

Afghanistan Polio Update



AT A GLANCE:

- 6 new wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases reported by the Regional Reference Laboratory by 30 September 2017. 13 cases in 2016.
- 10 environmental samples positive for WPV have been reported in 2017.
- 6.5 million children targeted during Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID including Cold Districts) in July.
- 9.9 million children were targeted during National Immunization Days (NIDs) on 14-18 August and 25-29 September.
- 1.2 million children targeted during a mop-up campaign on 11-15 September.
- IPV/OPV campaigns conducted in Kabul (Part 8, Kabul city), Farah (Khak-e-Safed), Helmand (4 VHRDs), Nimroz (1 VHRD), Uruzgan (2 VHRDs) and Zabul (1 VHRD) provinces.
- 12,451 nomad children below 10 years have been covered by 44 seasonal transit teams in the south since September.
- 83 environmental samples from 20 sites collected this quarter.
- New environmental sampling sites operational in Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz cities, bringing the total number of surveillance sites to 20 at national level.
- 395 permanent transit teams and 45 cross-border teams at 19 cross-border vaccination points
- 44,827 children were vaccinated with OPV and 20,450 children have been vaccinated with IPV by teams at UNHCR and IOM sites receiving returnees from Pakistan and Iran in 2017.

POLIO TRANSMISSION:

Two wild poliovirus (WPV1) cases were reported by the Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) (one in July and one in August 2017).

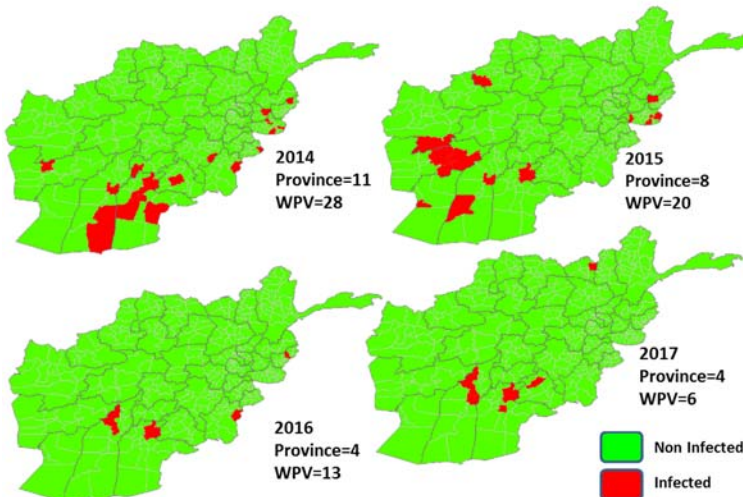
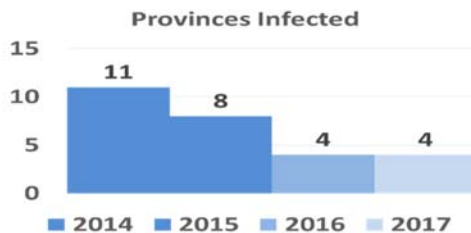
This brings the total number of WPV1 cases in Afghanistan to six by September in 2017. No VDPV2 cases were reported this quarter.

Two new WPV1 positive environmental samples were reported in July from Nangarhar and Kandahar, one in August in Helmand province and two in September from Kandahar province.

Polio Cases in 2017



Reducing Geographic Spread of Wild Poliovirus:



Photos: WHO/S. Ramo

IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES

Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs)

- July Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) and cold districts campaign were held in 2 phases on 10-14 July (South, North, cold districts in Badakshan) and 24-28 July (East, South-East, Central, West, North-East) targeting over 6.5 million children.
- August and September National Immunization Days (NIDs), targeted over 9.9 million children under the age of 5 with OPV in 34 provinces from 14-18 August and 25-29 September.
- In 15 focus districts in the south, September NID were staggered and held on 9-13 October to ensure better supervision and monitoring. Children aged 6-59 months were given vitamin A in August NID while children aged 2-5 years were given deworming tablets (Albendazole).
- September mop-up included 15 focus districts and 7 case response districts in response to a WPV case in Zabul province in the southern region.

