# Polio Update: Afghanistan 

## IMB Meeting <br> 2-3 May 2017

## Technical Advisory Group Summary Conclusions

- Strong political commitment and continued strong partnership between government, UNICEF and WHO at national and regional levels.
- Systematic implementation of NEAP 2016-2017 is paying results. Strategic approach:
- Maintain program neutrality and gain access to all children
- Use alternate strategies in inaccessible areas
- Focus on identified high risk areas
- Underpin all strategies to ensure community and household engagement
- Ensure accountability at all levels
- Country has been able to interrupt transmission of 2015 in South and East. New transmissions in 2016/2017 have been temporally and geographically restricted.
- The recent transmission in Kunduz has potential of spreading/establishing. The risk of continued transmission in Bermal, Helmand and Kandahar cannot be ruled out.
- Sheegal and Bermal demonstrates that pockets of unreached children, however small, remain at risk.
- The transmission detected in 2016/2017 illustrates the importance of population movement for poliovirus transmission in the common reservoir.
- Improved quality of the campaigns as evidenced by reduction of failed LQAS lots from $26 \%$ in February SNID 2016 to 7\% in February SNID 2017.
- Improved analysis and data triangulation (e.g. microplan validation, remote and third party monitoring in security compromised areas, Post campaign monitoring (PCM)/LQAS validation)
- Expansion of Immunization Communication Network showing promising results in reducing missed children


## Reducing geographic spread



## Transmission in 2016 and 2017



Transmission zones


## Environmental Surveillance results



## Transmission in Kunar



- Transmission limited to 1.5 Km square area
- 4 case (From 1st Feb to 29th May 2016)
- Area: Inaccessible since 2013; high number of Swati and Bajauri
- Response:
- SIA campaigns including 1 IPV-OPV campaign; Permanent transit point at entry/exit point of valley; Polio plus and IPV from nearby health facility; mobilization of children from the inaccessible areas; 6 House-to-house campaigns conducted in the area since July.


## Transmission in Paktika



- Transmission limited to 10 Km square area
- 7 cases (From $2^{\text {nd }}$ August to $16^{\text {th }}$ Dec)
- Area: Pakistan refugee population; significant population under AGE control.
- Response:
- 5 OPV SIAs and 1 IPV-OPV (20 October) since onset of first case; dialogue with concerned authorities; strong support from national level


## Transmission in Kunduz



Access status


- 1 case from Dast-e-Archi (onset $21^{\text {st }}$ Feb 2017)
- Area: Inaccessible since January 2016
- Response:

- Permanent transit teams in place
- Access gained for house to house vaccination
- 3 Campaigns; first two with expanded age group (<10 years); $3^{\text {rd }}$ with IPV+OPV; Scope of response 5 provinces (>1.7 million children)


## Transmission in Reservoir areas

| District | Transmission | Area character | Spread/ continuation | Response |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kandahar | AFP (Onset on 13 Jan 17) | Refusals, Population movement | ES positive, collected on 26 Jan 17 from Khandak | 4 SIAs (30 Jan, 13 Feb, 27 Feb, 27 <br> March) <br> Focus on addressing refusal families (50\% resolved) |
|  | ES collected on 9 Mar 17 | Population movement | Nil | 3 SIAs (30 Mar, 17 April, 17 May), focus on returnee |
| Nahar-eSaraj | ES collected on 23 Dec 2016 | Population movement, AGE control | Nil | 4 SIAs including 1 expanded age with IPV |
|  | AFP (Onset on 21 Jan 17) | Population movement, AGE control | Nil | 4 SIAs including 1 expanded age with IPV |
| Jalalabad | ES collected on 26 Dec 16 | Population movement | Nil | 4 SIAs (19 Jan, 30 Jan, 27 Feb, 27 Mar), focus on returnee |
|  | ES collected on 24 Jan 17 | Population movement | Nil | 3 SIAs (30 Jan, 27 Feb, 27 Mar), focus on returnee |
|  | ES collected on 25 Mar 17 | Population movement |  | 3 SIAs (30 Mar, 17 April, 17 May), focus on returnee |

## Vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2

- Bermel District, Paktika Province
- Onset: 10 Sep 2016; Nine nucleotide changes in VP1
- Action taken:
- Risk assessment of further spread
- Detailed epidemiological investigation in the area and full clinical examination of the child
- Contact samples (5 direct and 20 community contacts; all negative)
- Search for leftover tOPV; none found
- Enhanced surveillance measures (AFP surveillance reviewed and expanded; training/orientation of all focal persons)
- IPV-OPV campaign conducted from 17 October
- In absence of evidence of local circulation classified as aVDPV2


