POLIO SNAPSHOT
AFGHANISTAN
AUGUST 2019

3 WPV CASES IN AUGUST
15 TOTAL WPV CASES IN 2019
3 POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN AUGUST
5.1M CHILDREN VACCINATED IN AUGUST
6,243 SOCIAL MOBILIZERS
2,153 FEMALE SOCIAL MOBILIZERS
806 PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS
18 CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION POINTS

Data as of 31 August 2019
POLIO TRANSMISSION
- Three new wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases were reported in August.
- The Regional Rapid Response Team conducted an epidemiological investigation in response to the isolation of these new WPV1 cases.

AFP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE
- 154 acute flaccid paralysis cases (67 girls and 87 boys) were reported in August. Overall, 2,435 AFP cases have been reported in 2019, of which 2,173 have been discarded as "non-polio" and 247 cases are pending classification.
- In all regions, the non-polio AFP rate is above 11, stool adequacy above 89%, and non-polio enterovirus ranges between 11 - 19%.
- Three WPV1 positive environmental samples were confirmed from Kandahar (2) and Hilmand (1) in August.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES
- August 5-7, polio vaccination campaign across the country vaccinated 5.1m children under 5 with OPV in 226 districts of 27 provinces against polio.

COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES
- 18 cross-border vaccination points, 49 cross-border teams & 806 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in August 2019.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,579,581 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 160,046 children against polio.
- 2,727 children under 10 were given OPV and 446 children were vaccinated with IPV respectively in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in August.
- 8,165 international travelers were vaccinated in August in compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- 15,196 returnee children received OPV, 3,136 returnee children received IPV since January 2019.

CONCERNING EMERGENCY
TAG, the Technical Advisory Group meeting on polio eradication programme in Afghanistan convened on 26 - 25 August to assess eradication progress, challenges and make recommendations for way forward for the programme activities. Click here for full story.

Immunization and communication network Achievements in August 2019
ICN worked diligently across the country in collaboration with religious scholars and madrassas to address constraints on the way of polio vaccination. Some of the achievements are as follows:
- ICN religious mobile teams in Kandahar worked with 924 vaccine refusal families and successfully encouraged 459 families to change stance and accept vaccination.
- In eastern Afghanistan, the ICN was able to resolve 35% of refusal cases.
- ICN was able to mobilize 8,075 community influencers to take part in awareness raising in support of immunization campaign in communities in the east.
- In the south east, ICN was able to successfully encourage and vaccinate 121 children in refusal families.
- In the west, ICN mobilized 32 community influencers to mobilize communities in support of polio vaccination.
- In the central region, 1,824 children in refusal families were successfully encouraged and vaccinated. On the other hand, 41 percent of absent children were located and vaccinated.