

Polio outbreak in the European region and country responses

Summary

As of 30 September, Tajikistan had reported 458 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1, including 26 deaths. The last confirmed case had a date of onset of 4 July. Since the beginning of the year, the Russian Federation had reported 12 poliomyelitis (polio) cases and Turkmenistan, 3 cases.

Four rounds of supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) have taken place in Tajikistan and three rounds in Uzbekistan. Kyrgyzstan held its second round of national immunization days (NIDs) on 23–27 August. Turkmenistan's third round of NIDs took place on 20–29 September. Coverage was extremely high in all rounds 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 (Fig. 1).

Tajikistan

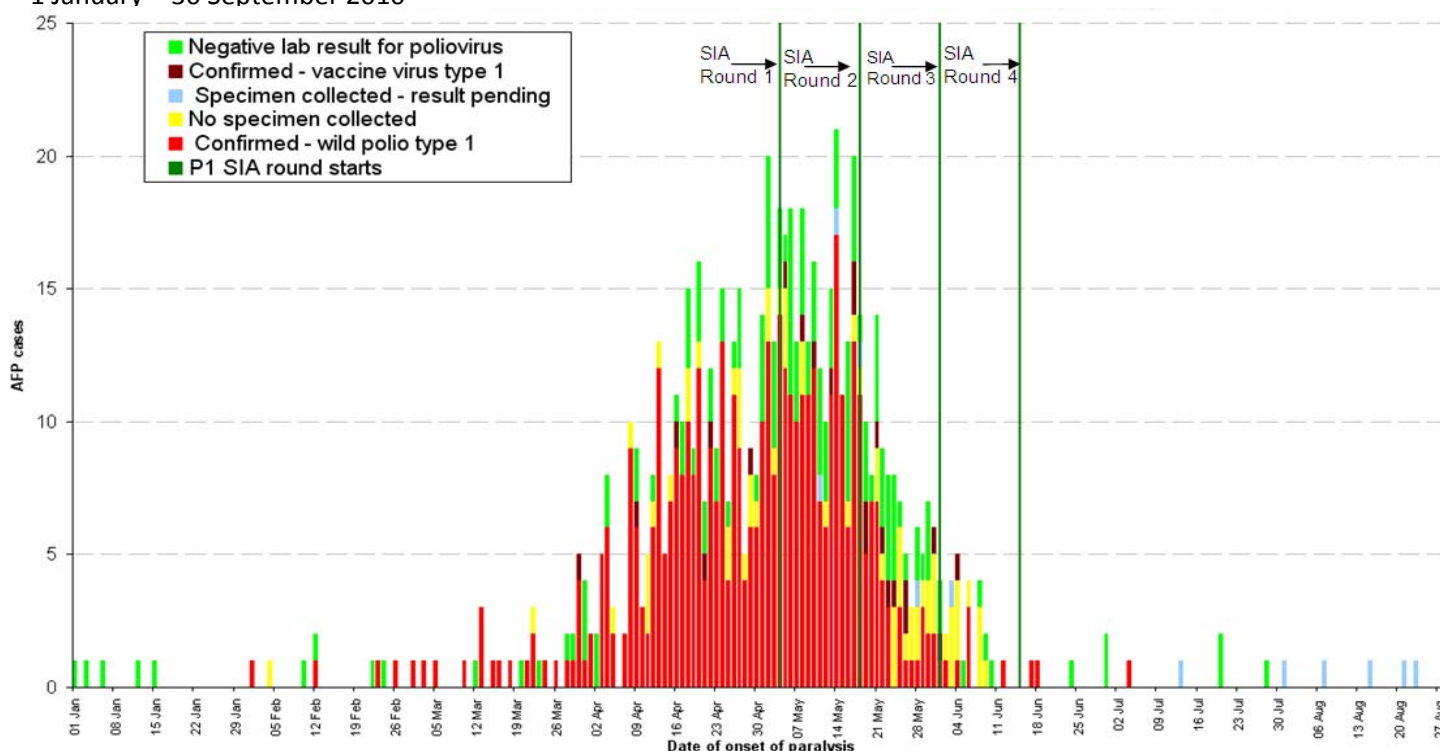
As of 30 September, Tajikistan had reported 458 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1 (Fig. 1). Confirmed cases have come from 35 of 61 administrative territories (58 districts and 3 cities: Dushanbe, Khudjand and Kurgan-Tube); there is no evidence of transmission in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous oblast (GBAO).

Surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases continues to be sensitive. The last confirmed polio case (>15 years of age) in Tajikistan had a date of onset of 4 July; since then, 9 new AFP cases have been reported: 7 tested negative for wild poliovirus and 2 are pending laboratory results. These 9 cases were reported from remote districts in Sughd oblast (6), Dushanbe (2) and Rudaki (1).

Training of trainers in AFP surveillance will be held on 11–17 October. The training materials developed will be shared with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Among the 458 laboratory-confirmed polio cases, there have been 26 deaths (5.7%): 4 in infants, 11 in children aged 1–5 years, 8 in the group aged 6–14 and 3 in people aged 15 or older. Table 1 presents the NIDs and mop-up

Fig. 1. Acute flaccid paralysis and laboratory-confirmed polio cases by day of paralysis onset, Tajikistan, 1 January – 30 September 2010*



Note. Total: 458 confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1

*Data as of 30 September 2010.

vaccination activities conducted and planned in the central Asian republics.

The Russian Federation

Between 1 January and 30 September 2010, the Russian Federation reported 290 AFP cases, including 12 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1.

To date, 42 territories out of 83 have conducted catch-up immunization activities among incompletely immunized children and contacts of confirmed cases.

Turkmenistan

For the period 1 January – 30 September 2010, Turkmenistan reported 41 AFP cases, of which 3 were laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1, 33 were negative and 5 are pending. All cases have come from the Lebap administrative region, bordering Uzbekistan.

The last confirmed case had an onset date of 28 June 2010.

Kyrgyzstan

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

Uzbekistan

Since the beginning of the year, 99 AFP cases have been officially reported. The most recent reported case had a date of paralysis onset of 14 September 2010. There were 5 AFP cases in September.

Kazakhstan

Since the beginning of 2010, Kazakhstan has reported 54 AFP cases, of which 46 tested negative for polio and 8 are pending.

Table 1. SIAs in the central Asian republics, 2010

Country	Dates, vaccine and coverage (%)*							Target age groups	Target population size
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Mop-up		
Tajikistan	4–8 May mOPV1** 99.4%	18–22 May mOPV1 99.4%	1–5 June mOPV1 98.8%	15–19 June mOPV1 99.3%	4–8 October tOPV***	8–12 November tOPV	13–17 September mOPV 34 districts 98–100%	≤ 6 years (rounds 1 and 2) < 15 years (rounds 3–6 and mop-up)	1 090 000 (rounds 1 and 2) 2 673 741 (rounds 3–6) 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 October mOPV1 tentative			20–26 July mOPV 91.6%	< 5 years (rounds 1–3) < 15 years (4th round) 0–25 years (mop-up in some regions)	2 850 000/ 9 003 262 in round 4
Kyrgyzstan	19–23 July mOPV1 95.2%	23–27 August mOPV1 95%						< 5 years	670 165
Kazakhstan	6–10 September tOPV							< 5 years	1 668 727
Turkmenistan	12–18 July tOPV 98.9%	26 August – 5 September mOPV1 100%	20–29 September mOPV1 –					< 5 years (round 1) ≤ 15 years (rounds 2 and 3)	579 483 (round 1) 1 479 664 rounds 2 and 3

Note. Darker shaded areas show where no NIDs are planned.

* Coverage reported by the health ministry. ** mOPV1 = monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1. *** tOPV = trivalent oral polio vaccine.

Contact us

Dr Rebecca Martin
Team leader, Vaccine-preventable Diseases, Immunization and Influenza
WHO Regional Office for Europe
Scherfigsvej 8
2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 39 17 12 16
E-mail: rma@euro.who.int
Web site: <http://www.euro.who.int>