## Improvement in population immunity

Vaccination status of Non Polio AFP cases 6-59 Months- HR Provinces 2015-2017*


## Indirect evidence of vaccine reach (SL isolation)




## Surveillance

## AFP cases and access status



## AFP surveillance: key indicators






Stool Adequacy



EV Isolation


## Surveillance in access compromised

Non-polio AFP rate areas
\% stool adequacy


\% NPEV isolation

2016
2017

## Expansion of reporting network



1 Dot = 1 reporting volunteer


Reporting volunteers

## Reaching children with vaccine

## Improved quality of SIAs since early 2016

LQAS results, 2016-17


Accepted at 90\%
Accepted at 80\%
Rejected at 80\%

## Improving SIA Quality: LQAS results by province



Accepted at 80\%
Rejected at 80\%

## Major Interventions

- Improving quality in core reservoir area:
- Focus on high risk areas
- 4 NID and 6 SNID in 2016; IPV-OPV campaign in high risk areas
- Microplan revision to ensure all houses are included
$-5^{\text {th }}$ day revisit strategy expanded and consolidated
- Supportive supervision from national level
- Data validation and triangulation
- Third party and remote monitoring
- Use of data for corrective action and tracking from EOC
- Full time ICN for household engagement
- Focus on High risk mobile population
- Identification, mapping and special strategies for reaching
- Implementation of accountability framework


## Focus on high risk areas

- 6 high risk provinces and 49 very high risk districts (VHRDs)
- Focus of all interventions and close supervision from national level
- For all VHRDs: Profiling done, specific issues identified and action plan developed


Intervention Specific for VHRDs

Deployment of district level staff
Deployment of ICN/ CHV
Greater Monitoring and Supervision Focus
District Profile and District Specific Plans
Additional Supportive Strategies: Remote
Monitoring, School Engagement
National Monitors Deployment

## SIAs

- 3 NID and 6 SNID conducted since last IMB
- SNIDs cover all VHRDs, HRDs and high risk provinces
- IPV-OPV SIA:
- Implemented in 44 districts Reaching ~970,000 children
- 25 districts planned for 2017
- fIPV pilot planned in Kabul (May-June 2017)

IPV SIA implementation status



## Microplan revision

- Phase 1: focus on VHRDs; completed in 43 districts-14,000 additional households identified.
- Phase 2:
- Nationwide
- completed in most of the country following March NID
- Rest planned after May NID
- Ongoing revision on basis of GIS information and information on population movement

Status of Phase 2 microplan revision


Example of use of GIS for identifying population movement


## Intensified monitoring

- Expanded scope and quality control of Post campaign monitoring and LQAS:
- 100\% supervisory area monitored in VHRDs and 50\% in other districts
- LQAS in all high risk area, if feasible due to security
- 5\% PCM and $10 \%$ LQAS validated by regional/National level
- Remote monitoring in VHRDs using mobile technology
- Third party monitoring for security compromised areas
- Data from school engagement: reported by school students on whether every under 5 child in their household vaccinated or not.

Sample of Remote Monitoring Survey (Feb-SNIDs)

Question: Did the Vaccination team vaccinated all under 5 children in your house?

## Use of program data

- Intra campaign monitoring (ICM)
- Received on daily basis from VHRDs, analyzed at NEOC and feedback sent to field for corrective action
- Remote monitoring and school engagement:
- Collected on day 3 \& 4 of campaign, shared with field for recovery during revisit
- Areas with failed lots in LQAS
- Detailed investigation for reason and plan for corrective action
- Post campaign review including feedback from National monitors

Analysis sample of ICM Data
Findings from first day of ICM and IVR data, March 2017 NIDs Dear Southern region team colleagues,
Thank you very much for your efforts conducting polio campaigns in the difficult political situations there. NEOC reviewed ICM data collected from Kandahar, UIuzzan, and Zabul provinces as well as data
of intra-campaign monitoring on specific indicators via Interactive Voice Record (IVR) apporoach. The IVR Data was collected from only 73 teams in 14 districts ( 10 VHRDS and 4 non-VHRDs) of four provinces.
National EOC request you to pay attention to address operational issues identified by the data in the forthnoming days of the polio campaign. Issues which cannot be addressed during the campaign should
be discussed in your review and other meetings. We hope to have better polio campaigns in the future.

