Polio this week

The data table below is as of 31 December 2013. The text is as of 18 December 2013.

As the year 2013 draws to a close, the GPEI takes stock:

In Afghanistan, no indigenous cases of wild poliovirus have occurred all year - all cases are linked to cross-border transmission with neighbouring Pakistan.

In Nigeria, poliovirus is increasingly geographically restricted - primarily to Kano and Borno states. Over the past 4 months, only four cases have occurred in the country, despite the onset of the rainy season (the "high season" for polio transmission).

The Horn of Africa outbreak is on the decline, including in Banadir, Somalia, the "engine" of the outbreak (no cases since July).

A cross-regional emergency approach is being implemented in the Middle East.

In Pakistan, the main reservoir area is Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), in particular North Waziristan. During the 'high season' in the past four months, 52 cases of wild poliovirus have been reported from FATA, with evidence of widespread geographic transmission across the country. Areas within Pakistan are being re-infected, as is neighbouring Afghanistan, and the outbreak in the Middle East originated in Pakistan.

The overriding operational priority for the GPEI is to ensure all children are reached during supplementary immunization activities during the 2014 'low season' for polio transmission.

Wild Poliovirus (WPV) cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total cases</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2013</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2012</th>
<th>Total in 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globally</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in endemic countries</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in non-endemic countries</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case breakdown by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2013</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2012</th>
<th>Total in 2012</th>
<th>Date of most recent case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WPV1</td>
<td>WPV3</td>
<td>W1W3</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>145</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total in endemic countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total outbreak</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data in WHO as of 1 January 2013 for 2012 data and 31 December 2013 for 2013 data.

**Afghanistan**

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.

No new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2013 remains 11. All WPV1 cases in 2013 are reported from Eastern Region, close to the Pakistan border. The most recent WPV1 case had onset of paralysis on 12 November from Nangarhar.

No new circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) cases were reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases in 2013 remains three. The most recent cVDPV2 case had onset of paralysis on 13 March (from Kandahar, Southern Region).

Subnational immunization days (SNIDs) were conducted 23-25 November and 15-17 December using bivalent OPV.

**Nigeria**

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.

No new WPV cases were reported this week. The total number of WPV cases for Nigeria 2013 remains 50 (all WPV1). The most recent WPV1 case in the country had onset of paralysis on 8 October from Kano.

No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains one (with onset of paralysis on 6 June, from Borno).

SNIDs were conducted in south-eastern states of Nigeria on 7-9 and 14-17 December.

**Pakistan**

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.

One new WPV1 case was reported in the past week from North Waziristan, FATA. The total number of WPV1 cases for Pakistan in 2013 is now 75. The most recent WPV1 case had onset of paralysis on 26 November (from North Waziristan, FATA).

No new cVDPV2 case was reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains 44. The most recent cVDPV2 case had onset of paralysis on 10 November (from North Waziristan).

North Waziristan is the area with the largest number of children being paralyzed by poliovirus in Pakistan. Immunization activities have been suspended by local leaders since June 2012. It is critical that children in all areas are vaccinated and protected from poliovirus. Immunizations in neighbouring high-risk areas are being intensified, to further boost population immunity levels in those areas and prevent further spread of this outbreak.

**Central African Republic**

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.

In Chad, no new WPV cases were reported in the past week. The most recent WPV case had onset of paralysis on 14 June 2012 (WPV1 from Lac). No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains four (the most recent cVDPV2 case had onset of paralysis on 12 May from Ennedi). Nationwide immunization days (NIDs) were conducted in Chad 22-24 November.

In Cameroon, no new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases remains four. The most recent case in Cameroon had onset of paralysis on 30 October 2013 (WPV1 from Ouest).

No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in the past week in Cameroon. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2013 remains four. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 12 August (from Kolfata, Extreme-Nord).

SNIDs were conducted in northern and western provinces of Cameroon 6-8 December.

**Horn of Africa**

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.

No new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases in the Horn of Africa remains 203 (183 from Somalia, 14 from Kenya and six from Ethiopia). The most recent WPV1 case in the region had onset of paralysis on 9 October (from Lower Shabelle, Somalia).

Outbreak response across the Horn of Africa is on-going. The impact of concerted response efforts is continued to be seen, as no new cases have been reported since July from the epicentre of the outbreak - Banadir, Somalia. All efforts continue to be made to reach all children across the region.

**Israel and West Bank and Gaza**

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.

Although no case of paralytic polio has been reported, environmental surveillance suggests that WPV1 transmission, first detected in February 2013, continues in southern Israel. WPV1-positive samples were detected also in West Bank (2 sites) and the Gaza Strip (1 site).

Since 2005, only inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) has been used for routine childhood immunization in Israel. To interrupt WPV1 transmission, a nationwide supplementary immunization activity (SIA) with bivalent OPV targeting children < 10 years of age was conducted from August to October.

Following a consultation with the country’s immunization advisory group, the Israeli Ministry of Health has recently decided to re-introduce OPV into the national immunization schedule.
SIAs in West Bank and Gaza Strip were conducted on 8-12 December. A second activity is scheduled to begin on 12 January.

Middle East

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.
In Syria, no new WPV1 cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases remains 17. Prior to the outbreak, wild poliovirus was last reported in Syria in 1999.
In the Middle East, a comprehensive outbreak response continues to be implemented across the region. The large-scale supplementary immunization activity which started in Syria on 24 October to vaccinate 1.6 million children against polio, measles, mumps and rubella, in both government-controlled and contested areas has been completed.
Seven countries and territories are holding mass polio vaccination campaigns repeatedly targeting 22 million children under the age of five years over the next 6-8 months. In a joint resolution, all countries of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region have declared polio eradication to be an emergency, calling for support in negotiating and establishing access to those children who are currently unreached with polio vaccination.
WHO and UNICEF are committed to working with all organizations and agencies providing humanitarian assistance to Syrians affected by the conflict. This includes vaccinating all Syrian children no matter where they are, whether in government or contested areas, or outside Syria.

West Africa

The information below is as of 18 December 2013.
No new WPV cases were reported in the past week. The most recent case in the region was due to WPV1 from Tahoua province in Niger with onset of paralysis on 15 November 2012.
No new cVDPV2 cases were reported in the past week from Niger. The country has reported a single case of cVDPV2 in 2013, with onset of paralysis on 11 July. Genetic sequencing has shown that the virus is related to that seen in Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria (Borno).
Multi-country synchronized immunization campaigns were conducted in West Africa 25-28 October. Additional national campaigns were conducted 22-25 November.