

Importation of Wild Polio Virus and Response Measures in the European Region

Summary

As of 7 February 2011, Tajikistan had not reported an AFP case with onset in 2011. In 2010, Tajikistan reported 712 AFP cases of which 458 were laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1, including 29 deaths. The last confirmed polio case in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July. Since 1 January 2010, the Russian Federation had reported 14 poliomyelitis (polio) cases; Turkmenistan 3 cases, and Kazakhstan 1 case.

National immunization days (NIDs) were conducted in Tajikistan (6 rounds), Uzbekistan (4 rounds), Turkmenistan (3 rounds), Kyrgyzstan (2 rounds) and Kazakhstan (1 round). Sub-national supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) were conducted in Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation over November and December 2010. Reported coverage is extremely high in all countries (Table 1).

The WHO European Region has experienced the first importation of wild poliovirus since it was certified polio-free in 2002.

This epidemiological brief provides an update on the polio outbreak and the response by Member States in the WHO European Region (Table 1).

Tajikistan

Tajikistan has not reported an acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case with onset in 2011. As of 7 February 2011, Tajikistan had reported 712 AFP cases in 2010 of which 458 are laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1. Confirmed cases have come from 35 of 61 administrative territories (58 districts and 3 cities - Dushanbe, Khudjand, and Kurgan-Tube). Surveillance for AFP cases remains sensitive: 16 AFP cases have been reported since the last confirmed polio case (4 July 2010).

There have been 29 deaths among the 458 laboratory-confirmed polio cases (6.3%).

WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Operation Mercy (OM) and Handicap International (HI) are supporting rehabilitation of polio cases in Tajikistan. Under the direction of the Ministry of Health, a community-based project has been started to rehabilitate affected children, targeting 40 municipalities in 24 of the most affected territories in the regions of republican subordination and Khatlon region. The project aims to provide long-term support to more than 400 children paralysed as a result of polio, in addition to addressing, where possible, children with physical disabilities. To date, over 400 people have been trained in rehabilitation techniques, including family and regional doctors, school and family nurses, parents and community leaders, as well as 38 children, who have become active agents in their own rehabilitation. The project has reached more than 200 children with polio.

Russian Federation

Since 1 January 2011, the Russian Federation has reported 41 AFP cases. Following the classification of AFP cases reported in 2010, Russian Federation reported 409 AFP cases; 14 cases have been laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1. The 14th case, in a 14-month old infant, had a date of paralysis onset of 25 September 2010.

Turkmenistan

As of 7 February 2011, there are no AFP cases with onset in 2011 reported from Turkmenistan. In 2010, Turkmenistan reported 50 AFP cases of which three were laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1, one was confirmed for vaccine viruses type 1 and 2 and 44 are negative. Specimens from 2 cases are pending laboratory results.

Confirmed cases were from two districts (Beyik Turkmenbashi and Koytendag) of Lebap province, bordering Uzbekistan. The last confirmed case had a date of onset of 28 June 2010. The three confirmed cases occurred in children aged 2, 11 and 13 years.

Kazakhstan

As of 07 February 2011, there are no AFP cases with onset in 2011 reported from Kazakhstan. In 2010, there were 113 AFP cases and one confirmed polio case reported to the WHO European Regional Office with onset of paralysis

on 12 August 2010. The confirmed case was from Saryagach district in southern Kazakhstan.

Uzbekistan

As of 7 February 2011, there are no AFP cases with onset in 2011 reported from Uzbekistan. In 2010 there were 147 AFP cases reported, including 14 cases above 15 years old. The latest reported AFP case had a date of paralysis onset on 28 December 2010.

In August 2010, specimens from 15 cases were sent to the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) in Moscow; all were negative for poliovirus. There have been no further laboratory shipments to Moscow.

Kyrgyzstan

As of 7 February 2011, there are no AFP cases with onset in 2011 reported from Kyrgyzstan. In 2010,

Kyrgyzstan reported 68 AFP cases. There have been no polio cases in Kyrgyzstan.

Response Update

During November and December 2010, national or subnational immunization days took place in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

Reported administrative immunization coverage rates from national and sub-national immunizations days are presented in Table 1 with the dates, vaccine type used, target age group and population size. The results from independent monitoring (IM) are also presented. These results show that these countries have achieved high rates of coverage during their SIAs.

