

POLIO SNAPSHOT

AFGHANISTAN
FEBRUARY 2019



GHORAK district
1 WPV

SPIN BOLDAK district
1 WPV



1
WPV CASE IN FEBRUARY

2
TOTAL WPV CASE IN 2019

5
POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES
IN JANUARY

5.8M
CHILDREN TARGETED IN FEBRUARY
SNID

8,646

SOCIAL MOBILIZERS
(3,046 urban workers, 5,800 rural workers)

2,123

FEMALE SOCIAL MOBILIZERS
(Overall 24% female)

546
PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS

17
CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION
POINTS

242,854
CHILDREN INACCESSIBLE IN
FEBRUARY



POLIO TRANSMISSION

- One new wild poliovirus (WPV1) case was reported in February.
- The National Rapid Response Team conducted an epidemiological investigation in response to the detection of the WPV1 case reported from Ghorak district of Kandahar Province.



AFP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

- 287 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases (123 girls and 164 boys) were reported in February. Overall in 2019, 590 AFP cases have been reported, of which 379 have been discarded as “non-polio AFP” and 209 cases are pending classification.
- In all regions, the Non-polio AFP rate is above 8, stool adequacy above 87%, and non-polio enterovirus rate ranges from 4-21.
- Five WPV1 positive environmental samples were reported in February, four from Kandahar province and one from Nangarhar province.



SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

- A sub-national campaign was conducted from February 18 in 195 districts of 20 provinces.
- Site-to-site campaigns were carried out as a contingency plan in areas where house-to-house campaigns were banned, though 242,854 children under five remain inaccessible in February.



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 17 cross-border vaccination points, 42 cross-border teams and 546 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in February 2019.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,021,605 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 75,807 children against polio in February.
- 511 children were given OPV and 112 children were vaccinated with IPV respectively in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in February.
- 13,836 international travelers were vaccinated in January in compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- 1,474 returnee children received OPV, 363 returnee children received IPV since January 2019.

Crossing the finish line for polio eradication in Afghanistan

We are almost there! We can see the finish line – the goal we have been pursuing for so long – a world without polio. Over the last three decades, there has been a 99.9% decrease in wild poliovirus cases across the globe. How? Because the world came together. From parents to governments, from community leaders to the United Nations, we worked together to put an end to this crippling and highly infectious disease. However, despite the major global investment, we are now in 2019 and yet to cross the finish line to 100% eradicate the disease. So, what is happening? We knew the last mile wouldn't be an easy path, but should it be this hard? To answer these questions, it is worth looking back at the achievements so far and understanding challenges that we are facing today. Read [UNICEF's article](#) on 2018 polio eradication effort, strategic shift in 2019 and whether we are on the right path to eradicate polio.



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