Polio this week as of 14 January 2015

More than 6 months have passed since the most recent case of wild poliovirus in central Africa was detected in Cameroon on the 9 July 2014. This indicates that progress towards stopping the outbreak in this region is being made. However, outbreak response activities must continue and subnational surveillance systems strengthened to ensure the rapid detection of any residual transmission.

More than a year has passed since the last case of wild poliovirus in Ethiopia. With the most recent wild poliovirus case in the Horn of Africa detected in August 2014 in Somalia, outbreak response across the region is continuing.

No new cases of wild poliovirus have been reported anywhere in the world this week.

Wild Poliovirus (WPV) cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total cases</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2014</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2013</th>
<th>Total in 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globally</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in endemic countries</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- in non-endemic countries</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case breakdown by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2014</th>
<th>Year-to-date 2013</th>
<th>Total in 2013</th>
<th>Date of most recent case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WPV1</td>
<td>WPV3</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>WPV1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Afghanistan

No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in the past week in Afghanistan. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 4 December 2014. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2014 remains 28 compared to 14 in 2013. The bulk of these cases are linked to cross-border transmission with neighbouring Pakistan.

Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) are planned for 25 – 27 January in high risk areas of the south and east using bivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV). On 15 – 17 February, SNIDs will take place across the entire south of the country, also using bivalent OPV. The next National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned for March using trivalent OPV, combined with inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) in some areas of Hilmand, Kandahar and Nangarhar.

Nigeria

No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week. Nigeria’s total WPV1 case count for 2014 remains 6, compared to 53 in 2013. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 24 July in Sumaila Local Government Area (LGA), southern Kano state.

Over 5 months has passed since the last case of WPV1 was reported in Nigeria.

No new type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) case was reported this week. This most recent case had onset of paralysis on 16 November in Barde district of Yobe state. The total number of cVDPV2 cases for 2014 in Nigeria remains 29.

Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) are planned for 24 - 28 January in the north using bivalent oral polio vaccine and nationwide on 14 - 18 March using trivalent oral polio vaccine.

Pakistan

No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week. The total number of WPV1 cases in Pakistan in 2014 remains 297, compared to 93 in 2013. The most recent WPV1 case had onset of paralysis on 15 December 2014 in Khyber Agency.

No cases of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) have been reported this week. The most recent cVDPV2
case had onset of paralysis in Khyber Agency, FATA, on 16 September 2014. The country reported 20 cases of cVDPV2 in 2014. Immunization activities are continuing with particular focus on known high-risk areas, in previously inaccessible areas of FATA. At exit and entry points of conflict-affected areas 100 permanent vaccination points have been established to reach internally displaced families as they move in and out of the inaccessible areas.

**Central Africa**

No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the last week. In 2014, 10 cases were reported in central Africa: 5 in Cameroon and 5 in Equatorial Guinea. It is now more than six months since wild poliovirus was last detected in Cameroon on the 9 July 2014. National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned in Cameroon in January using trivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) and in Cameroon and Chad in February using bivalent OPV. Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) are planned in the Central African Republic in February. NIDs are also planned in Chad and Gabon and SNIDs in Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in March.

**Horn of Africa**

No wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in the last week. The most recent case, which had onset of paralysis on 11 August 2014, was from Hobyo district of Mudug province, central Somalia. The total number of cases that were reported in the Horn of Africa in 2014 was 6: 1 WPV1 in Ethiopia (date of onset of paralysis on 5 January) and 5 WPV1s in Somalia.

No cases of type 2 circulating vaccine derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) have been reported in the last week. The most recent case of cVDPV2 had onset of paralysis in South Sudan on 12 September 2014. Following these cases from a refugee camp area of Unity state, South Sudan, supplementary immunization activities have been taking place. Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) will take place in South Sudan on 15-18 January and National Immunization Days (NIDs) on 20 – 23 February both using trivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV). The objective is to rapidly stop the cVDPV2 in the infected area, while further boosting immunity to type 1 wild poliovirus and to minimize the risk of renewed outbreaks following virus re-introduction from infected countries and areas. NIDs are scheduled in January in Somalia and Uganda and in February in Somalia and Yemen. SNIDs are also scheduled in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda in February.

**Israel and West Bank and Gaza**

Wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has not been detected in environmental samples in Israel or the West Bank and Gaza Strip for more than 9 months. The most recent WPV positive sample was collected in southern Israel on 30 March 2014. All environmental samples collected since April have been negative for WPV.

**Middle East**

No new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in the last week. Three cases of WPV1 were reported in the Middle East in 2014 - 2 in Iraq and 1 in Syria. It has been 9 months since the last reported cases of WPV1 in the Middle East. The most recent case reported from Syria had
onset of paralysis on 21 January 2014, while the most recent case in Iraq occurred in Mada’in district, Baghdad-Resafa province, with onset of paralysis on 7 April.

Phase 2 of the Middle East Outbreak response drew to an end in December, and efforts are gearing up towards phase 3 of the outbreak response which will run from January until May. A Phase 3 planning meeting is scheduled this month.

21 January will mark one year with no case of wild poliovirus detected in Syria.

National Immunization Days (NIDs) are planned in Syria and Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in February.

West Africa

No wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in West Africa in the past week. The most recent WPV1 case in the region occurred in Tahoua province, Niger, with onset of paralysis on 15 November 2012.

No case of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) has been reported in the last week. The last case of cVDPV2 was reported in Niger on 11 July 2013.

The Ebola crisis in western Africa continues to have an impact on the implementation of polio eradication activities in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) in these countries have been postponed and the quality of acute flaccid paralysis surveillance has markedly decreased throughout 2014. National Immunization Days (NIDs) have been rescheduled for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone from the 27 to 31 March. The programme continues to monitor the situation with concern.

Even as polio programme staff across West Africa support efforts to control the Ebola outbreak affecting the region, efforts are being made in those countries not affected by Ebola to vaccinate children against polio to create a buffer zone surrounding the Ebola-affected countries.

NIDs are planned using bivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) in Niger and Benin on 27 February to 2 March, and Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) tentatively in Mali in February with dates to be confirmed. From the 27 to 31 March, NIDs will take place in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Senegal using trivalent OPV.