

0 WPV1 | **0** cVDPV2
POLIO CASES IN FEBRUARY 2023

0 WPV1 | **0** cVDPV2
POLIO CASES IN 2023

9
**WPV1 POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT
 SAMPLES IN FEBRUARY 2023**

1,420,962
**CHILDREN VACCINATED IN
 FEBRUARY 2023**

658
**COMMUNITY MOBILIZERS
 IN FEBRUARY 2023**

1,646
**FEMALE FRONTLINE WORKERS IN
 FEBRUARY 2023**

479
**PERMANENT TRANSIT SITES IN
 FEBRUARY 2023**

10
**CROSS-BORDER VACCINATION
 POINTS IN FEBRUARY 2023**

POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN

February 2023

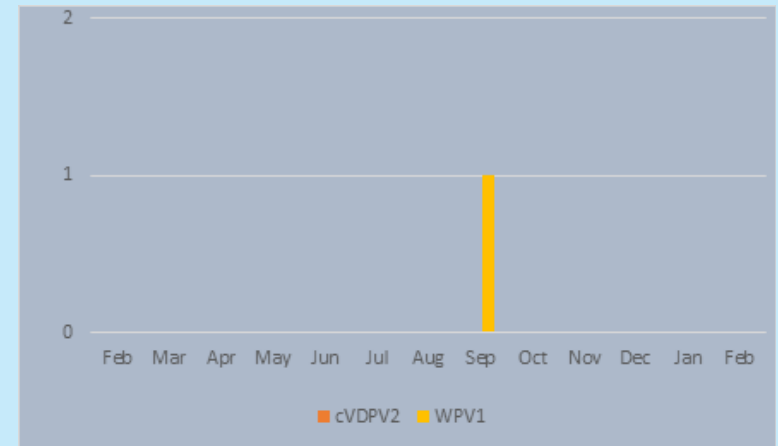


WPV1 and cVDPV2 cases in February 2023

- 0 cVDPV2 case
- 0 WPV1 cases

Total WPV1 and cVDPV2 cases in 2023

- 0 cVDPV2 cases in 2023
- 0 WPV1 case in 2023



WILD POLIOVIRUS AND cVDPV2 CASE COUNT 2022-2023

Data as of 28 February 2023



POLIO TRANSMISSION

- Nine new WPV1 samples were reported from the East: two from Kunar province and seven from Nangarhar province.



AFP / ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE

- 321 children with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) were reported in February: 146 girls and 175 boys. A total of 779 AFP cases have been reported since the beginning of 2023. Of these, 454 cases have been discarded as non-polio, 325 cases are pending final classification.
- The non-polio AFP rate is 31, stool adequacy is above 95%, and national non-polio enterovirus rate is above 7%.
- In all regions, non-polio AFP rate is above 18, stool adequacy above 89%, and non polio enterovirus rate is ranging from 6-10% in 2023.



SUPPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- A case response vaccination campaign was held from 20-23 February. 1,420,962 children were vaccinated with bOPV.



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 10 cross-border vaccination points, 46 cross-border teams and 479 permanent transit sites were operational in February.
- Permanent transit teams vaccinated 721,593 children, and cross-border teams vaccinated 98,712 children against polio this month.
- 1,157 children under 10 were given OPV in UNHCR repatriation centres and IOM sites receiving returnees and refugees from Pakistan and Iran in February.
- From January 1st 2023 to date, 3,379 returnee children were vaccinated with OPV.
- 2,385 international travelers were vaccinated this month in compliance with International Health Regulations.

Polio programme provides vital support to nationwide measles vaccination in Afghanistan

With more than twenty years' experience on the ground in Afghanistan, WHO's polio eradication programme continues to leverage its extensive operational capacity to deliver better health outcomes for all Afghans, including providing vital support to the recent nationwide measles vaccination campaign.

Measles outbreaks were reported across Afghanistan throughout 2022, with more than 5,000 cases and an estimated 300 deaths reported by November. Complications from the measles virus include severe diarrhea and dehydration, pneumonia, ear and eye complications, encephalitis or swelling of the brain, permanent disability and death. Most cases are children under the age of 5 years. There is no treatment for measles, the only reliable protection is vaccination.

While a series of sub national measles vaccination campaigns took place in 2022 reaching approximately three million children in 141 districts, the nationwide campaign from November 26 to December 5 represented the first national measles drive since the political transition in August 2021. The campaign covered 329 districts in all 34 provinces, vaccinating 5.36 million children aged between from 9 to 59 months against measles. 6.1 million children between 0 to 59 months received oral polio vaccine.

WHO's polio eradication programme has significant reach in Afghanistan, with a presence in every district in the country. The polio programme leveraged this presence to recruit vaccinators, organize vaccination sites, and train campaign staff. With longstanding relationships with local authorities, the polio programme assisted in the selection of local schools, clinics, or mosques to serve as vaccinations sites. The programme's established relationships with health institutions and communities enabled polio staff to recruit local health workers and other staff to fill the roles of measles vaccinators and provide training. Sharing their experience of implementing polio vaccination campaigns helped measles vaccinators prepare and plan for the task ahead.

The detection of measles cases and collection of data by WHO's extensive polio surveillance network also played a crucial role in providing evidence-based planning for the campaign. WHO's polio programme also provided logistical support, transporting measles and polio vaccines, ensuring the cold chain was maintained and vaccines were delivered to every district. Polio staff played additional roles in campaign monitoring and supervision.



"Measles is a highly contagious disease. WHO Afghanistan is very proud of its work immunizing and protecting children against both measles and polio in this campaign," said Dr Luo Dapeng, WHO Representative in Afghanistan. "I am very grateful to all health workers, partners and donors who made this possible."

Key communication activities

- 794, 668 caregivers, including 407,155 women, engaged on polio, routine immunization, maternal and child health and COVID 19 in the South, East, South-East, North and West regions
- 35,224 community influencers facilitated 15,678 sessions on polio awareness across the country.
- 1,369 women in South region reached with polio awareness messaging by Female Communication Engagement Officers
- 115,583 soap bars and 167,224 polio-branded baby blankets provided to households in the Central, West, South and South-East regions to promote hygiene and polio eradication efforts.

Radio PSAs	14	Journalist trained	72	Total social media reach	61,614,848
TV PSAs	0	Total social media engagement	323,132	New followers	131,139



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