

PAKISTAN POLIO UPDATE

March 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:

- In the month of March, no new wild poliovirus (WPV1) case was confirmed in Pakistan. The case count of WPV1 remained one, as of 31 March 2021.
- There have been no confirmed cVDPV2 cases in the month of March 2021. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in Pakistan is six, as of 31 March 2021. The geographical distribution of these six cases is as follows:
 - Punjab:** DG Khan (1)
 - KP:** Nowshera (1)
 - Sindh:** Shikarpur (1), Sukkur (1)
 - Balochistan:** Pishin (1), Killa Saifullah (1)

Campaigns in March 2021:

- The Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme launched a National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaign from 29 March to 2 April 2021, to vaccinate over 40 million children across Pakistan. The campaign was formally inaugurated on 26 March at the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) in Islamabad. The Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan joined the inauguration event virtually, while the NEOC Coordinator, Dr Shahzad Asif Baig, the Country Representative of World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Palitha Mahipala and the Country Representative of UNICEF, Ms Aida Girma, inaugurated the campaign, by giving polio drops to the children. Also, the participants reiterated their support to the campaign.
- During the March NIDs, a workforce of 285,000 frontline workers administered anti-polio vaccine to 37.7 million children under the age of five years in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Whereas, the campaign in Balochistan was rescheduled to the second week of April 2021 due to a strike by government workers, to

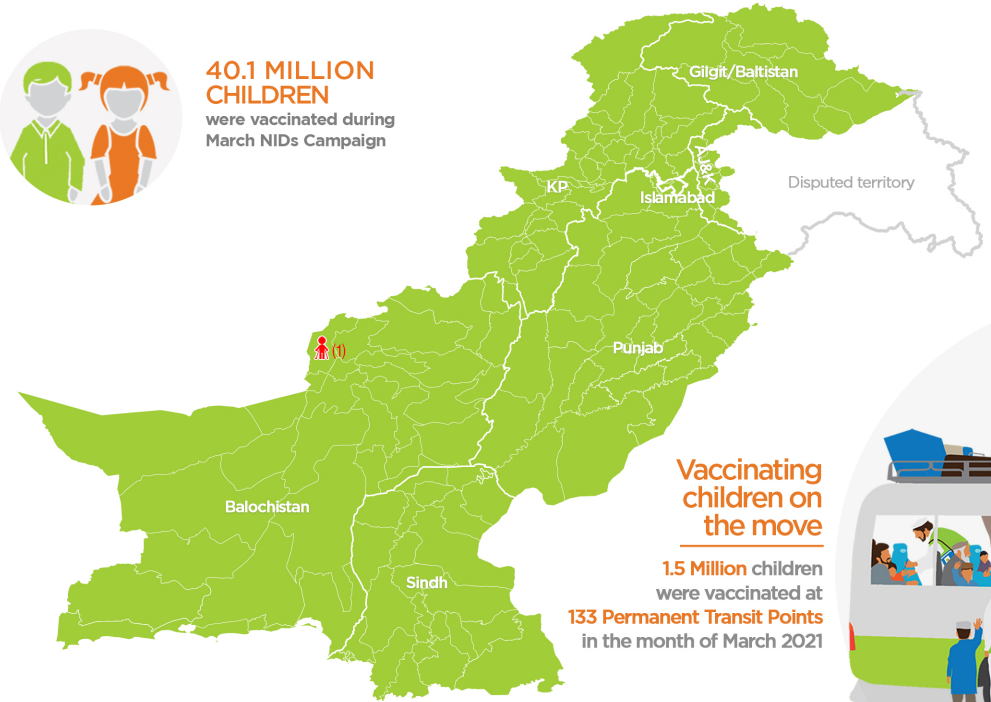
vaccinate over 2.4 million children across the province. In March NIDs, strict COVID-19 protective measures were adopted by the polio teams to ensure the safety and security of the children, caregivers and communities.

Additional activities:

- Several Provincial Taskforce (PTFs) meetings were held in all provinces ahead of the campaign, to review the status of campaign preparedness. The NEOC Coordinator, Dr Shahzad Asif Baig participated in the Provincial Scholars Taskforce (PSTF) meeting in Peshawar. The meeting was chaired by the Provincial Health Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and attended by the Provincial Chief Secretary, Secretary Health, and the Deputy Commissioner. On this occasion, the NEOC Coordinator apprised the PSTF members on the efforts taken by the programme to achieve the targets of March NIDs amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlighting the issue of still missed children in KP, the NEOC Coordinator asked for the enhanced support of the forum in some of the low performing districts, including Peshawar, Lakki Marwat and Khyber. All PSTF members reassured their full support and cooperation for the effective implementation of the March NIDs in the province.
- As part of campaign preparedness for March NIDs, the Federal Training Unit organized virtual trainings for Divisional and Provincial Master Trainers who further cascaded the trainings for the field staff across the country. During these trainings, the participants including the Union Council Medical Officers and Area In Charges, received detailed orientation on various key campaign activities. This time, the trainees were trained with the introduction of the "Stall Method", a new technique used to improve practical skills, and a standardized toolkit was provided for all trainings. The toolkit ensured that trainers had all required materials to deliver high-quality sessions.



40.1 MILLION CHILDREN
were vaccinated during March NIDs Campaign



Vaccinating children on the move

1.5 Million children were vaccinated at **133 Permanent Transit Points** in the month of March 2021

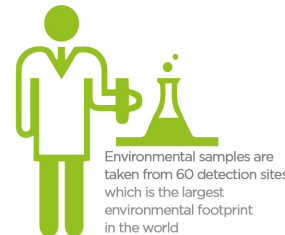
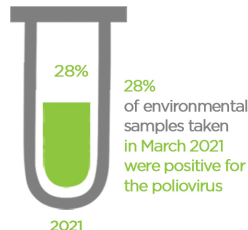
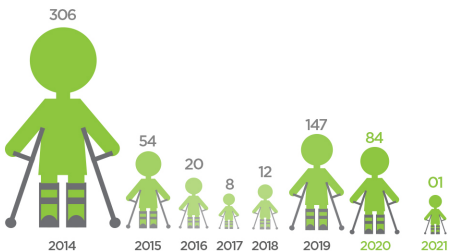


National Immunisation Days (NIDs) Campaign

Wild Poliovirus Case (2021)

No. of wild polio cases		Proportion of positive environmental samples		No. of infected districts (WPV1 cases, environmental samples)	
March 2020	March 2021	March 2020	March 2021	March 2020	March 2021
47	1	62%	27%	50	19
0	0	0%	0%	0	0
0	0	0%	0%	0	0
0	0	33%	100%	1	1
1	0	53%	24%	8	5
17	0	91%	20%	21	4
19	0	21%	16%	9	3
10	1	80%	46%	11	6

*Point in time comparison; data as of 19 April 2021. Copyright: NEOC/2021



Coverage of Children Not Reached During Campaigns

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