IPV-OPV Campaigns

- 86,969 children were vaccinated with IPV in Part 8 of Kabul city on 10-15 July.
- 17,636 children were vaccinated with IPV in Khak-e-Safed district of Farah province on 11-16 July.
- 302,125 children were vaccinated with IPV in Reg, Lashkargah, MUSAQALA, Naad-e-Ali districts in Helmand Province, Zaranj in Nimroz province, Dehrawud and Trinikot in Uruzgan province and Qalat in Zabul province on 29 July-3 August.
- In all the areas an IPV+OPV campaign was conducted.

Complementary Vaccination Activities

- A total of 45 cross-border teams at 19 cross-border vaccination points and 395 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan during this quarter.
- Permanent Transit Teams vaccinated 3,457,981 children under the age of 5 with OPV during the quarter while cross-border teams vaccinated 259,245 children under the age of 10.
- During the reporting period, 11,893 children were vaccinated with OPV and 8,846 children were vaccinated with IPV by teams at UNHCR and IOM sites receiving returnees from Pakistan and Iran between July-September 2017.
- In compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR), 30,771 international travellers were vaccinated against polio between July and September 2017.

Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs)

Campaign	Children Targeted	PCA Coverage	% Failed Lots in LQAS
July sNID	6,497,500	95.5	17.3
August NID	9,999,227	96.1	8.3
September Mop-up	1,206,905	94.3	12.5
September NID	9,999,227	96.1	16.7

IPV-OPV Campaigns

Date	Location	Children Vaccinated	PCM Coverage
10-15 July	Part 8, Kabul City	86,969	98.6
11-16 July	Khak-e-Safed, Farah province	17,636	97.2
29 Jul-3 Aug	Reg, Lashkargah, MUSAQALA, Naad-e-Ali, Zaranj, Dehrawud, Trinikot, Qalat	302,125	89.9

Case Response

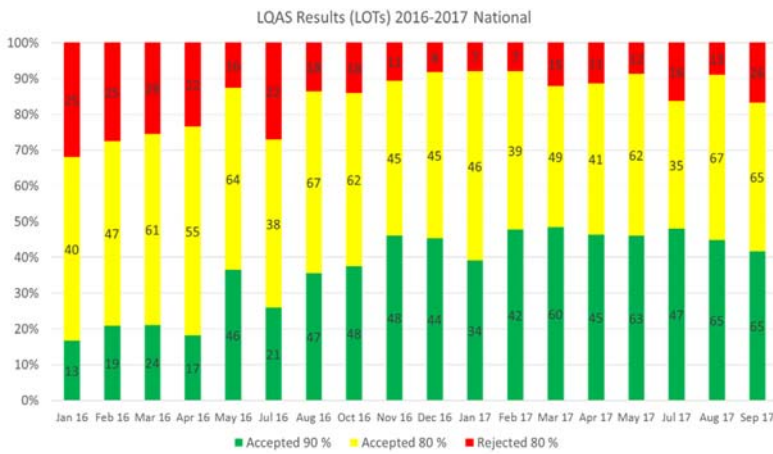
Province	District	Transmission	Response
Zabul	Arghandab	Confirmed Polio case in Arghandab (date of onset: 10 July 2017)	July sNID August NID September Mop up



