

Polio Outbreak in the European Region and Country Responses

Summary

As of 10 September, Tajikistan had reported 456 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1, including 20 deaths. The last confirmed case in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July. Since the beginning of the year, the Russian Federation has reported 12 poliomyelitis (polio) cases and Turkmenistan has reported 3 cases.

Four rounds of national immunization days (NIDs) in Tajikistan and three rounds in Uzbekistan had taken place. Kyrgyzstan held its second round of NIDs on 23–27 August. Turkmenistan's second round of NIDs took place on 26 August – 5 September. Coverage was extremely high in all rounds in all countries.

The WHO European Region has experienced the first importation of wild poliovirus since it was certified polio free in 2002 (Fig. 1).

Tajikistan

As of 10 September 2010, Tajikistan had reported 705 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases, of which 456 are laboratory-confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1 and 147 are negative. There are 13 cases pending laboratory results. Confirmed cases have come from 35 of 61 administrative territories (58 districts and 3 cities – Dushanbe, Khudjand, and Kurgan-Tube); there is no evidence of transmission in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous oblast (GBAO).

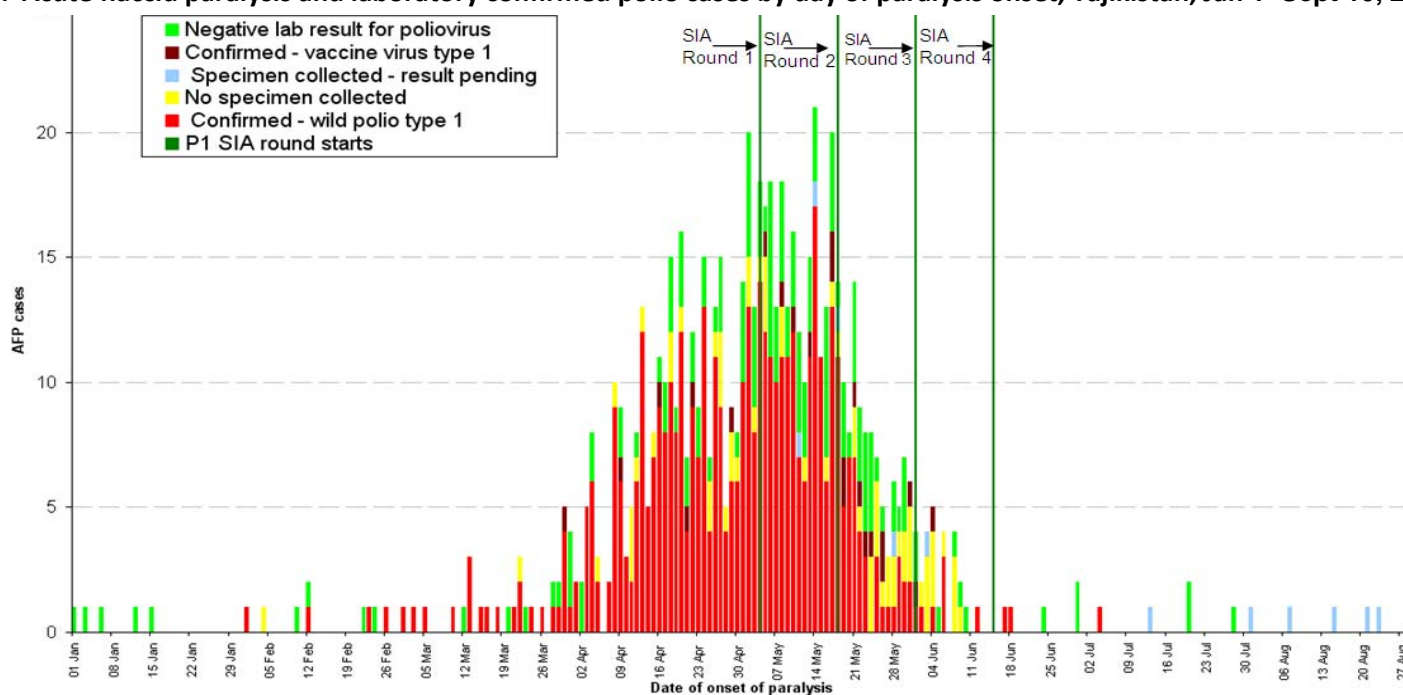
Of the 456 confirmed wild poliovirus cases, 90 (19%) were less than one year of age, 223 (49%) were 1–5 years of age, 90 (19%) were 6–14 years of age, and 53 (12%) are 15 years of age and older. The last confirmed polio case in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July. There have been 20 deaths among the 456 laboratory-confirmed polio cases (4.4%).

