

# NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

## PROGRAMMATIC UPDATE FOR JANUARY 17-30, 2023



#RacetoEndPolio

- The first nationwide immunization campaign concluded on January 20 with over 44 million children immunized against polio. Vitamin A supplements were also administered during the campaign. In Karachi and Hyderabad, the campaign started in the third week of January due to local bodies elections.
- Director-General Health Dr Shabana Saleem chaired a meeting of the National Gender Group on January 28. This was the first meeting since a gender group for polio eradication was notified by the Federal Ministry of Health. The participants discussed the need for better gender mainstreaming at all levels of the program.

- Islamabad Marathon 2023 partnered with Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative and dedicated this year's race to the cause of polio eradication. The marathon was held on January 29 and brought together hundreds of people from around the city for the 42-km full run and several shorter sprints. Twenty-five children, who missed the last vaccination in a village near the Margalla Hills, were given polio drops.
- The quarterly review meeting for N-STOP in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa was held from January 23 to 26. The meeting was attended by NEOC Coordinator Dr Shahzad Baig, Federal Directorate of Immunization DG Dr Muhammad Ahmed Kazi and CDC Senior Adviser Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar, among others.

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environmental samples have tested positive for wild poliovirus in Lahore.

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wild poliovirus cases were reported in 2022, with the last case in September.

0.13

million people were vaccinated at nine cross-border vaccination points until January 28.

1.1%

children were missed in the January campaign.

PROVINCE	WPV1 CASES		LAST WPV1 CASE	LAST cVDPV2 CASE
	No. of Cases	No. of Cases		
	2022	2023		
PUNJAB	0	0	21-Oct-20	07-Jan-21
SINDH	0	0	14-Jul-20	07-Jan-21
KP	20	0	15-Sep-22	14-Jan-21
BALUCHISTAN	0	0	27-Jan-21	23-Apr-21
AJK / GB	0	0	13-Feb-17	28-Aug-19
ISLAMABAD	0	0	27-Sep-08	11-Sep-19
PAKISTAN	20	0	15-Sep-22	23-Apr-21

### OUTBREAK RESPONSE:

The first wild poliovirus in 2023 was detected from a sewage sample in Lahore on 19 January, while a second sample was reported positive on January 27.

The first virus was genetically linked to a poliovirus detected in Nangarhar, Afghanistan in November 2022. This was the first evidence of cross-border transmission in more than a year.

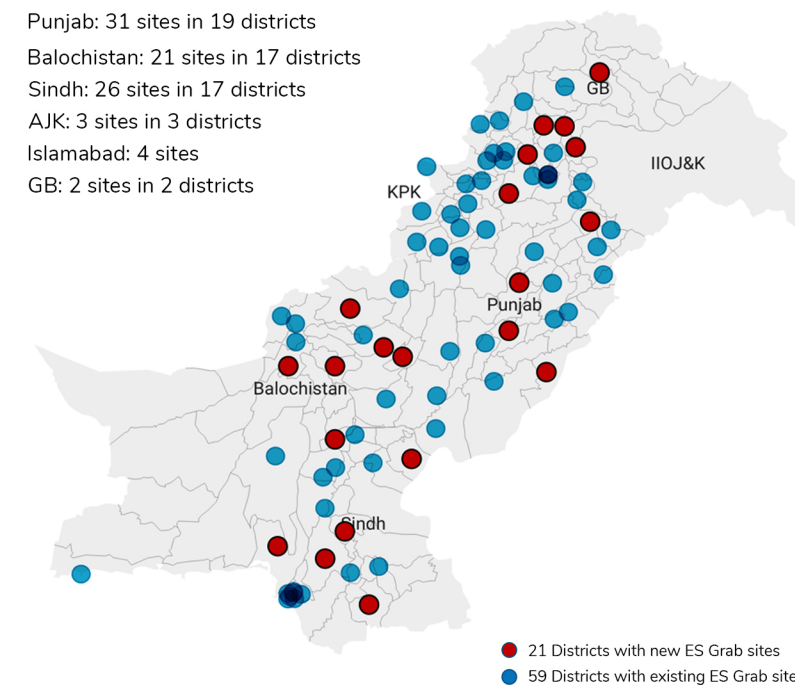
Both countries will be conducting a joint epidemiological investigation to trace the routes of virus movement and identify infected populations. Last year, there was increased cross-border coordination and synchronization of campaigns. This coordination will further intensify to stop the remaining transmission, and to prevent further cross-border spread. These measures include an intense vaccination schedule focused on infected areas, vaccination of children on the move, at international land borders, and more vigilance in vaccination of international travellers.

While the Lahore division was covered during the nationwide vaccination drive in mid-January, further campaigns will be conducted in February and March as part of the outbreak response plan.

The last polio case from Lahore was detected in July 2020, but the virus has been periodically detected in its sewage water. Last year, four environmental samples were found positive for wild poliovirus in Lahore district.

### Polio ES Network in Pakistan:

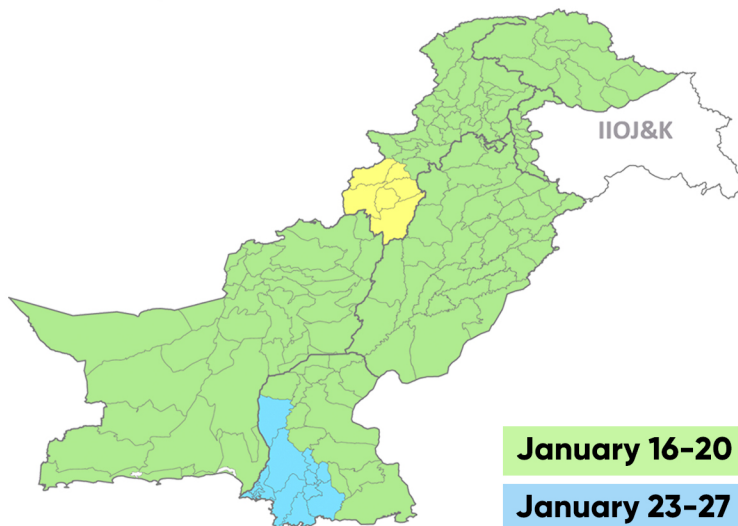
- KP: 26 sites in 21 districts
- Punjab: 31 sites in 19 districts
- Balochistan: 21 sites in 17 districts
- Sindh: 26 sites in 17 districts
- AJK: 3 sites in 3 districts
- Islamabad: 4 sites
- GB: 2 sites in 2 districts



For any further details or queries, kindly contact us at [EOCPakistan@gmail.com](mailto:EOCPakistan@gmail.com)

### National Immunization Days

Overall Target 44.3 m



January 16-20  
January 23-27

### CHILDREN VACCINATED

- AJK: 718,558
- Balochistan: 2,497,440
- Gilgit Baltistan: 269,211
- Islamabad: 450,738
- Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa: 7,455,393
- Punjab: 22,981,380
- Sindh: 10,393,690