Polio teams roll out targeted polio campaign to halt ongoing outbreak

A vaccinator marks door of a home to show that the children in the house were vaccinated. Photo: WHO SomaliaMogadishu, 25 June 2019 - Health authorities rolled out a polio campaign yesterday in Puntland and Somaliland to vaccinate more than 940 000 children under 5 years of age to stop an ongoing outbreak of a strain of poliovirus.

The campaign runs from 24 to 27 June 2019, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It targets all children in 12 districts in Somaliland and 9 districts in Puntland.

By the numbers:

- 945 480 children to be vaccinated
- 3160 vaccinators knocking on doors
- 677 team supervisors taking part
- 1558 social mobilizers sharing messages on vaccination and children's health
- 15 children have been infected with the polioviruses so far, since outbreaks began

Somaliland, Puntland and other states in Somalia are currently experiencing outbreaks of 2 strains of poliovirus. Each strain requires a different vaccine. Children need several doses of each vaccine to boost immunity. Even though these viruses are not wild poliovirus, both these circulating strains can infect and paralyse children with low immunity. The last case of wild poliovirus in Somalia was in August 2014.

[redacted]

About WHO

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations whose vision is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.

Follow WHO on Twitter - @WHOSom

About UNICEF

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. Follow UNICEF on Twitter and Facebook.

About GPEI

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, is a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) working towards a future where no child will ever again be paralysed by polio.

For additional information, contact:

Dr Kamil Mohamed
Polio/Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Team Lead
WHO Somalia
Email: kamilmo@who.int
Mobile: +252 613 041 057/+962 7 9643 1246

Dr Yasmine Challoub

Polio Team Lead
UNICEF Somalia
Email: ychalloub@unicef.org
Mobile: +252682418691/ +254719192825

Jamal Abdi Sarman
Communications Officer
UNICEF Somalia
Email: Jasarman@unicef.org
Mobile +252 634107531

Namita Mediratta
Polio Communications Consultant
WHO Somalia
Email: namitamedi@gmail.com
Mobile: +254 722 762 145

Saturday 12th of October 2024 11:33:05 AM