Points for consideration:

- All vaccinators were trained before the campaign; quality vaccine was used, which are good achievements. We are not aware from the quality of vaccine in Helmand from where use of poor quality vaccine was reported in the last round
* The Rekshahs parade seems interesting.

ICM and IVR coverage:
$*$
. Southern region failed to send ICM checklist data from Helmand and Zaranj.
IVR had the lowest ever collected data from IVR had the lowest ever collected data from SR since its commencement. We request Regional EOC to ask ICMs to submit their reports via IVR on a timely basis. We have serious concern on this issue.
issues to be addressed during the ongoing polio campaigns
IVR

* Overall $95 \%$ of the observed teams were supervised, however its percentage was lower in Helmand Province: Nahrisiraj - $75 \%$;
* The percentage of teams accompanied by social mobilizers was very low all ICN districts except Kandahar Kandahar/Dand, where the percentage was $93 \%$. What are its reasons? We are seriously concern of under-usage of the deployed human resources?
A total of 58 children were reported missed due to no team visit. High
A total of 58 children were reported missed due to no team visit. Highest numbers were to its vaccination in the forthcoming day as well as revisit day vaccination. Please pay attention to its vaccination in the forthcoming day as well as revisit day vaccination.
$95 \%$ of children were observed vaccinated based on finger marks. However, the M coverase
Failed LQAS Lots Investigated

$\square$ No accessible for investigation
■ Not investigated
$\square$ Investigated


## Revisit strategy

- $5^{\text {th }}$ day revisit strategy consolidated
- Gap on day 4 for better planning
- Feeding the data from remote monitoring and schools for focus during revisits


## Supportive supervision

- Joint supportive supervision plan from National and regional level
- National monitors deployed for preparatory, implementation and post campaign phase
- Focal points from National EOC deployed to high risk provinces for closer support


## Accountability framework

- Developed for every level of the program including frontline workers
- Mainly targeting performance indicators rather than outcome indicators
- Falsification of data and misuse of resources gets the highest level of sanctions
- A number of core accountability indicators identified that are followed from national level

Replacements due to chronic underperformance<br>172 PCM monitors, 28 LQAS surveyors in 2017<br>11 DCO, 18 CCS, 61 SM in past 6 months<br>Warnings for to improve performance<br>Appreciation to good performers

## Inaccessible children: May 2016- Mar 17



| Region | May <br> NID | Aug <br> SNID | Aug <br> NID | Oct <br> NID | Nov <br> SNID | Dec <br> SNID | Jan <br> SNID | Feb <br> SNID | Mar <br> NID |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| East | 131,781 | 73,355 | 71,085 | $\mathbf{2 3 , 2 0 4}$ | 24,213 | 17,488 | 19,156 | $\mathbf{1 8 , 9 3 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 1 , 0 0 2}$ |
| North | 3376 | 0 | 0 | 6,206 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NE | 165,333 | 101,434 | 197,192 | 176,377 | 105,539 | 105,024 | 104,200 | 104,280 | 0 |
| South | 22,811 | 49,403 | 28,798 | 141,142 | 120,597 | 18,192 | 78,254 | 12,416 | 40,989 |
| SE | 400 | 1,215 | 12,101 | 46,808 | 13,827 | 12,651 | 1,500 | 20,455 | 24,051 |
| West | 0 | 132,806 | 38,260 | 0 | 0 | 749 | 183,100 | 0 | 12,970 |
| Central | 0 | 0 | 70 | 0 | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 323,701 | 358,213 | 347,507 | 390,373 | 264,251 | 154,178 | 386,207 | $\mathbf{1 5 6 , 0 8 3}$ | 99,012 |

## Addressing inaccessibility

IPV and OPV from nearby health facility

## Quality and Access Team

Polio plus from nearby health facility

PTT at entry / exit points

Areas with active fight

## State of preparedness

Dialogue with all the parties

Recovery once active fight over

3 rounds of SIADs (1 IPV) in newly accessible

## Village level mapping

Dialogues \& community engagement

## Addressing security challenged accessible areas



## High-risk mobile populations

- 2016/2017 shows that mobile population plays crucial role in sustaining and spread of transmission
- Program has identified 4 categories:
- Long distance travel within reservoir areas, e.g.
- Karachi, Quetta block, Kandahar, Helmand, Farah and Faryab
- Straddling population at the border areas
- Paktika, Khost, Nangarhar and Kunar
- Nomadic population
- Within country and inter-country
- Returnee
- Returnee refugees from Pakistan to Afghanistan
- Returnee refugees from Afghanistan to Pakistan
- Specific interventions being done for each of these


