WPV1 and cVDPV2 cases in April 2021
- 5 cVDPV2 cases
- 0 WPV1 cases

Total WPV1 and cVDPV2 cases in 2021
- 38 cVDPV2 cases in 2021
- 1 WPV1 case in 2021
No new Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) cases and 5 new cVDPV2 cases were confirmed in April 2021.

**AFP ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE**

- 356 children with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) - 168 females and 188 males - were reported in April 2021. A total of 1,427 AFP cases have been reported since the beginning of 2021. Of these, 1,176 cases have been discarded as non-polio. About 215 cases are pending final classification.
- The non-polio AFP rate remained above 8, stool adequacy stood above 86%, and non-polio enterovirus rate ranged between 6-14% in all regions.
- No new WPV1 positive environmental sample and 6 new cVDPV2 positive environmental samples were confirmed in April 2021.

**COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES**

- 15 cross-border vaccination points, 51 cross-border teams and 128 permanent transit sites (PTTs) were operational in April 2021.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 564,923 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 114,432 children against polio in April 2021.
- 310 children under 10 were given OPV in UNHCR repatriation centers and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in April 2021.
- Between Jan to end of April, 2,384 returnee children were vaccinated with OPV and 187 children with IPV, respectively.

**PEI support to COVID-19 till end of April 2021**

- 77,152 suspected cases of COVID-19 were reported, of which 9,375 tested positive.
- 6,088 government and NGO partners were trained on COVID-19 surveillance.
- 136,178 health professional (Including paramedics/nurses) were trained on COVID-19 surveillance.
- 251,279 community and religious influencers were reached for support and training.

**Key communication activities**

- 923 local governance representatives, including directorates, wakil guzars, and maliks and an additional 424 religious influencers were engaged by frontline workers (FLWs) in the south, south-east, west and north-east regions to address refusals, and raise awareness on polio and vaccination in their neighbourhoods.
- 580,586 caregivers and parents were engaged in polio, health promotion and COVID-19 prevention awareness sessions by the Immunization Communication Network (ICN workers - 2,671 members, including 489 female mobilizer vaccinators - FMVs), and 16 community engagement promoters.
- ICN referred 44,963 mothers and children in the south region, and 760 mothers and children in the northeast region for routine immunization and other health services using referral vouchers. Of those, 22,726 (49%) used services during April 2021, including 17,278 mothers and children who received routine immunization (RI).
- 6,379 elderly females household members who have potential influence in decision making in families were reached with health education messages on polio vaccination, RI and COVID-19 prevention in west and south regions in April 2021.
- 445 female and 64 male clients in health facilities and girl’s schools in the west received health promotion messages from 15 community engagement promoters in April 2021.
- 29 round table discussions (radio 21 and TV 8) were held across the country, and total 5,460 minutes of radio airing time and 729 minutes of TV airing time were used to promote polio vaccination via 144 radio channels and a total of 47 TV channels across the country in April. On the other hand, 68 TV and radio news reports were aired on national media during the same month.
- Social media messaging was conducted including production and distribution of 12 short videos on polio free Afghanistan social media pages, with facebook having highest total reach of 7.7 million in April 2021, with post reach of 3.4 million, showing a 15% increase.

**Door to door...**

Imagine not having electricity.
Or education.
Or sharing a precarious water supply with the community.
Imagine you can’t go to hospital because it’s too difficult to get there.

The community of semi-nomads – known as Kuchi living on the outskirts of Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan, don’t need to imagine. They live this reality every day.

But against this challenging backdrop of deprivation, they do have something.
They have resilience.
They have hope.
And they believe in the power of two drops of polio vaccine to keep their children safe. full story