

# WHO Epidemiological Brief

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

### Summary

As of 16 December, Tajikistan had reported 458 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1, including 29 deaths. The last confirmed case in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July. Since the beginning of the year, the Russian Federation had reported 14 poliomyelitis (polio) cases; Turkmenistan, 3 cases, and Kazakhstan, 1 case (Figure 1).

National immunization days (NIDs) were conducted in Tajikistan (6 rounds), Uzbekistan (4 rounds), Turkmenistan (3 rounds), Kyrgyzstan (2 rounds) and Kazakhstan (1 round). Kazakhstan also completed one round of sub-national supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) (approximately 2,2 million persons). Reported coverage was extremely high in all countries (Table 1).

### Russian Federation

Between 1 January and 16 December 2010, the Russian Federation reported 379 AFP cases; 14 were laboratory-confirmed cases of WPV1. The latest two officially reported cases are relatives from the south-western part of the Republic of Dagestan, near the border with the Republic of Chechnya. The 14<sup>th</sup> case, in a 14-month old, had no history of immunization, with paralysis onset on 25 September 2010.

### Turkmenistan

From 1 January to 16 December 2010, Turkmenistan has reported 46 acute flaccid paralyse (AFP) cases of which three have been laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1, one has been confirmed for vaccine virus type 3,

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 (Figure 1) and the response measures taken in the WHO European Region (Table 1).

### Tajikistan

As of 16 December 2010, Tajikistan had reported 709 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases of which 458 are laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1. Surveillance for AFP cases remains sensitive: there have been 15 AFP cases reported since the last confirmed case (04 July 2010). Confirmed cases came from 35 of 61 administrative territories.

Of the 458 confirmed wild poliovirus cases, 90 (20%) are less than one year of age, 225 (49%) are 1-5 years of age, 90 (20%) cases are 6-14 years of age, and 53 (11%) are 15 years of age and older.

There have been 29 deaths among the 458 laboratory confirmed polio cases (6.3%). Four lethal cases were in children less than 1 year, twelve lethal cases are reported in the age group 1-5 years, ten lethal cases are in the age group 6-14 years, and three deaths are reported in persons aged 15 years or older.



Poliovirus type 1	
Tajikistan:	458 cases
Turkmenistan:	3 cases
Russian Federation:	14 cases
Tajikistan:	1 case
Turkmenistan:	130 cases

40 are negative and 2 results are pending. Confirmed cases have come from two districts (Beyik Turkmenbashy and Koytendag) of Lebap province bordering Uzbekistan. The last confirmed case had a date of onset of 28 June. The three confirmed cases occurred in 2, 11 and 13 year old children.

## Kazakhstan

There have been 94 AFP cases in Kazakhstan this year, of which one has been laboratory confirmed for WPV1. The confirmed case is from Saryagach district in southern Kazakhstan. There have been no new AFP cases reported since 23 October.

## Uzbekistan

Since the beginning of the year, 130 AFP cases had been officially reported. The most recent reported

case had a date of paralysis onset of 23 October 2010. In August, specimens from 15 cases were sent to RRL in Moscow of which all were negative for polio virus. There have been no further laboratory shipments to Moscow.

## Kyrgyzstan

Since 1 January 2010, Kyrgyzstan had reported 56 AFP cases. The WHO Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) in Moscow isolated vaccine polio virus type 1 in one AFP case, 49 AFP cases tested negative for polio, and 6 cases are being processed.

## Response Update

During November, national or sub-national immunization days took place in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (Table 1).

**TABLE 1 Supplemental Immunization Activities in the Central Asian Republics and Russian Federation, WHO European Region**

Country	Dates of SIAs, vaccine <sup>a</sup> , and coverage (%) <sup>b</sup>							Target age groups	Target population size
	I round	II round	III round	IV round	V round	VI round	Mop-up		
Tajikistan	04-08 May mOPV1 (99.4%)	18-22 May mOPV1 (99.4%)	01-05 June mOPV1 (98.8%)	15-19 June mOPV1 (99.3%)	04-08 Oct tOPV (99.6%)	08-12 Nov tOPV (99.6%)	13-17 Sep mOPV1 34 districts (99.2%)	≤ 6 years (1&2 rounds) < 15 years (3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> round and mop-up)	1 090 000 (1&2 rounds) 2 673 741 (3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> rounds) 1 788 900 (mop-up)
Uzbekistan	17-21 May mOPV1 (100.8%)	07-11 June mOPV1 (100.4%)	05-09 July mOPV1 (100.5%)	25-31 Oct mOPV1 (98.3-99.0%)			20-26 Jul mOPV1 (91.6%)	< 5 years (1-3 rounds); <15 years (4 <sup>th</sup> round); 0-25 yrs mop-up in some regions	2 850 000/ 9,003,262 in 4 <sup>th</sup> round
Kyrgyzstan	19-23 July mOPV1 (95.2%)	23-27 Aug mOPV1 (95%)						<5 years	670 165
Kazakhstan	06-10 Sept tOPV (98.9%)	1-10 Nov mOPV1 (SNID <sup>c</sup> )						< 5 years (1 <sup>st</sup> round) <15 years (2 <sup>nd</sup> round) SNID	1 668 727 (1 <sup>st</sup> round) 2 200 000 (2 <sup>nd</sup> round) estimate
Turkmenistan	12-18 July tOPV (98.9%)	26 Aug -05 Sept mOPV1 (99.6%)	20-29 Sept mOPV1 (99.6%)				28 July -06 Aug mOPV1 (95.5%)	<5 years 1st round <15 years (2nd and 3rd rounds) <25 years mop-up in two regions bordering UZB	579 483 1 <sup>st</sup> rnd; 1 476 980 2 <sup>nd</sup> rnd; 1 488 639 3 <sup>rd</sup> rnd
Russian Federation <sup>d</sup>	27 Oct – 3 Nov tOPV, IPV (SNID <sup>c</sup> ) (99.0%)	29 Nov – 3 Dec tOPV, IPV (SNID <sup>c</sup> ) (99.7%)						6 mos-15 yrs <sup>d</sup> 1-6 yrs <sup>d</sup>	2 323 000

<sup>a</sup> Vaccines are monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 (mOPV1) and trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV).

<sup>b</sup> Coverage figures are those reported by countries' health ministries as administrative coverage.

<sup>c</sup> SNID = subnational immunization day.

<sup>d</sup> Two rounds of sub-national NIDs are being conducted/planned on 1-5 November and 29 November- 3 December in the North Caucasus and South Federal Districts. Children from 6 months to 15 years old will be vaccinated with OPV vaccine in Dagestan, Ingushetia, North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkarkaya, Karachaevo-Cherkesskaya and Chechenskaya Republics. Stavropolskiy, Krasnodarskiy kraj, Astrakhanskaya, Volgogranskaya, Rostovskaya oblast, Republics of Adygeya and Kalmykia are targeting children aged 1 to 6 years.

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