Countries have developed plans for 2011 to ensure that polio surveillance remains sensitive and that children are fully immunized against poliomyelitis.

TABLE 1 Reported immunization coverage, including independent monitoring (IM) by country and round, 2010
(data reported as of 23 December 2010)

Country	Round	Type of SIA	Dates	Vaccine*	Target Age Group	Target Pop size	Administrative Coverage†	IM Sample Size‡	IM Districts Covered¶	IM Results**		IM Districts with > 10% missed children††	Finger marking
										H-H	Out of House		
Kazakhstan	I	NIDs	06-10 Sept	tOPV	< 5 years	1 668 727	98.9%	Not done	NA	NA	NA	NA	No
	II	SNIDs	1-10 Nov	mOPV1	< 15 years	2 200 000	Not reported	Not done	NA	NA	NA	NA	No
Kyrgyzstan	I	NIDs	19-23 July	mOPV1	< 5 years	670 165	95.2%	6 758	63	96.7%	Not done	Not reported	No
	II	NIDs	23-27 Aug	mOPV1	< 5 years	670 165	96.5%	6 766	63	96.6%	Not done	Not reported	No
Russian Fed.	I	SNIDs	27 Oct -3 Nov	tOPV	6 mos-15 years	2 323 000	99.0%	Not done	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	II	SNIDs	29 Nov - 3 Dec	tOPV	6 mos-15 years	2 200 000	99.7%	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tajikistan	I	NIDs	04-08 May	mOPV1	< 6 years	1 090 000	99.4%	30 581	22	94.5%	Not done	1	Not reported
	II	NIDs	18-22 May	mOPV1	< 6 years	1 090 000	99.4%	33 174	36	99.5%	99%	2	Yes
	III	NIDs	01-05 June	mOPV1	< 15years	2 673 741	98.8%	68 397	32	98.0%	100%	NA	No
	IV	NIDs	15-19 June	mOPV1	< 15years	2 673 741	99.3%	49 487	23	96.5%	100%	2	Yes
	SNID	34 districts	13-17 Sep	mOPV1	< 15years	1 788 900	99.2%	Pending	---	---	---	---	---
	V	NIDs	04-08 Oct	tOPV	< 15years	2 673 741	98.8%	3 095	28	83%	88%	9	Not reported
Turkmenistan	VI	NIDs	08-12 Nov	tOPV	< 15years	2 673 741	98.8%	4883	29	96.0%	96.3%	1	Yes
	I	NIDs	12-18 July	tOPV	< 5 years	579 483	98.9%	Not done	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	SNID	NA	28 July -06 Aug	tOPV1	< 25 years	1075433	95.5%	Not done	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	II	NIDs	26 Aug -05 Sept	mOPV1	< 15years	1 476 980	99.6%	5795	38 (9)	99.0%	NA	0	NA
III	NIDs	20-29 Sept	mOPV1	< 15years	1 488 639	99.6%	Not done	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Uzbekistan	I	NIDs	17-21 May	mOPV1	< 5 years	2 850 000	100.8%	550	12	99.0%	98.0%	0	No
	II	NIDs	07-11 June	mOPV1	< 5 years	2 850 000	100.4%	1066	16	99.3%	98.0%	0	Yes
	III	NIDs	05-09 July	mOPV1	< 5 years	2 850 000	100.3%	1011	13	98.0%	99.3%	1	Yes
	SNID	7 districts	20-26 Jul	mOPV1	< 25 years	419 000	91.6%	Not done	NA	NA	NA	NA	Not reported
IV	NIDs	25-31 Oct	mOPV1	< 15 years	9 003 262	98%-99%	11 269	47	95.0%	94.0%	11	No	

*mOPV or tOPV

†Number of children vaccinated divided by target population

‡Number of persons in target age group whose campaign vaccination status was checked as part of independent monitoring

¶Number of different districts in which independent monitoring was conducted

§House-to-house (H-H) or Out of House. Out of house includes school and transit point monitoring

**Percent of children checked during independent monitoring with verified receipt of OPV during campaign

††Number of districts in which independent monitoring was conducted where > 10% of children checked were NOT vaccinated during campaign

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