Progress and Next Steps Towards Stopping the Middle East Polio Outbreak

IMB
6 May 2014
Context: A Regional Crisis

• 9.3 million people immediately affected by the crisis in Syria
• 2.7 million refugees including around 1.3 million children
• 80% of refugees not in camps; integrated in host communities
• Refugees settled in areas where host communities also face vulnerabilities
• Insecurity in Lebanon and Iraq in addition to Syria
ME Outbreak - as of 5 May 2014

Syria
- First reported Oct 2013, index case July 2013
- 36 polio cases to date (35 in 2013, 1 in 2014)
- Latest onset 21 Jan, Hama

Iraq
- One case to date
- Onset 10 Feb in Baghdad
- Virus related to December 2013 virus in NE Syria
Syria cases, last 6 months

Nov-2013
(W1=9, cVDPV2=0)

Dec-2013
(W1=3, cVDPV2=0)

Jan-2014
(W1=1, cVDPV2=0)

Feb-2014
(W1=0, cVDPV2=0)

Mar-2014
(W1=0, cVDPV2=0)

Apr-2014
(W1=0, cVDPV2=0)
Iraq case

Onset 10 February 2014
Iraqi nationality
Male
6 months of age
Zero dose
No history of travel
Goal: *Interrupt polio in Syria & surrounding countries by end-March 2014*

**Zone 1: Primary Outbreak Intervention Zone:** Syrian Arab Republic

**Zone 2: Secondary Outbreak Intervention Zone:** Areas in surrounding countries (Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) at immediate risk.

**Zone 3: Risk Reduction Zone:** Rest of neighboring countries
Immunization Response in Phase I

- The response to the Middle East polio outbreak has used 105 million doses of vaccine in 30 immunization campaigns in 7 countries since October 2014.
## Reported number of children vaccinated & PCM coverage (Recall) Nov – April 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Nov-13</th>
<th>Dec-13</th>
<th>Jan-14</th>
<th>Feb-14</th>
<th>Mar-14</th>
<th>Apr-14</th>
<th>Nov-13</th>
<th>Dec-13</th>
<th>Jan-14</th>
<th>Feb-14</th>
<th>Mar-14</th>
<th>14-Apr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>2,432,751</td>
<td>2,246,762</td>
<td>2,532,476</td>
<td>2,745,554</td>
<td>2,919,682</td>
<td>2,913,640</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>1,138,285</td>
<td>915,420</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,084,776</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>76%*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>580,770</td>
<td>589,054</td>
<td></td>
<td>492,706</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1,208,087</td>
<td>4,846,158</td>
<td>649,105</td>
<td>235,366</td>
<td>5,372,156</td>
<td>5,840,387</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>14,226,411</td>
<td>14,387,578</td>
<td></td>
<td>68,770</td>
<td>14,779,741</td>
<td></td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,148,918</td>
<td>1,316,326</td>
<td></td>
<td>266,141</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WB&amp;Gaza</td>
<td>639,481</td>
<td></td>
<td>655,236</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,735,222</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,940,779</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,836,817</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,247,061</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,938,090</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,533,768</strong></td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ND**

*Not done*

* Rapid assessment survey among Syrian refugees
Syria campaigns

• Extremely difficult due to:
  • *Immediate conflict*
  • *constrained access to communities*
  • *displacement or movement of people*

• Benefited from *high demand and strong health seeking behaviour*
Reported number of children immunized, Syria
Polio Campaigns Jan–April 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>No. of vaccinated children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SIAs by month

- MOH
- Other sources
Results of post-campaign monitoring
Dec 2013 – March 2014, Syria

MoH PCM (recall)
Results of post-campaign monitoring
Dec 2013 – March 2014, Syria

NGOs NS PCM (recall)
Campaign Awareness
Syria, Jordan and Lebanon
December 2013–March 2014
Phase I plan impact on the outbreak: Syria

Polio, AFP cases & SIAs (campaigns) in Syria

* all sources
Phase I plan impact on the outbreak: *At Risk Zone*

- *No WPV yet detected* in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey
- *Decline in WPV in environmental samples* in Palestine & Israel

*BUT*......

- *Spread of WPV to Iraq*....
Phase I activities and epidemic curve Iraq
Conclusions:
• Syria & surrounding countries have engaged in a massive response which has helped to significantly reduce threat of further outbreaks
• However there are significant weaknesses and gaps that require action in Phase II

Recommendations:
- Concentrate on improving quality of SIAs, surveillance, routine
- Targeted approach to identify and reach children most at risk
- Standardize monitoring to improve quality of SIAs
- Sustain through improved surveillance & routine immunization
Zone 1: Primary Outbreak Intervention Zone:
- Syrian Arab Republic,
- Iraq

Zone 2: Risk Reduction Zone:
- Turkey
- Lebanon
- Jordan
- Palestine
- Egypt
- Iran
Objectives for Phase II

- **Complete interruption of polio virus transmission** in remaining focal areas of transmission by:
  - identifying unreached children and ensuring they are all vaccinated
  - increasing reach, intensity, quality of both large scale & targeted SIAs
- **Improve the quality of AFP surveillance** to ensure that any new cases of poliomyelitis are rapidly confirmed and responded to
- **Sustain polio-free status** through increased routine immunization coverage and periodic SIAs
Zone 1 Targets (Syria & Iraq)

1. At least 2 NIDs by November, reaching 95% coverage of target population as validated by PCM

2. Targeted SNIDs in areas with low coverage or high risk of transmission reaching PCM coverage of 95%

3. Any new governorate with confirmed WPV1 implements mop-up response within 14 days.

4. Annualized NPAFP Rate ≥2/100,000 and ≥80% of AFP cases with adequate stool specimens nationally and in all governorates by September 2014
Zone 2 Targets

1. **At least one NID with 95% coverage of target validated by PCM**

2. **At least 2 SNIDs in low coverage/high risk areas with 95% coverage validated by PCM**

3. Polio vaccination of 95% of refugees under 5 **on arrival**

4. **Any country with confirmed WPV1 implements a mop-up within 14 days and prepares response plan within 21 days**

5. Annualized non-polio AFP (NPAFP) Rate ≥2/100,000 and ≥80% of AFP cases with adequate stool specimen nationally by Sept 2014

6. POL-3 95% of children with a coverage ≥85% in all governorates
Major Phase II Activities

• New *surveillance strengthening plans* for all countries by June 2014

• Updated *Regional Communications Strategy* by May 2014 to drive the Social Mobilization & Communications activities across the eight countries.

• *Identifying & mapping* high risk areas/groups with suboptimal campaign & routine coverage in all countries by June 2014

• Developing plan for *strengthening immunization services* in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon by August 2014, building on the experiences from the polio outbreak response
Conclusions

• Phase I outbreak response has impacted on the severity and extent of the ME outbreak
  – Gradually improving coverage of children and of surveillance in Syria
  – Multiple campaigns in surrounding countries
• Still major risks due to unreached children (esp. in Syria but also in neighbouring countries) and continued population movement due to crisis
• Phase II plan offers the opportunity to finish the outbreak & make the ME polio free again