POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN
OCTOBER 2019

WPV CASES IN OCTOBER: 4
TOTAL WPV CASES IN 2019: 20
POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN OCTOBER: 7
CHILDREN VACCINATED IN OCTOBER: 5.41M
SOCIAL MOBILIZERS: 6,243
FEMALE SOCIAL MOBILIZERS: 2,153
PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS: 833
CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION POINTS: 18

Data as of 31 October 2019
• Four new wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases were reported in October.

• The Regional Rapid Response Team conducted an epidemiological investigation in response to the isolation of four new WPV1 cases.

**POLIO TRANSMISSION**

• 171 acute flaccid paralysis cases (83 girls and 88 boys) were reported in October. Overall 3,047 AFP cases have been reported in 2019, of which 2,809 have been discarded as “non-polio” and 218 cases are pending classification.

• In all regions, the non-polio AFP rate is above 11, stool adequacy above 91%, and non-polio enterovirus ranges between 11 - 24.

• Seven new WPV1 positive environmental samples were confirmed from Kandahar, Helmand and Nangarhar in October.

**AFP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE**

• 18 cross-border vaccination points, 49 cross-border teams & 833 permanent transit teams were operational across Afghanistan in October 2019.

• Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,832,016 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 162,872 children against polio in October 2019.

• 2,200 children under 10 were given OPV and 361 children were vaccinated with IPV respectively in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in October.

• 10,836 international travelers were vaccinated in October in compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR).

• 19,833 returnee children received OPV, 3,931 returnee children received IPV since January 2019.

**SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES**

October 14-18, campaign was conducted across the country, vaccinating 5.41m children under 5 with OPV in 303 districts of 31 provinces against polio.

**COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES**

• 17 years, 15 years, 13 years, 11 years… meet the people who live to eradicate polio in Afghanistan

RAHIM KHAN, 17 YEARS OF DEDICATION

“For the past 17 years, I have worked hard for polio eradication. I take my work as a very high commitment and dedicate as much efforts as I can to my daily work, especially during a campaign. I get very distressed and pained when I hear about a new polio case, I feel as if I failed to save my own child from paralysis”, said Rahim Khan, district coordinator for the central Jalalabad city for the polio programme.

Rahim Khan said this when he found out about the new case of polio from Khugiani district of Nangarhar Province.

Rahim Khan starts to prepare for field work around 6AM everyday. He knows the communities in Jalalabad city like the back of his hand. Rahim Khan started to work for the programme as a volunteer vaccinator in 2002. Diligent and responsible, he quickly became a supervisor and monitor before progressing to become a district coordinator. During the 17 years of his career, he has trained hundreds of thousands of polio field workers including: vaccinators, supervisors and coordinators. People in multiple communities under his supervision look up to him and respect him for what he does. Read full story here