## Long distance travel within reservoir

- 2 specific corridors identified
- Eastern corridor (KP-Nangarhar)
- Southern corridor (Quetta-Southern/western AFG)
- Interventions:
- PTTs and CBTs at all major points; modified as per changing scenario
- More emphasis on guest children by vaccinators, SM, supervisors and monitors
- Areas with high population movement being identified and focused (e.g. Loyawala of Kandahar, Nahar-e-saraj of Helmand)


## Permanent Transit Teams



- PTTs increased from 163 in Jan 2016 to 328 in Feb 2017
- On an average ~850,000 children vaccinated per month
- PTT strategy being continuously reviewed and reinforced in security compromised areas
- Age group for vaccination by PTTs expanded to 0-10 years
- PTT microplan revised on monthly basis based on changing security situation


## Cross Border Teams (CBT)



- Age group for vaccination increased to < 10 years
- Average ~85,000 children are vaccinated per month in 2016
- Decline seen in June 2016, due to
- Stricter regulations for crossing border, only with legal documents
- Significant proportion of crossing children vaccinated at IOM zero point, coverage included in returnee population vaccination
- Strengthening of cross border teams on Pakistan side


## Long distance travel within reservoir areas

- Survey being done in VHRDs to identify households with the guest children
- Completed in Eastern region and 2 districts of South/Southeast
- It will be used to focus on guest children during the campaign

Identification of households with the guest children

|  | \# <br> households <br> with special <br> population <br> (as per ICN <br> register) | \# <br> households <br> with AFG <br> returnees | \# <br> households <br> with PAK <br> refugees | \# <br> households <br> with <br> Internally <br> Displaced <br> People (IDP) | Number U5 <br> children <br> belong to <br> Returnees/ <br> Refugees/ID <br> P/ Guests <br> Population | \#HHs belong to Returnees/Refug ees/IDP population [exclude guests] | \#U5 children belong to Returnees/Re fugees/IDP population [exclude guests] | \#HHs with guests | \#U5 guest children |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SR | 3,139 | 628 | 99 | 1,784 | 8,676 | 2,511 | 7,144 | 610 | 1,532 |
| Kandahar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kandahar City | 2,571 | 407 | 71 | 1,536 | 6,866 | 2,014 | 5,555 | 539 | 1,311 |
| Spinboldak | 568 | 221 | 28 | 248 | 1,810 | 497 | 1,589 | 71 | 221 |
| ER | 15,614 | 8,526 | 297 | 5,775 | 52,656 | 14,552 | $\mathbf{5 0 , 0 8 6}$ | 1,073 | 2,570 |
| Kunar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Asadabad | 467 | 118 | 30 | 295 | 1,410 | 442 | 1,366 | 24 | 44 |
| Chapadara | 150 | 41 | 1 | 93 | 487 | 135 | 454 | 17 | 33 |
| Marawara | 141 | 30 |  | 99 | 387 | 129 | 368 | 12 | 19 |
| Pech | 239 | 96 | 14 | 79 | 589 | 189 | 478 | 50 | 111 |
| Shegal | 200 | 108 | 7 | 70 | 603 | 185 | 574 | 15 | 29 |
| Watapoor | 184 | 88 | 7 | 13 | 483 | 108 | 328 | 76 | 155 |
| Nangarhar |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Achin | 570 | 109 |  | 366 | 2,082 | 475 | 1,808 | 97 | 274 |
| Batikot | 773 | 478 | 28 | 253 | 2,858 | 759 | 2,826 | 14 | 32 |
| Beshoud | 6,487 | 4,237 | 65 | 1,953 | 22,035 | 6,250 | 21,480 | 226 | 555 |
| Jalalabad | 3,072 | 1,956 | 49 | 646 | 8,864 | 2,649 | 7,859 | 425 | 1,005 |
| Lalpura | 268 | 61 | 2 | 205 | 976 | 268 | 976 |  | - |
| Momandra | 705 | 238 | 20 | 418 | 2,799 | 676 | 2,664 | 26 | 135 |
| Shinwar | 1,250 | 192 | 49 | 1,017 | 5,665 | 1,253 | 5,657 |  | 8 |
| Surkhrod | 1,108 | 774 | 25 | 268 | 3,418 | 1,034 | 3,248 | 91 | 170 |
| SER | 1,416 | 202 | 419 | 327 | 5,510 | 948 | 3,771 | 620 | 1,739 |
| Khost |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alishir | 876 | 143 | 135 | 240 | 3,562 | 518 | 2,189 | 466 | 1,373 |
| Gurbaz | 540 | 59 | 284 | 87 | 1,948 | 430 | 1,582 | 154 | 366 |
| Grand Total | 20,169 | 9,356 | 815 | 7,886 | 66,842 | 18,011 | 61,001 | 2,303 | 5,841 |

