

Polio Outbreak in the European Region and Country Responses

Summary

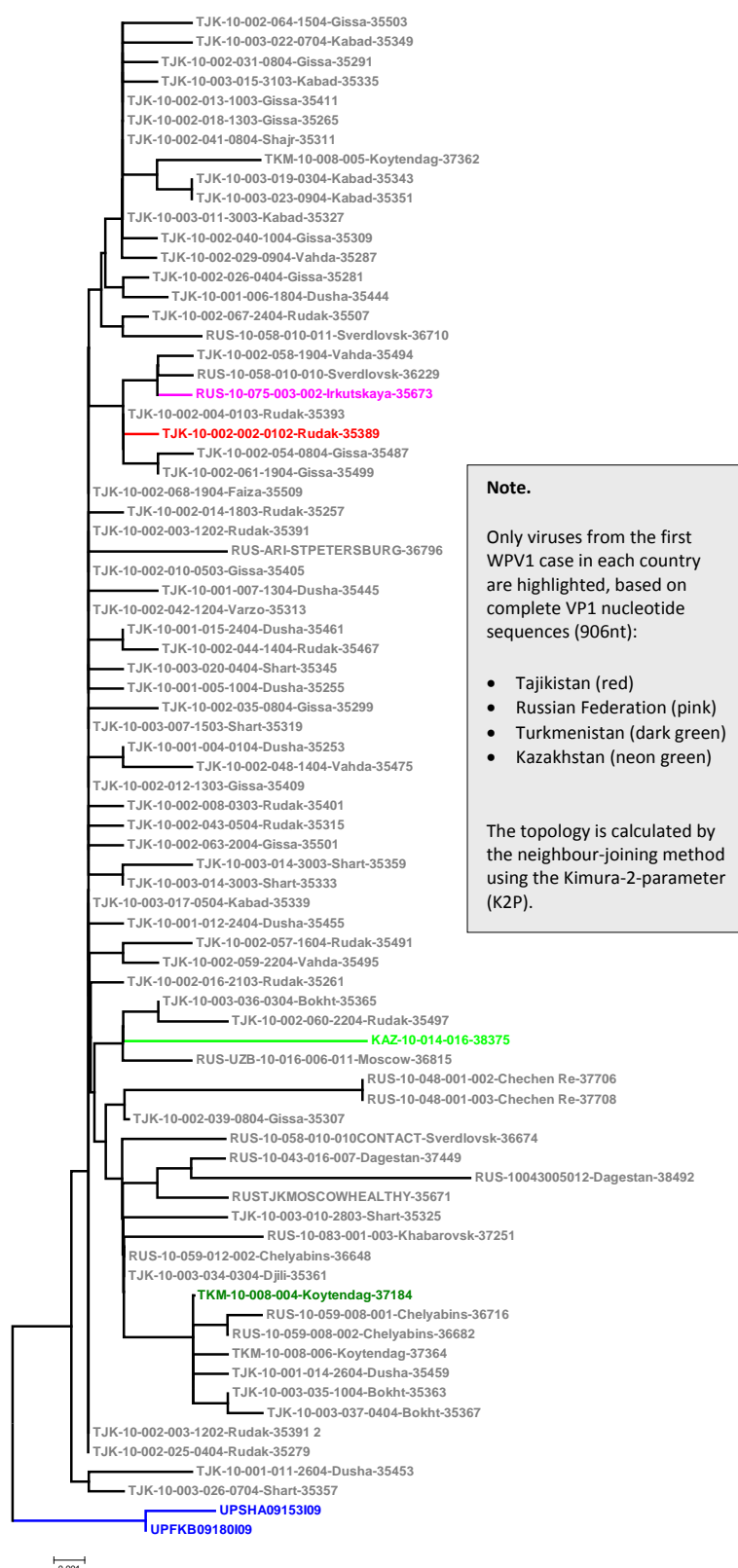
As of 25 October, Tajikistan had reported 458 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1, including 26 deaths. The last confirmed case in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July. Since the beginning of the year, the Russian Federation had reported 14 poliomyelitis (polio) cases; Turkmenistan, 3 cases, and Kazakhstan, 1 case.

