

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

January 2021

پاکستان انسداد پولیو پروگرام
PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME



PAKISTAN POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

40 Million
average no. of children < 5 targeted during NIDs

285,000
frontline workers

62%
of frontline workers are female

2,100
social mobilizers

WPV1 + cVDPV2 Cases:

• Every month, surveillance system report, investigate and confirm poliovirus cases. In January, the first case of WPV1 of the year has been confirmed in a child from Balochistan. The geographical representation of this case is as below as below:

◦ **Balochistan:** Killa Abdullah (1)

• The surveillance system also confirmed emergence of two cVDPV2 cases in January 2021. Of the two cases, one is from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the other one is from Balochistan. The geographical representation of these cases is as below as below:

◦ **Balochistan:** Killa Saifullah (1)

◦ **KP:** Nowshera (1)

Campaigns in January 2021:

• Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme launched a five-day National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaign from 11-15 January 2021. During the campaign, the polio teams were able to vaccinate 39.6 million children aged under 5 years, all across Pakistan. A supplementary dose of Vitamin A was also administered to more than 36 million children aged 6 to 59 months to help build general immunity of children. This was the first campaign of the year.

• During the January NIDs, around 285,000 polio frontline workers visited parents and caregivers at their doorstep, adhering to strict COVID-19 precautionary measures and protocols while vaccinating the children. These measures included, for example, wearing a mask, using hand sanitizer and maintaining a safe distance during the vaccination.

Additional activities:

• The National Emergency Operation Centre Coordinator, Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar, participated in WHO's 148th Executive Board meeting which was held online from 18-26 January 2021. In the meeting, Dr Rana apprised the forum on the achievements of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme in 2020. He informed the forum that despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the country had successfully vaccinated millions of children through seven high-quality immunization campaigns. Pakistan was appreciated for its efforts to swiftly resume essential health services during the pandemic.

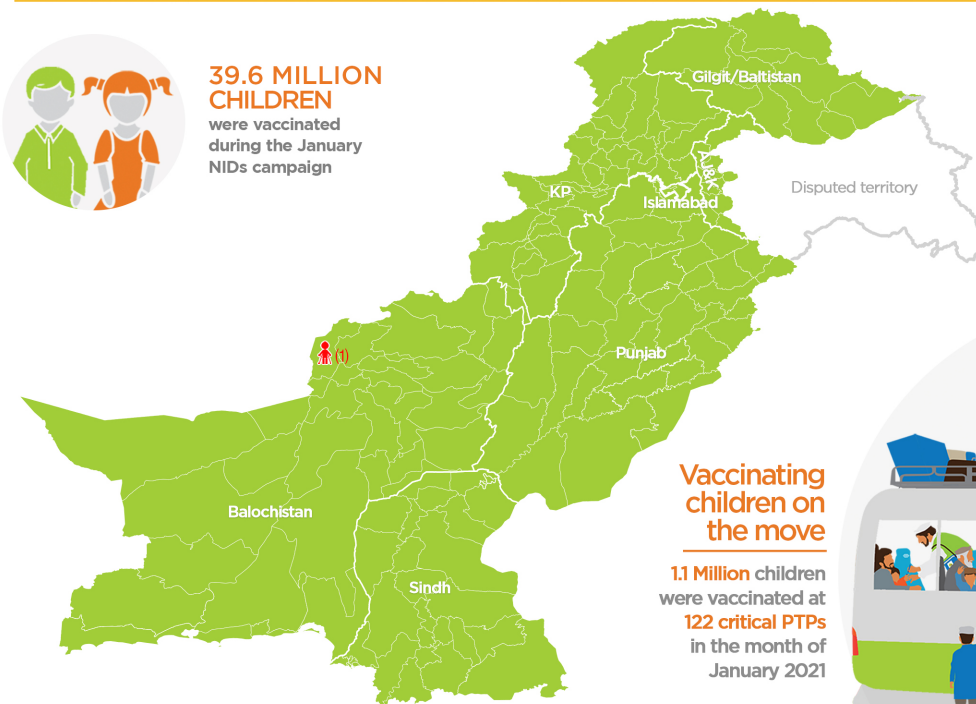
• Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan teams conducted a consultative session to deliberate on the use of a new polio vaccine, nOPV, and the regulatory requirements on 15 January 2021. The session, facilitated by WHO, was attended by senior members of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme and Extended Programme on Immunization.

• A virtual Crisis Communication workshop was organized for the national and provincial communication teams on 22-23 January 2021. The primary objective of the workshop was to refresh crisis management skills of the teams. It also facilitated the writing of a comprehensive Crisis Communication Strategy for the programme.

• Provincial Taskforce (PTFs) meetings were organized in the provinces ahead of the campaign to review the status of campaign preparedness and planning. All provincial stakeholders assured their full support and cooperation to the campaign in their respective provinces.



39.6 MILLION CHILDREN
were vaccinated during the January NIDs campaign



Vaccinating children on the move

1.1 Million children were vaccinated at **122 critical PTPs** in the month of January 2021

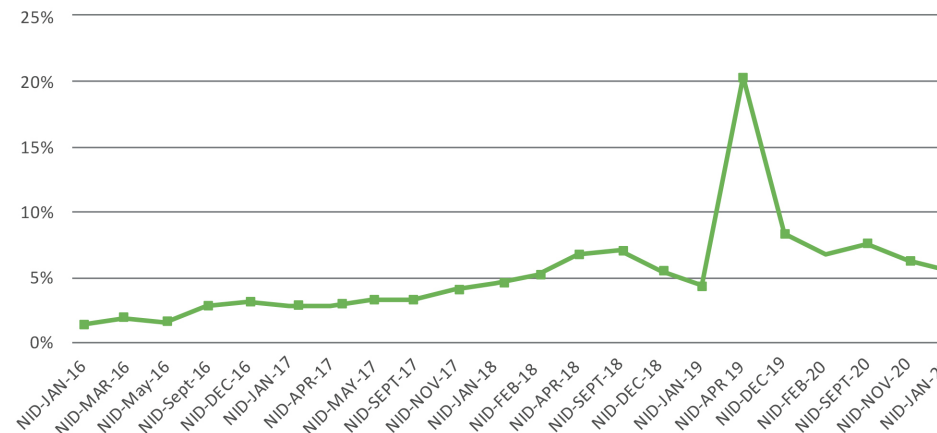


National Immunisation Days (NIDs) Campaign

Wild Poliovirus Case (2021)

Coverage of Children Not Reached During Campaigns

Percentage of Still Missed Children (Out of Target) in Tier 1 Districts during NIDs (2016-2021)



No. of wild polio cases		Proportion of positive environmental samples		No. of infected districts (WPV1 cases, environmental samples)	
January 2020	January 2021	January 2020	January 2021	January 2020	January 2021
18	01	60%	34%	33	17
0	0	0%	0%	0	0
0	0	100%	100%	1	1
1	0	44%	42%	4	5
5	0	94%	20%	17	3
10	0	15%	21%	5	2
2	1	75%	54%	6	6
0	0	0%	0%	0	0

*Point in time comparison; data as of 17 February 2021. Copyright: NEOC/2021