Photos: WHO/S.Ramo

Polio vaccinations were distributed in an IDP camp in Laghman in September

QUALITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES



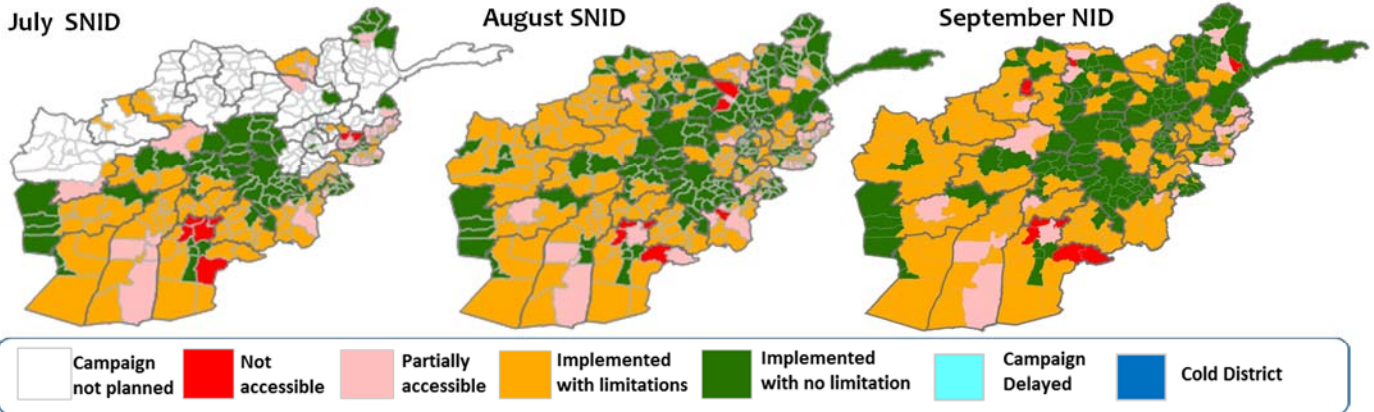
Lot Quality Assessment Sampling (LQAS) data shows improvement in the quality of supplementary immunization activities over the past year.

The proportion of failed lots decreased from 32.1% in January 2016 to 16.7% in September 2017.



Photos: WHO/S. Ramo

ACCESS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES



Inaccessible Children

Region	Aug SNID	Aug NID	Oct NID	Nov SNID	Dec SNID	Jan SNID	Feb SNID	Mar NID	Apr SNID	May NID	Jul SNID	Aug NID	Sep NID
East	73,355	71,085	23,204	24,213	17,488	19,156	18,932	21,002	34,528	26,734	21,841	23,366	23,786
North	0	0	6,206	0	0	0							28,157
North-eastern	101,434	197,192	176,377	105,539	105,024	104,200	104,280			4,350	17,913	105,462	11,391
South	49,403	28,798	141,142	120,597	18,192	78,254	12,4161	40,989	42,793	35,705	64,528	85,887	85,445
South-Eastern	1,215	12,101	46,808	13,827	12,651	1,500	20,455	24,051	23,075	14,040	16,253	19,121	4,860
West	132,806	38,260			749	183,100		12,970	70	70	4,367	1,769	3,798
Central	0	70	0	75	75	0						650	
Total	358,213	347,507	390,373	264,251	154,178	386,207	156,083	99,012	100,466	80,899	124,920	241,168	157,437

SURVEILLANCE

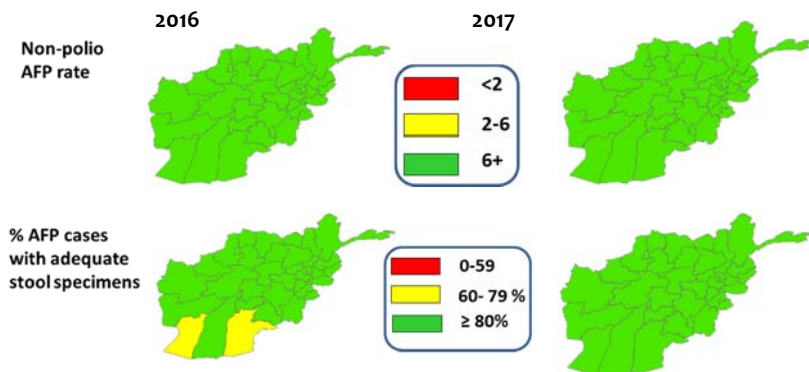
Environmental Surveillance:

