



# NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR POLIO ERADICATION

Newsletter (16 - 31 October 2023)



## Key Events/Activities

World Polio Day was observed on October 24 with a ceremony at the PM Office honoring frontline polio workers. **Honorable Prime Minister attended as the chief guest** on the occasion and handed over cheques to the families of three martyred police constables who died during polio duties and two workers who were injured. The PM also awarded appreciation shields to Fayyaz Abbasi, the former Sindh EOC Coordinator, and Huma Ashraf, an area supervisor from Karachi who was severely injured in a train accident during polio duties in September.

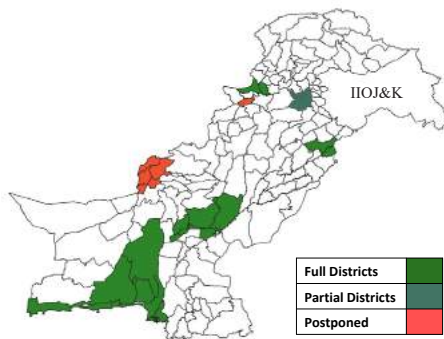


The **Polio Partners Group (PPG)** meeting was held on 26th October.

## Supplementary Immunization Activities

The **November Sub-National (SNID) Polio vaccination campaign** is in progress (October 30 - November 5).

A total of 30 districts of the country are included in the scope of the campaign including four districts of Punjab, eight districts of Sindh, three districts of KP, 14 districts of Balochistan, and Islamabad. The campaign in five districts i.e. four districts of Quetta Block and District Hangu has been postponed.



A total of 10.1 million under five children are being targeted for vaccination in this campaign:

- 4.23 million children in Punjab
- 2.91 million children in Sindh
- 1.24 million children in KP
- 1.6 million children in Balochistan
- 0.11 million children in Islamabad.

## Surveillance

**One Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) case was reported from District Karachi East (UC Gujro)** taking the total number of WPV1 cases in Pakistan in 2023 to **four**. Details are mentioned below:

- The index case had an onset of weakness on 3rd October 2023 reported and investigated timely with adequate stool samples that were both proven as negative for WPV1.
- The virus was detected in a contact of the AFP case (brother of the index case).
- This is the fourth Polio case of 2023 from Pakistan.
- The isolated virus is classified as YB3A cluster and 99.7% genetically linked to the virus detected in an environmental sample in Sohrab Goth Karachi on 12th September 2023.

**04**  
WPV1 Cases in 2023

**55**  
Positive environmental  
samples in 2023

In response to the case, a three level call was conducted and detailed epidemiological investigation has been initiated. A vaccination response round (November SNID) is currently in progress.

**17 new positive environmental samples** were reported taking the total number of positive samples in 2023 to **55** (five each from Peshawar and Karachi, four from Quetta Block, and one each from Bannu, Lahore and Rawalpindi)

## Other Activities/Updates

Ahead of World Polio Day, an **advocacy walk** was held in Islamabad on October 22 to raise awareness about polio. Hundreds of people participated in the walk which was led by Federal Health Minister and included polio workers, country heads of WHO and UNICEF, representatives from Rotary International, Polio Programme staff, students and civil society representatives. In a speech, the Health Minister said the government is committed to polio eradication and would continue to work on improving healthcare services in the country.



The **Phase-II of the campaign in Mehsud Belt** was conducted on 23 – 24 Oct, in the remaining six UCs. 2,359 children were vaccinated in the Phase-II of the campaign. A total of 17,740 children were vaccinated in Mehsud Belt in two phases of the campaign.