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WPV CASES IN SEPTEMBER

16

TOTAL WPV CASES IN 2019

7

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN SEPTEMBER

6.1M

CHILDREN VACCINATED IN SEPTEMBER

6,243

SOCIAL MOBILIZERS

2,153

FEMALE SOCIAL MOBILIZERS

788

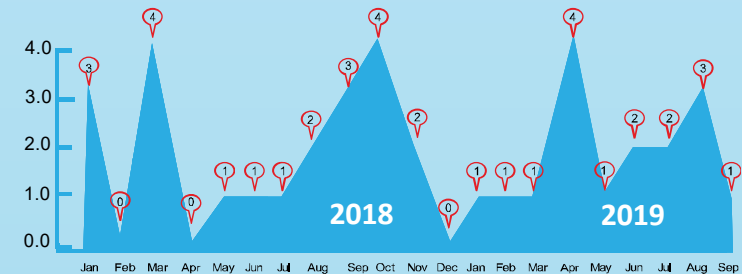
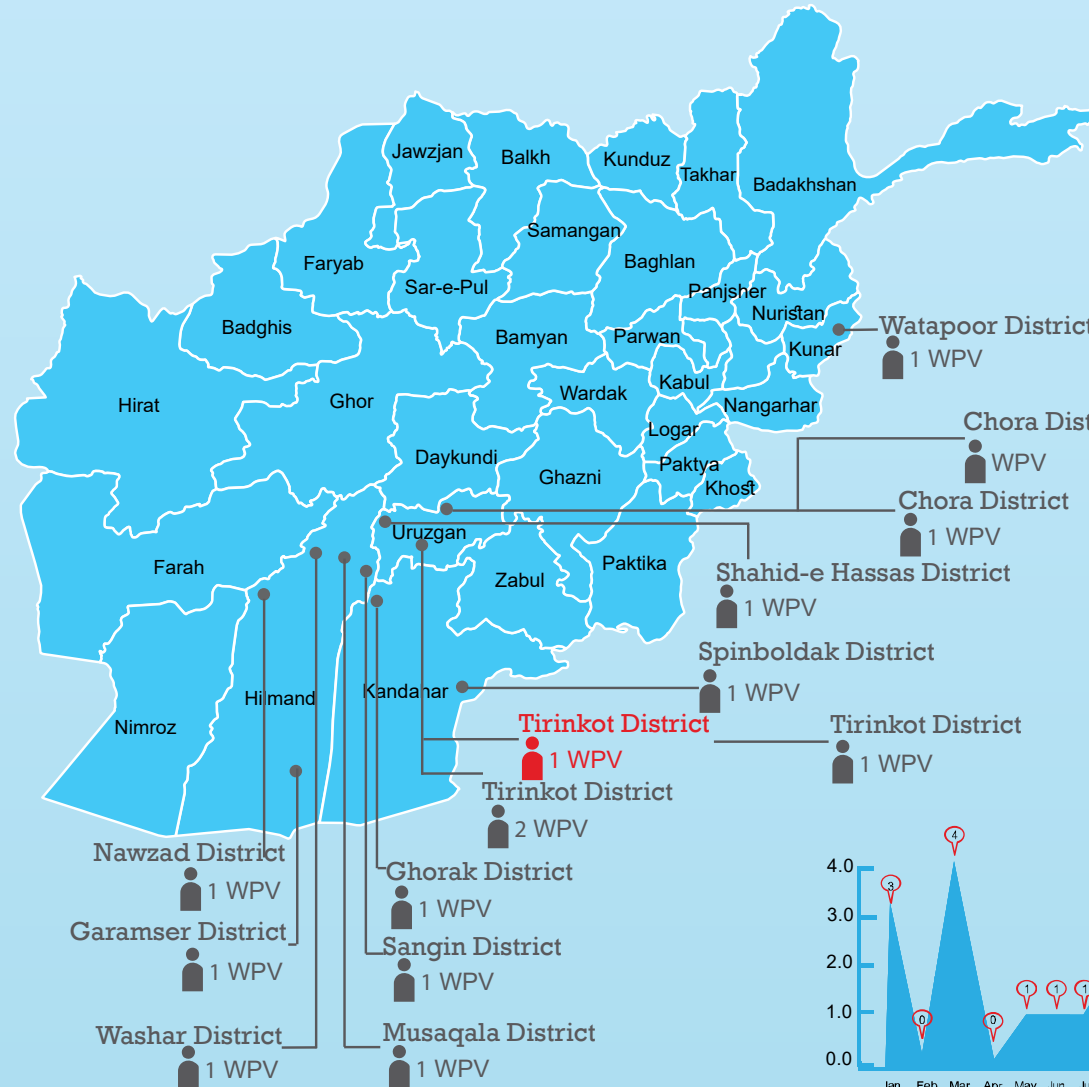
PERMANENT TRANSIT TEAMS

