In the month of November 2019, the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme reported 24 new WPV cases, thereby bringing the country’s WPV caseload to 113. Of these newly reported cases, 15 cases have been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in districts Bannu (2), DI Khan (1), Lakki Marwat (10), Swabi (1) and Tank (1). In addition, 6 cases were reported from Sindh in districts Badin (1), Mirpurkhas (2), Larkana (1), Tando Allahyar (1) and Kambar (1). Lastly, 2 cases were reported from Balochistan from districts Chaman (1) and Mastung (1), while 1 case was reported from Punjab in district Muzaffargarh. At the same time, 1 cVPD2 case was reported from district Charsadda, bringing the country’s total cVPD2 caseload to 11.

To rapidly boost the immunity levels of vulnerable children, a cVPD2 case response campaign using mOPV2 was initiated in two phases in 16 districts of northern Pakistan. The first phase of the campaign took place from November 11-14, and the second phase of the campaign took place from November 25-28. The campaign vaccinated approximately 2.5 million children during each phase. In addition, the programme implemented a case response campaign from 4-7 November in 25 districts which resulted in the vaccination of 5.9 million children with bOPV. A targeted case response campaign was also implemented from 8-11 November in district Sujawal in Sindh, vaccinating a total of 885,720 children.

The Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme continues to vaccinate children who are travelling or are on the move through 389 Permanent Transit Points (PTPs) across all major transit points nationwide. In November, a total of 1.9 million children were vaccinated at these PTPs. Given the frequent population movements between Pakistan and Afghanistan’s shared epidemiological block, the programme is also focused on fully synchronizing and coordinating its operations with the Afghanistan Polio Eradication Programme. For example, in the month of November, Pakistan and Afghanistan focused on synchronizing planning for National Immunization Days (NIDs) campaigns to be implemented in both countries at the same time.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Zafar Mirza, and senior management of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme attended the Polio Oversight Meeting in Abu Dhabi from 19-20 November. At this time, the action plan to address the increase in cases was presented and discussed. Thereafter, on 27 November, the programme held the National Polio Management Team (NPMT) to review and finalize the National Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for 2020. The NPMT generated fruitful discussions and recommendations from all national and provincial partners of the programme, which in turn, helped to further strengthen the strategies and action plans outlined in the NEAP 2020.

Reaching Every Child in Pakistan – Coverage of Still Missed Children During Campaigns

Environmental samples are taken from 60 detection sites or the largest environmental footprint in the world

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Percentage of Still Missed Children (Out of Target) during November Campaigns

Percentage of Still Missed Children (Out of Target) in Tier 1 Districts during NIDs (2016-2019)