- ◆ 83 environmental samples from 20 sites located in seven provinces in the southern, eastern, central, northern, south eastern, north eastern and western regions have been collected and sent to the laboratory in good condition during this quarter.
- ◆ Of the total 83 samples collected, laboratory results have been received for 63 samples. One WP1 positive environmental sample was reported in July from Helmand and 2 from Kandahar: one in August and one in September.
- ◆ Two new environmental sampling sites were added: one in Dawlatabad, Balkh (northern region) and one Noormahal, Kunduz (north eastern region).

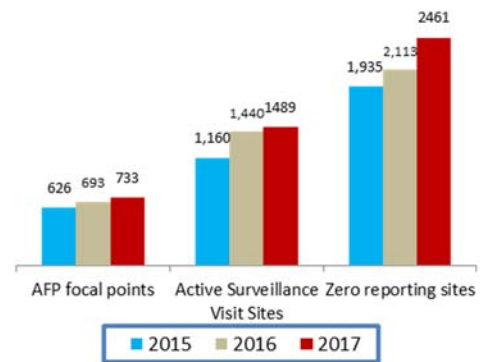
AFP Surveillance:

- ◆ For 2017, non-polio AFP rate is 15, adequate stool rate is 94%, and non-polio enterovirus rate is 21% at the national level. In all regions, non-polio AFP rate is 11 or above, adequate stool rate above 88% or above and non-polio enterovirus rate ranges from 16 to 24%. All the 34 provinces have reached an adequate stool rate of 80% or above.

AFP Surveillance: Quality Key Indicators



Expansion of the Surveillance Network:



Vaccination of returnees and refugees continues at border areas

The Ministry of Public Health, WHO and UNICEF continue to vaccinate children crossing the border to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran to ensure all children are immunized and protected from polio.

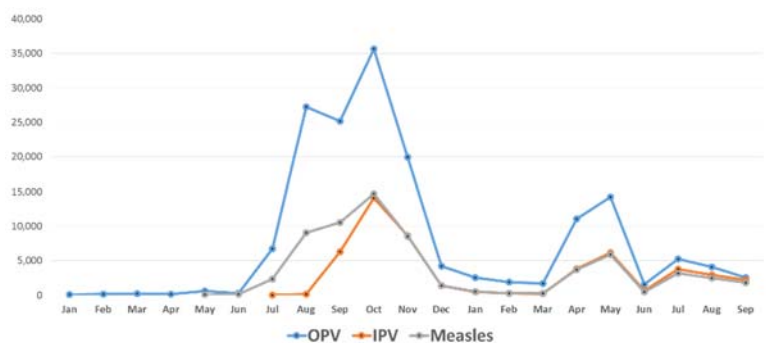
During the reporting period, 11,971 children have been given the oral polio vaccine (OPV) and 8,866 have been vaccinated with the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) teams at UNHCR and IOM sites receiving returnees.

There are currently 45 cross-border teams vaccinating children at 19 vaccination points.



Photo: WHO/ S.Ramo

(OPV, IPV & MSL) coverage of returnees Jan 2016-Sep 2017



Community Engagement

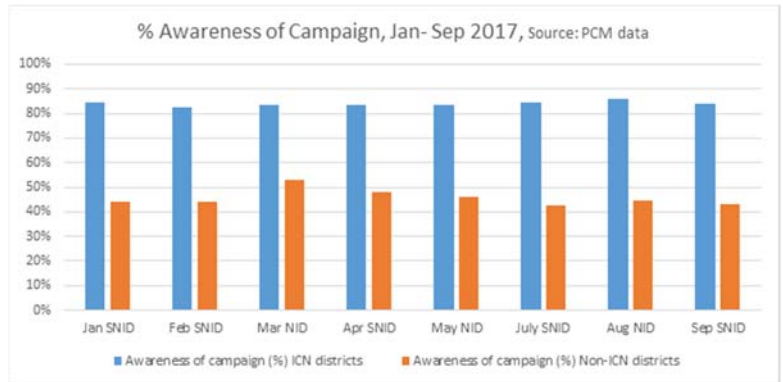
Immunization Communication Network (ICN)

