

Tajikistan Polio Outbreak and Regional Response

Summary

As of 20 August 2010, Tajikistan has reported 455 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1. There have been 20 deaths. The last confirmed polio case in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July. In the Russian Federation there have been 8 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1.

Four rounds of national immunization days (NIDs) in Tajikistan and three rounds in Uzbekistan had taken place. Kyrgyzstan will begin its second round of NIDs on August 23. Turkmenistan's second round of NIDs are due to start on 26 August. 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 as poliomyelitis (polio) free in 2002.

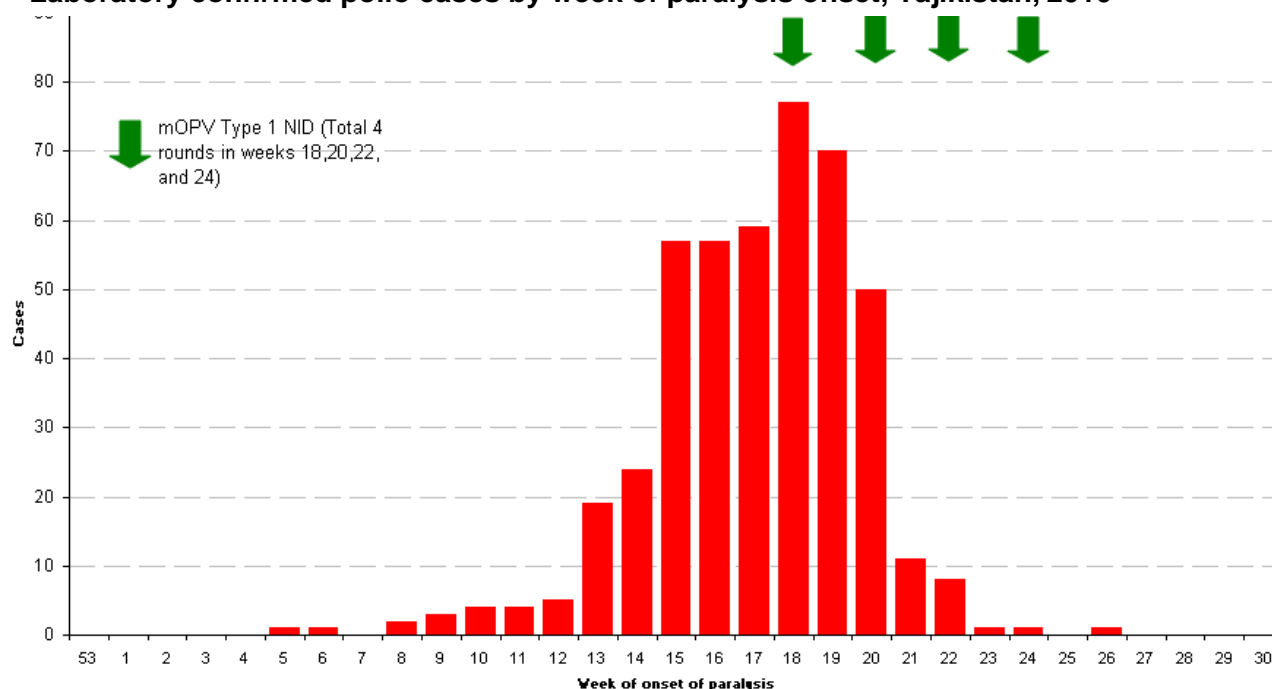
Tajikistan

As of 20 August 2010, Tajikistan had reported 455 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (Fig. 1). Confirmed cases have come from 35 of 61 administrative territories (58 districts and 3 cities - Dushanbe, Khujand, and Kurgan-Tube); there is currently no evidence of transmission to Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). The last confirmed polio case in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July in an adult (>15 years of age).

Among the 455 laboratory-confirmed polio cases, there had been 20 deaths (4.4%); 4 were in infants, 8 in the group aged 1–5 years, 6 in the group aged 6–14 and 2 in people aged 15 years or more.

