

2

WPV1 CASES IN OCTOBER 2020

53

WPV1 CASES IN 2020

4

WPV1 POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN OCTOBER 2020

9.9M

CHILDREN TARGETED IN OCTOBER 2020

52,086

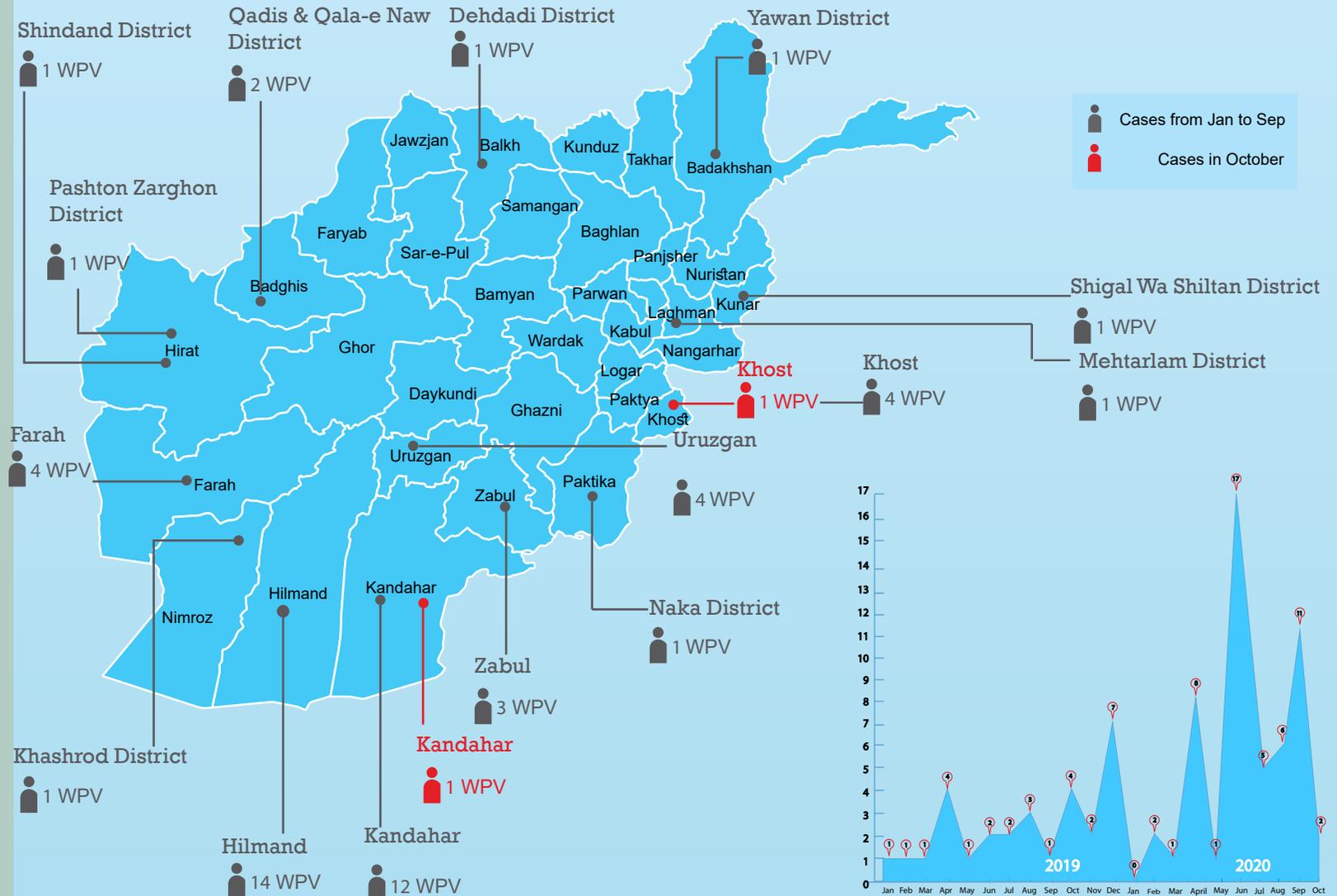
SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES REPORTED UPTO END OF OCTOBER 2020