Full time ICN supported by UNICEF in August: 4,414 Social Mobilizers (SM) and 703 Community Cluster Supervisors (CCS) responsible for community mobilization and vaccination in between campaigns. Another 2,000 SMs and CCSs were engaged on campaigns mostly in south.

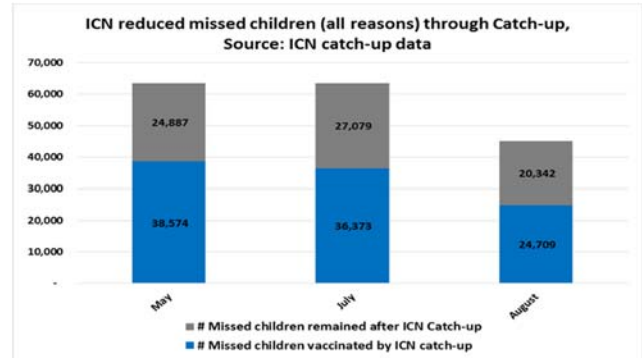
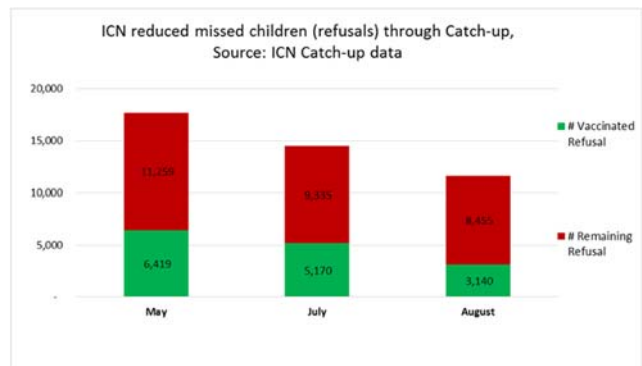
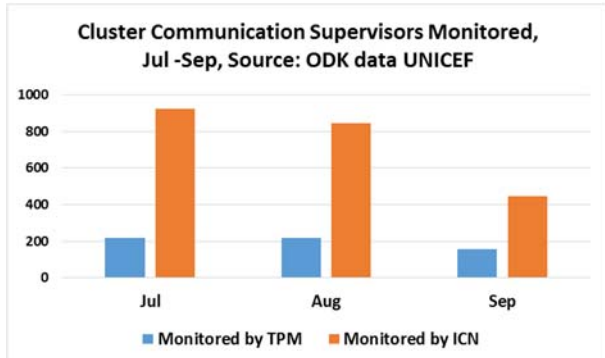
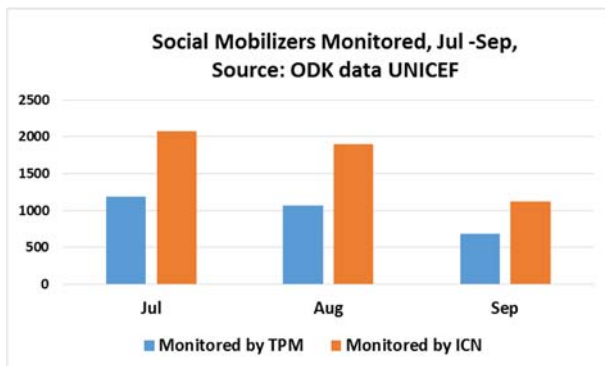
Campaign awareness: The campaign awareness in ICN districts has remained at about 84% in last 3 campaigns while in the Non-ICN districts, the awareness level is lower (46% in May). Social Mobilizers' role is to increase community awareness and uptake of OPV when delivered.