Preliminary administrative reports from all four rounds of NIDs show very high nationwide coverage of 99.3% or higher, ranging from 90.6% in Rasht valley during the 3rd round to 99.8% in many districts during all four rounds. Final monitoring reports from rounds 3 and 4 are under preparation. Tajikistan will conduct mop up immunization activities using mOPV vaccine from September 7-13, targeting persons aged 0-15 years in

Laboratory confirmed polio cases by week of paralysis onset, Tajikistan, 2010*



Note: Total 455 confirmed wild poliovirus type1

*Data as of 20 August 2010

33 districts (about 1.8 million persons).

Two nationwide rounds with trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) are planned for 4th-8th October 2010 and 8th-12th November 2010, respectively, to catch up susceptible populations. The position of the Ministry of Health (MOH) for the planned 5th and 6th rounds of immunization in the fall 2010 with tOPV is that the target age group should be persons aged <15 years. An international team visited regions to assess the AFP surveillance performance. A report of the assessment is pending.

A US CDC-supported serosurvey for polio, measles, rubella, tetanus, and diphtheria will begin over the coming fortnight.

The Russian Federation

From 1 January to 20 August 2010 the Russian Federation has reported 232 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases; 8 have been laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1. The eighth confirmed case of polio is from Dagestan (Kyzyl-Yurt, Southern Russia) in a 7 month-old child, born in Dagestan. Further epidemiological data are pending.

WHO is following up with MOH to ensure timely and accurate exchange of information about AFP cases and response measures taken in the Russian Federation with respect to reported polio cases.

Uzbekistan

There have been 67 AFP cases reported since the beginning of year, officially. After successful completion of three rounds of NIDs with mOPV1 in June-July,

Uzbekistan conducted mop-up immunization in 7 districts of Surkhandarya province with the most clustered AFP cases: Termez city, Termez district, Sherabad, Boysun, Kizirik, Uzun, and Angor during 20-26 July. The total target population of 0-25 years was 419,000 persons and the final administrative coverage was 91.6%. Based on WHO recommendations, MOH estimated number target population and vaccine needs for proposed 4th nationwide round with mOPV1. An on-site assessment visit to the national polio lab recently took place (August 9-12). A report is under preparation.

Turkmenistan

For the period from 1 January to 20 August 2010, Turkmenistan has reported 30 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases.

The first round of nationwide NIDs with tOPV was conducted on 12-18 July targeting all children 0-5 years of age. Major cities (Ashgabat and Turkmenbashi) started immunization activities earlier, on 24 May. Preliminary reported vaccination coverage is 98.9%. The second round will be conducted from 26 August – 05 September, and the third round two weeks later using mOPV1 vaccine.

Kazakhstan

From the beginning of 2010, Kazakhstan reported 54 AFP cases. Laboratory results from all AFP cases tested by the regional reference laboratory in Moscow are negative.

The Government of Kazakhstan has approved a decree to conduct one round of NIDs on 6-10 September 2010 and thus secured funds needed to procure the vaccine through UNICEF. 1 836 284 children between 0 and 5 years of age are planned to be vaccinated with tOPV. Over the past fortnight, the training of immunization staff was performed countrywide, supported by WHO and funded by USAID through WHO.

Kyrgyzstan

Since January 2010, Kyrgyzstan has reported 33 AFP cases, and 28 are negative in the RRL in Moscow. Results of 2 cases are pending and samples from 3 new cases will be sent to Moscow as soon as possible. WHO is following-up with MoH to avoid delays in AFP reporting and assure timely shipment of specimens and incorporation of laboratory results.

According to official data from the MOH, national coverage during the first round of NIDs (19-23 July) was 95.2%, with 638 326 immunized persons. 103 mobile teams were deployed to hard-to-reach areas to vaccinate. Each vaccinated child was provided with a special vaccination card also to be used in the 2nd round (23-27 August). Monitoring of the campaign was conducted by staff of MoH (internal) and by UNICEF and WHO (independent).

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