18

CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION POINTS



POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN SEPTEMBER 2019



Data as of 30 September 2019

WILD POLIOVIRUS CASE COUNT 2018-2019



POLIO TRANSMISSION

- One new wild poliovirus (WPV1) case was reported in September.
- The Regional Rapid Response Team conducted an epidemiological investigation in response to the isolation of one new WPV1 case.



AFP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

- 204 acute flaccid paralysis cases (101 girls and 103 boys) were reported in September. Overall 2,775 AFP cases have been reported in 2019, of which 2,466 have been discarded as “non-polio” and 293 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 10 - 22.
- Seven WPV1 positive environmental samples were confirmed from Kandahar, Hilmand and Nangarhar in September.



SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

- September 14-17, campaign was conducted across the country, vaccinating 6.1m children under 5 with OPV in 248 districts of 32 provinces against polio.



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 18 cross-border vaccination points, 49 cross-border teams & 788 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in September 2019.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 1,428,845 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 164,692 children against polio in September.
- 3,032 children under 10 were given OPV and 541 children were vaccinated with IPV respectively in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in September.
- 8,263 international travelers were vaccinated in September in compliance to the International Health Regulations (IHR).
- 18,228 returnee children received OPV, 3,677 returnee children received IPV since January 2019.

Social mobilizers building trust with communities through health referral system

Until recently, 29 years old Shagufa from Baladi village in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province, had never vaccinated her two children of seven and four years old. Her family belonged to stream of vaccine refusals who had strong misconceptions about polio vaccination.

“My husband was against polio vaccination, he believed that polio vaccine would affect fertility of our children,” said Shagufa.

Ms. Malina a social mobilizer under Immunization Communication Network (ICN) was a frequent visitor at Shagufa’s home. It was part of her work to persuade families to vaccinate their children against polio.

“My work is to educate the community about the dangers of polio virus and the importance of vaccinating the children,” explained Ms. Malina, who is also the cluster supervisor for Surkhrod district.

“Although, the family was adamant to vaccinate their children, but I continued to persuade them during my visits.”

One day, Shagufa became ill and needed urgent medical attention because she was pregnant. The husband was away and fortunately, Ms. Malina found her while on her regular visits. She immediately referred her to the nearest health facility.

“I was worried about my pregnancy,” explained Shagufa. “I went to the Bakhtan health centre, where I presented the referral sheet. I was treated for free and vaccinated against tetanus.” She continued.

“When my husband returned, I told him how the social mobiliser referred me to get treatment at the clinic. He was thankful, and this is what convinced us to start vaccinating our children.”



Immunization and communication network achievements, September 2019

- During targeted catch up days under social mobilization efforts in September 44,280 (out of total 106,497) absent and missing children were immunized.
- Southern Afghanistan continues to record the highest number of missing children. 74,875 Children were missing in September campaign in south, 40% of them were recovered during the catchup days.
- Total 44,861 children and families received health service referral vouchers by social mobilisers for routine immunization. Out of those, total - 24,621 children (54%) have utilized the services at health facilities.
- To develop evidence based key messages and action plan, UNICEF conducted communication research in southern region. Initial findings indicate the need for addressing vaccine uptake from religious perspective, especially the view of Islam on vaccine substance. Other findings include the dominance of religious radio stations and the rise of social media with links to rumors which requires special strategy.



UNICEF
Mohammed Mohammedi
mmohammedi@unicef.org

WHO
Dr. Mufti Zubair Wadood
wadoodm@who.int



/WHOafghanistan
/poliofreeafghanistan
/afghanistanunicef



@UNICEFAfg
@WHOafghanistan
@PolioFreeAfgha1



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