## Long distance travel within reservoir areas



## Straddling population across border



Southeast region


- Populations with frequent cross border movement (East, Southeast and South)
- Mapping of straddling populations including relations
- Strategically placed cross border teams to vaccinate straddling populations
- High refusal amongst these populations, particularly in Swatis \& Waziris
- Close cross-border coordination for resolving refusals; fatwas from religious leaders followed by these populations


## Nomadic population

Nomad Movement pattern/seasonality, SER


Returnee/Nomad settlement, ER


- Close coordination with Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs
- Nomads have defined movement patterns and seasonality, mapping done
- Specific strategies deployed as per movement patterns in South, Southeast, East, West and Central region
- Nomadic campaigns in Southeast - August (>43,000 children vaccinated
- Seasonal Nomad Teams in South - Sept-Nov (>83,000 children vaccinated)


## Afghan returnee refugees




- Programme working in close coordination with UNHCR, IOM, OCHA and NGOs
- Sudden surge in Afghan returnee population from Pakistan since July 2016
- Returnees vaccinated with IPV, OPV \& measles vaccines at UNHCR \& IOM centers
- Surge in returnees declined since November 2016; resumed in April 2017
- Vaccination activities strengthened to cater to the surge


## Afghan returnee refugees

- Place of settlement of returnee being identified
- UNHCR/IOM data
- Survey before campaign for new settlement
- House to house survey in selected areas
- More than 750,000 returnees identified

IOM Assisted


UNHCR Assisted


## Communication focus \& priorities



Branding, advertising \& 'edu-tainment' and local media


## Immunization Communication network

## Household and community engagement to

 build trust- Maintain a register of households \& < five children
- Focus on reducing missed children during/between SIAs, including tracking chronically missed children
- Tracking of guests - and place of origin within/outside Afghanistan (returnees, IDPs, etc) to feed into HRSP analysis
- Promoting a broader package including routine immunization referral, hygiene and sanitation in between campaigns
- Part of the microplanning process to ensure strong links with operations
- Implemented outbreak response campaign in Jalalabad

Campaign Week
Accompanying vaccinators:
IPC and missed children


Monthly workflow of a full-time social mobiliser

## ICN reducing still missed children

Nearly 80\% of absent children
recovered during catch up activities



## ICN focus on reducing refusals during Catch-up

Vaccinated 34\% refusals in Dec 2016 and 39\% refusals in Feb 2017


## PEI support to EPI

- Registration and follow up on RI by ICN/CHV
- Supporting revision of RI microplans
- Monitoring and feedback on outreach and fixed RI session
- PEI staff giving 20\% of time for EPI



## Risks/remaining challenges

- Risk of continuation or spread of transmission in Kunduz to neighboring previously inaccessible areas
- Risk of re-establishment of transmission in southern region
- Remaining inaccessible areas particularly in Eastern and Southeastern region. On and off bans/threat of bans in some areas of South and West region
- High risk mobile populations: Long distance travellers, nomads, straddling population and returnees
- Relatively under-immunized and potential of carrying transmission from one area to other
- Pockets of unreached children in accessible core reservoir areas/VHRDs


## Way forward (1)

- Full implementation of TAG recommendations and NEAP 2016-2017 with systematic tracking from national level.
- Robust outbreak response to Kunduz case and any new transmission.
- Continue improvement of quality of SIA in VHRDs:
- Complete microplan revision
- Fully implement SOP for FLW selection, increasing females in teams
- Systematically address cluster of missed children due to refusals or not available
- Continue data triangulation/validation and use for corrective action
- Full implementation of accountability framework
- Use of ICN for reaching missed children


## Way forward (2)

- Continue dialogue for access in remaining inaccessible area and implement 3 passage of SIAD including one with IPVOPV in newly accessible areas.
- Identification of pockets of unreached children and rapidly address the gaps
- Fully implement strategies for high risk mobile population in coordination with Pakistan
- Identification and mapping of Nomads, returnee refugees, long distance travellers and straddling population at border
- Focus for vaccination during movement and at the point of settlement
- Maintain sensitive surveillance system with disaggregate data analysis for access. Expansion of ES to Herat, Mazar and Kunduz
- Involvement of BPHS partners further strengthened in accountable manner


## Thank you