101,677

SURVEILLANCE NETWORK MEMBERS AND FRONTLINE POLIO WORKERS TRAINED IN DETECTING AND REPORTING COVID-19 CASES

POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN

OCTOBER 2020





POLIO TRANSMISSION

- 2 new cases of Wild Polio Virus (WPV1) were confirmed in October 2020 1 from Kandahar, and 1 from Khost province



AFP ENVIRONMENTAL & COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

- 236 children with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) - 108 females and 128 males - were reported in October 2020. A total of 3,147 AFP cases have been reported since the beginning of 2020. Of this 2,633 cases have been discarded as non-polio. About 338 cases are pending final classification
- The non-polio AFP rate remained above 10, stool adequacy stood above 89%, and non-polio enterovirus rate ranged between 7-18% in all regions
- 4 new WPV1 positive environmental samples were confirmed in October 2020

PEI support to COVID-19 Jan-Sep 2020

- 52,086 suspected cases of COVID-19 were reported, of which 8,552 tested positive
- 5,274 government and NGO partners were trained
- 102,591 health professional (including paramedics/nurses) were trained
- 193,151 community and religious influencers were reached for training and support



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 54 cross-border teams and 378 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in October 2020. These teams vaccinated 78,286 and 520,208 children respectively
- Since the beginning of 2020, a total of 9,075 and 773 children were vaccinated with OPV and IPV in UNHCR and IOM repatriation centres. Of these 1,692 children under the age of 10 were vaccinated with OPV in UNHCR repatriation centres in October 2020

WORLD POLIO DAY 2020 CELEBRATED

- KABUL, 24 October 2020 – As the world commemorated World Polio Day, the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF, WHO and partners took a moment to recognise the tremendous efforts made by polio eradication frontline workers, who continue to work under difficult and challenging conditions to reach every child.
- “Today, as we mark World Polio Day, let’s remember the number of children whose lives have been ravaged by polio, and many who live in insecure and inaccessible areas and continue to miss essential vaccinations,” said Dr Ahmad Jawad Osmani, acting Minister of Public Health. “COVID-19 has disrupted health services across the country, including polio campaigns, and as a result the number of polio cases have increased. We must scale up our efforts to reach every child. I’m calling on all parents and guardians to vaccinate children during the upcoming campaign,” Dr Osmani added.
- Nationwide polio campaigns resumed for the first time in October since the COVID-19 epidemic first disrupted all health services. The national campaign scheduled for 26–30 October 2020 targeted about 9.9 million children under the age of 5. Frontline workers were armed with protective gear to avoid the risk of COVID-19 transmission.



Key communication activities

- 3,622 social mobilisers and 471 Female Mobiliser Vaccinator (FMVs) of the Immunization Communication Network (ICN) reached more than 900,000 caregivers through polio, COVID-19 and mother and child health promotion messages
- The polio programme increased the number of females in supervisory positions within the ICN from 129 to 133
- 31,356 children (52% of the 59,525 originally referred) received routine immunisation (RI) through the support of the ICN. The FMVs supported RI of 115,000 children and 42,000 women with tetanus TT vaccine at the health facilities in the west, south, south east and east regions. The ICN also successfully vaccinated 8,387 children from families that had previously refused polio vaccinations
- 3,500 local authorities’ representatives were engaged by the ICN to address refusals, support the campaign announcements and investigate the whereabouts of children who missed the polio vaccination due to being absent during house visits by the vaccinators
- 431,000 females attended polio and maternal and new born child health (MNCH) awareness sessions organised by the FMVs. A total of 34,700 such sessions were held in the west, east, south and south east regions
- 67 local journalists from the south and east regions attended polio situation briefs and orientations on reporting about polio effectively
- 100 radio and 34 TV discussions in the west, east, south and south east regions focused on the polio vaccine acceptance, routine immunisation and mother and child health messages
- Polio awareness public service announcements were aired nationwide on Radio (11,000 times) and TV (1,660 times) ahead of the immunisation campaign to promote vaccine uptake
- The polio messages on the Polio Free Afghanistan Facebook page reached up to 2 million users during October 2020



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