

Dear polio eradication supporter,

This month, the Government of Pakistan and partners continue to vaccinate internally displaced persons (IDPs) leaving North Waziristan due to military activity in the region and have immunized more than 400 000 individuals as of 16 July. As the programme works to vaccinate both displaced and host communities, polio spread within Pakistan and into Afghanistan is a serious risk. Meanwhile, in Iraq, partners are working to prevent the spread of disease in the face of escalating conflict, and new polio cases in Somalia underscore the challenge posed by difficult-to-reach populations.

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- Challenges reaching rural and pastoral communities in Somalia

PAKISTAN'S REFUGEE CRISIS CREATES OPPORTUNITY TO VACCINATE, RISK OF POLIO SPREAD

As a result of government military action in North Waziristan, some 900 000 people – more than 70% of whom are women and children – have been displaced throughout Pakistan and into Afghanistan. This mass movement provides the first [opportunity](#) to immunize a population that has been living under a [vaccination ban](#) by local leaders since June 2012, and the government and humanitarian partners quickly set up vaccination stations at transit points along the refugees' main route. A total of [425 780](#) individuals have been vaccinated at transit vaccination posts in south Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) between 21 May and 16 July. In addition, [over 1.5 million](#) doses were administered to children under five years old during three rounds of house-to-house vaccination campaigns among the displaced and host communities.

Efforts are also underway to provide IDPs with [essential services](#) including food, water, shelter, medicine and cash grants. In and around Bannu district – where over 80% of IDPs



Families and children fleeing the military operations in North Waziristan receive polio drops at roadside vaccination points on June 24, 2014. © UNICEF/Mian Khursheed

are currently staying – authorities are administering polio drops alongside the measles vaccine, dispensing diarrheal disease kits and offering other health interventions for women and children.

Tens of thousands of families have fled across the border to seek refuge in Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika Provinces. The

displaced are receiving [basic humanitarian aid](#) including food and shelter, and upon entering the country, more than 35 000 children under 10 years old have been given oral polio vaccine.

While the polio outbreak-affected population from North Waziristan is now receiving vaccination, their movement carries the risk of polio spread to areas hosting these groups. Thus in the near term, the movement of IDPs across Pakistan and Afghanistan puts under-immunized pockets of children in both countries at risk of infection, threatening to cause a spike in cases. The intense vaccination activities taking place now are all geared towards protecting the displaced and their host communities from polio.

POLIO IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WHO and UNICEF released a new [report](#) on efforts to stop the polio outbreak in Syria and throughout the region.

SCIENTIFIC UPDATE

[New findings](#) from a study in India published in The Lancet suggest that administering IPV to children primed with OPV boosts protection against the poliovirus.

IN THE NEWS

- An editorial in the journal Nature took stock of [progress toward polio eradication](#) and called on countries to redouble efforts to end the disease.
- The New York Times Editorial Board [underscored the urgency](#) of controlling the polio outbreak in Pakistan.
- The United Nations Foundation highlighted [global health diplomacy](#) as a key tool for polio eradication.

FUNDING UPDATES

- Sir Emeka Ofor, Nigerian industrialist and philanthropist, has given [US\\$ 1 million](#) to polio eradication efforts in Nigeria.
- Rotary has released [US\\$ 43.6 million](#) to WHO and UNICEF to support polio immunization activities, surveillance and research in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The Rotary grants include US\$ 5.7 million for Afghanistan, US\$ 6.5 million for Nigeria and US\$ 5.6 million for Pakistan, as well as several countries in the Middle East affected by an outbreak of polio from virus of Pakistani origin, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and India. In addition, the grants will support polio surveillance and technical assistance in 47 African countries and throughout South East Asia, as well as WHO polio vaccine research.

HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS COORDINATING VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS IN IRAQ



Rosa, a young girl displaced from her home in Mosul, is vaccinated against polio at a health center in Iraq. © UNICEF/Juliette Touma.

With over one million people now internally displaced in Iraq, relief agencies are working with the local government to scale up delivery of essential health care services to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and to provide food, water and shelter. The re-emergence of polio in Iraq after 14 years of being free of the disease has made polio vaccination a major health priority. Recently completed sub-regional [campaigns](#) in Baghdad and two other governorates – part of the broader immunization campaign across the Middle East – successfully reached 95.5% of the children under five years old. For more on the response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq, read this recent [blog post](#).

DIFFICULTY REACHING RURAL POPULATIONS IN SOMALIA

Three new polio cases were confirmed this month in Mudug, home to hard-to-reach pastoral and rural populations in Somalia's Puntland State. Although the country is in the midst of a series of vaccination campaigns, the social and political conditions in Mudug make it particularly challenging to implement and monitor immunization activities. The three who were paralyzed had never been vaccinated against polio. Special outreach activities are currently underway to reach these hard-to-reach populations.

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2014

- Global Total: **128 (140)** ↓
- Global WPV1: **128 (140)** ↓
- Global WPV3: **0 (0)**

Endemic: **112 (59)** ↑

- Afghanistan: **8 (3)** ↑
- Nigeria: **5 (35)** ↓
- Pakistan: **99 (21)** ↑

Importation Countries: **16 (81)** ↓

- Equatorial Guinea: **5 (0)** ↑
- Ethiopia: **1 (0)** ↑
- Cameroon: **3 (0)** ↑
- Iraq: **2 (0)** ↑
- Kenya: **0 (9)** ↓
- Somalia: **4 (72)** ↓
- Syria: **1 (0)** ↑

As of **22 July 2014**. Numbers in brackets represent data this time in 2013.

[Current case map](#)

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