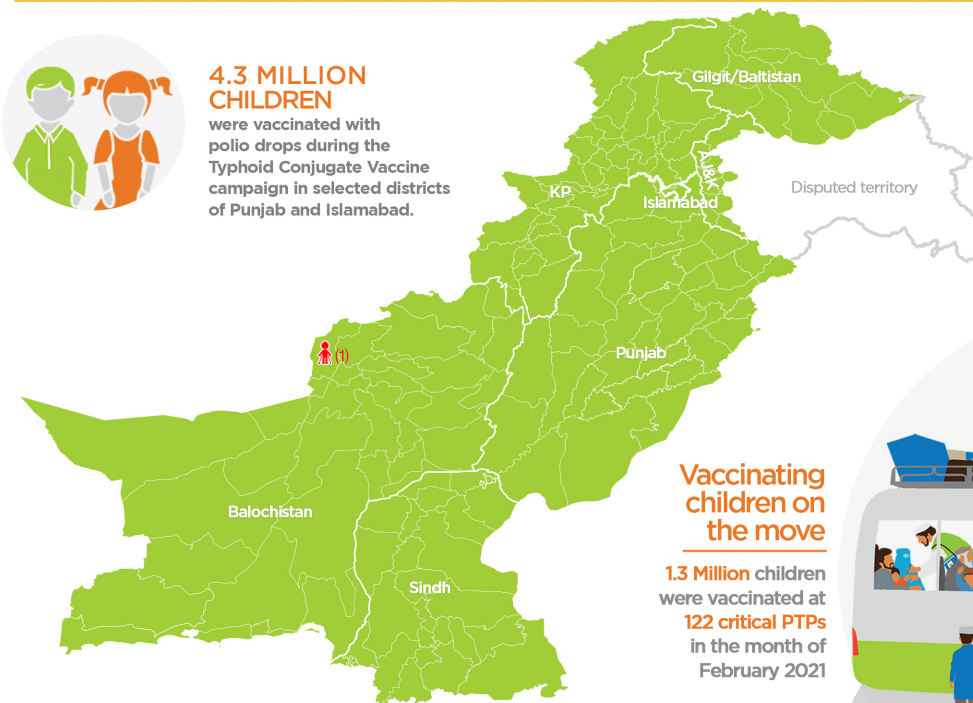
Additional activities:

- The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Polio Eradication meeting was held on 8, 9 and 11 February 2021. The main objective of meeting was to review the status of polio eradication efforts and to provide the necessary strategic guidance to the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme. The Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan, apprised TAG on the progress, achievements, challenges and the status of ongoing activities of the programme. After diligent review of all evidence presented, TAG Chair and members appreciated efforts of the programme and also shared the recommendations to address the remaining challenges in order to end polio from Pakistan.
- The Emergency Committee, established under the International Health Regulations (IHR) on the international spread of poliovirus, held a virtual meeting on 1 February 2021. The National Emergency Operation Centre Coordinator, Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar, participated in the meeting and briefed the forum on the progress and achievements of the programme in 2020. The committee flagged the ongoing spread of poliovirus between Pakistan and Afghanistan. While dubbing the risk of international spread of poliovirus as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the committee also recommended the extension of Temporary Recommendations for further three months.
- Dr Hamid Jafari, Director for Polio for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) visited Pakistan for two weeks in February 2021. During his monitoring visit, Dr Hamid Jafari reviewed progress of various teams and addressed key issues with stakeholders in Islamabad, Peshawar and Karachi.



4.3 MILLION CHILDREN

were vaccinated with
polio drops during the
Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine
campaign in selected districts
of Punjab and Islamabad.



Vaccinating children on the move

1.3 Million children
were vaccinated at
122 critical PTPs
in the month of
February 2021



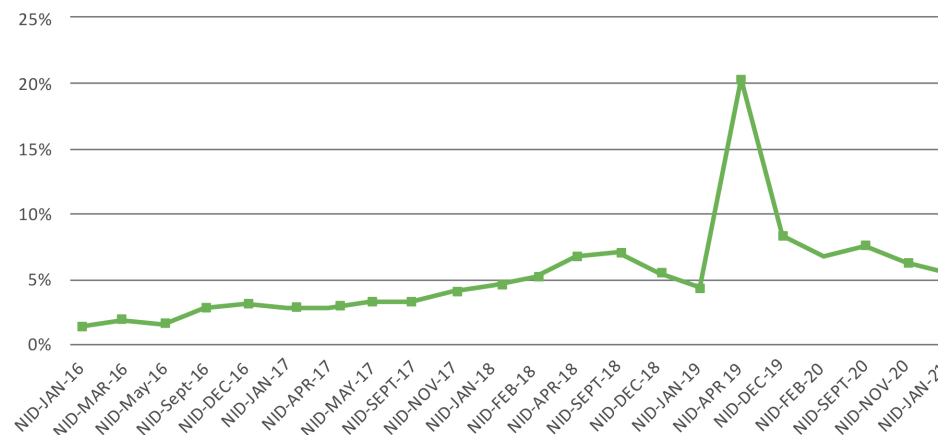
National Immunisation Days (NIDs) Campaign



Wild Poliovirus Case (2021)

Coverage of Children Not Reached During Campaigns

Percentage of Still Missed Children (Out of Target) in Tier 1 Districts during NIDs (2016-2021)



No. of wild polio cases
February 2020 February 2021

35	Pakistan	1
0	AJK	0
0	GB	0
0	Islamabad	0
1	Punjab	0
12	Sindh	0
16	KP	0
6	Balochistan	1

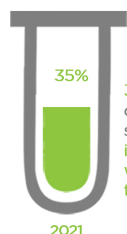
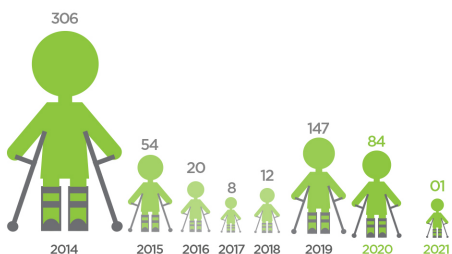
Proportion of positive environmental samples
February 2020 February 2021

53%	Pakistan	35%
0%	AJK	0%
0%	GB	0%
42%	Islamabad	100%
55%	Punjab	37%
70%	Sindh	20%
14%	KP	23%
69%	Balochistan	58%

No. of infected districts
(WPV1 cases, environmental samples)
February 2020 February 2021

50	Pakistan	18
0	AJK	0
0	GB	0
1	Islamabad	1
9	Punjab	5
19	Sindh	3
10	KP	3
11	Balochistan	6

*Point in time comparison; data as of 18 February 2021. Copyright: NEEC/2021



35%
of environmental
samples taken
in February 2021
were positive for
the poliovirus



Environmental samples are
taken from 60 detection sites
which is the largest
environmental footprint
in the world