National immunization days (NIDs) were conducted in Tajikistan (5 rounds), Uzbekistan (3 rounds), Turkmenistan (3 rounds) and Kyrgyzstan (2 rounds). Kazakhstan held its first round of NIDs on 6–10 September. Reported coverage was extremely high in all countries (Table 1).

This epidemiological brief provides an update on the polio outbreak and the response measures taken in the WHO European Region. It also presents the genetic relationship of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) isolates in four countries of the European Region: Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan (Fig. 1.). The tree is rooted in the isolates from a WPV1 SOAS (South Asia) genotype from northern India.

Fig. 1 highlights that all viruses are closely related to the WPV1 SOAS genotype from northern India and that the outbreak is the result of a single importation of WPV1 into the European Region. Further, it is clear that WPV1 isolates in Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan are genetically related to the viruses from Tajikistan.

Fig. 1. Genetic relationship of WPV1 isolates in the European Region in 2010



Tajikistan

As of 25 October, Tajikistan had reported 458 laboratory-confirmed cases of WPV1, including 26 deaths. Confirmed cases came from 35 of 61 administrative territories. Surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases continued to be sensitive: 10 AFP cases had been reported since the last confirmed case (4 July 2010) with specimens collected for laboratory investigation and sent to the regional reference laboratory in Moscow, Russian Federation: 9 tested negative for wild poliovirus and 1 positive for SL1 poliovirus.

Russian Federation

Between 1 January and 25 October 2010, the Russian Federation reported 327 AFP cases; 14 were laboratory-confirmed cases of WPV1. The latest two cases are in relatives of a previous one from the south-western part of the Republic of Dagestan, near the border with the Republic of Chechnya.

Out of 83 territories, 42 have conducted catch-up immunization of children who were not fully immunized.

Turkmenistan

In the period 1 January – 25 October 2010, Turkmenistan reported 41 AFP cases, of which 3 have been laboratory confirmed for WPV1, and 33 were negative. All cases had come from the Lebap province, bordering Uzbekistan. The last confirmed case had a date of onset of 28 June.

Kyrgyzstan

Since 1 January 2010, Kyrgyzstan had reported 50 AFP cases, of which 37 tested negative and 13 are pending.

Uzbekistan

Since the beginning of the year, 122 AFP cases had been officially reported. The most recent reported case had a date of paralysis onset of 13 October 2010; 5 AFP cases were reported in September.

Kazakhstan

On 6 October the regional reference laboratory in Moscow informed Kazakhstan of the isolation of WPV1. The confirmed case is in a 7-year-old boy from Saryagach district in southern Kazakhstan. The date of onset is recorded as 12 August 2010. Laboratory investigations are pending for 8 AFP cases.

TABLE 1. National Immunization Day Rounds and Mop-up vaccination activities in the Central Asian Republics

Country	Dates of SIAs, vaccine ^a , and coverage ^b (%) [*]							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	08-12 Nov tOPV	13-17 Sep mOPV 34 districts (98-100%)	≤ 6 years (1&2 rounds) < 15 years (3 rd -6 th round and mop-up)	1 090 000 (1&2 rounds) 2 673 741 (3 rd -6 th 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			20-26 Jul mOPV (91.6%)	< 5 years (1-3 rounds); <15 years (4th round); 0-25 yrs mop-up in some regions	2 850 000/ 9,003,262 in 4 th 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 ^c)						< 5 years (1 st round) <15 years (2 nd round) SNID	1 668 727 (1 st round) 2 200 000 (2 nd 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 August mOPV1 (95.5%)	<5 years 1 st round ≤15 years (2 nd and 3 rd rounds) <25 years mop-up in two regions bordering UZB	579 483 in 1 st round; 1 476 980 in 2 nd round 1 488 639 in 3 rd round

^a Vaccines are monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 (mOPV1) and trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV).

^b Coverage figures are those reported by countries' health ministries.

^c SNID = subnational immunization day.

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