The rounds of NIDs and mop-up vaccination activities in the central Asian republics are presented in Table 1.

The Russian Federation

From 1 January to 10 September 2010, the Russian Federation reported 251 AFP cases; 12 were laboratory

Fig 1. Acute flaccid paralysis and laboratory confirmed polio cases by day of paralysis onset, Tajikistan, Jan 1–Sept 10, 2010*



Total 456 confirmed wild poliovirus type1

SIA = Supplementary Immunization Activity

*Data as of 10 September 2010.

confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1. The latest reported polio case was confirmed in a child aged 2 years in the Chechen Republic, with a date of onset of 10 August 2010. The child has no history of being vaccinated against polio.

The Russian Federation has been conducting contact investigation as well as catch-up immunization activities in the geographical area around the confirmed cases.

Turkmenistan

Since the beginning of the year, Turkmenistan has reported 37 AFP cases, including three that have been laboratory-confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1. All three confirmed poliovirus cases were reported from Lebap oblast with a date of onset in June 2010. There have been 33 negative results for AFP cases reported since these 3 positive cases. There are no cases pending laboratory results.

Uzbekistan

Since the beginning of the year, 91 AFP cases have been officially reported. To date, samples from 15 patients have been sent to the regional reference laboratory for polio in Moscow: all were negative for poliovirus.

Kazakhstan

Since the beginning of 2010, Kazakhstan reported 54 AFP cases. Laboratory results from 46 AFP cases tested are negative with 8 cases pending laboratory results.

Kyrgyzstan

Since 1 January 2010, Kyrgyzstan has reported 42 AFP cases, of which 32 tested negative in the reference laboratory in Moscow; the results of 10 others are pending.

The WHO Regional Committee for Europe will hold its annual meeting in Moscow on 13–16 September. Its agenda includes sustaining the polio-free status of the European Region.

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

Country organizing National SIA	Dates of NIDs and Mop-up activities, type of vaccine							Target age groups	Target population size
	Coverage (%)*								
	I round	II round	III round	IV round	V round	VI round	Mop-up		
Tajikistan	04-08 May mOPV1	18-22 May mOPV1	01-05 June mOPV1	15-19 June mOPV1				≤ 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)
	99.4%	99.4%	98.8%	99.3%	04-08 Oct tOPV	08-12 Nov tOPV	13-17 Sep mOPV1		
Uzbekistan	17-21 May mOPV1	07-11 June mOPV1	05-09 July mOPV1	25-31 Oct mOPV1 (tentative)			20-26 Jul mOPV1	< 5 years (1-3 rounds); <15 years (4th round); 0-25 mop-up in some regions	2 850 000/ 9,003,262 in 4 th round
	100.8%	100.4%	100.5%				91.6%		
Kyrgyzstan	19-23 July mOPV1	23-27 Aug mOPV1						<5 years	670 165
	95.2%	95%							
Kazakhstan	06-10 Sept tOPV							< 5 years	1 836 284
Turkmenistan	12-18 July tOPV	26 Aug - 05 Sept mOPV1	20-29 Sept mOPV1					<5 years 1 st round ≤15 years (2 nd and 3 rd rounds)	579483 1 st round; 1479664 2 nd and 3 rd rounds
	98.9%	100%							

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