Reducing missed children: In the last 3 campaigns, 171,964 children were recorded missed due to various reasons. Of them, 99,656 children were vaccinated by SMs between campaigns. 66% of those missed due to absence were recovered and 33% of those missed due to refusal were convinced and vaccinated. Various strategies were adopted to deal with refusals.

Convincing and vaccinating children missed due to refusals: The efforts of Social Mobilizers resulted in convincing and vaccinating 14,729 (33%) children out of 43,778 children missed due to refusal in last 3 campaigns.



Campaign	Total registered missed	Total vaccinated by ICN	% Vaccinated by ICN
May NID	63,461	38,574	61%
July SNID	63,452	36,373	57%
Aug NID	45,051	24,709	55%



New Flickr account

Join us and follow the campaign at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/poliofreeafghanistan/>

“We must eradicate polio for good.”

Rashid Khan is a major star. At just 18 years old, he is an inspiration to millions of young Afghans. Born in Nangarhar, Khan is now an international sports hero.

In Nangarhar, medical facilities are still limited and polio has been paralyzing children for decades, so Khan understands the importance of health. That is why he is supporting UNICEF, WHO and the Government’s joint effort to eradicate polio. “In just five years, we have seen a dramatic improvement in Afghanistan, so I am hopeful for the future,” Khan said in an interview with UNICEF.

Khan and Afghanistan’s National Cricket Board are determined to eliminate the disease. “Our children can’t rebuild our country, if they are sick,” he said. In September, Afghanistan’s National Tournament concluded with regional teams battling it out for the championship title. Supported by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, the cricketers promoted immunization and gave free vaccines to children who attended the match. “We have a duty,” says Khan. “We must eradicate polio for good.”



Photo: UNICEF

Grandpa knows best

Delivered just in time for World Polio Day 2017, 7,000 storybooks “Grandpa Knows Best; A Story of Polio” with 16 pages of easy to understand text, illustrations and a sound track recorded in Dari and Pashto are being distributed by UNICEF health workers as well as Rotary volunteers to reach the most vulnerable populations with life-saving messages.

In September, UNICEF trialed the Speaking Books during a polio campaign in Jalalabad.

The children loved the books, and most importantly, it created a sense of excitement and encouraged them to come out of their homes to be vaccinated.



Photo: UNICEF

Mobile Mini Circus spreads a life saving message

“I am the king of this village! Every child belongs to me and I will spread my poison to a new person every day,” screams the snake, bursting onto the stage. In the audience, children gasp and jump backwards, their eyes wide.

Hamid, clutching his box of vaccinations, attacks the snake, managing to defeat him. The crowd cheers. “Vaccinating your children will destroy this disease!” cries Hamid. “Make sure your whole village takes these droplets!” This poisonous snake – *mor zaharia* as it’s called in Dari – represents the threat of polio, a disease that Afghanistan is fighting to eradicate. Hamid leads a touring circus group made up of children and teenagers from across the capital, Kabul, who perform juggling, acrobatics and theatre routines for local audiences around the city and beyond. The circus was started 14 years ago by *Mobile Mini Circus for Children* and is supported by UNICEF.

The circus enables the children who join – often from internally displaced communities – to go to school and practice circus skills at the centre after school and on weekends. Part of their performance includes passing on vital messages about healthcare and social issues. “Our circus is entertainment and it is so much fun for the performers and for the audience,” says Hamid. “Giving a message without fun means people will not take that message away.” This is especially true of the children, who flock to the circus the moment they see youngsters their own ages pull out their juggling sticks and begin clowning around on the makeshift stage. “We often perform in the IDP [internally displaced persons] camps,” says Hamid. “These areas are not peaceful and the people have no proper shelters, no electricity, no running water.” These are the conditions in which diseases such as polio can spread, yet getting a simple vaccination in the form of a few droplets on the tongue means a child is protected for life.



Photo: UNICEF

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