

11

WPV1 CASES IN SEPTEMBER

51

WPV1 CASES IN 2020

3

WPV1 POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES IN SEPTEMBER

7.1M

CHILDREN VACCINATED IN SEPTEMBER

47,876

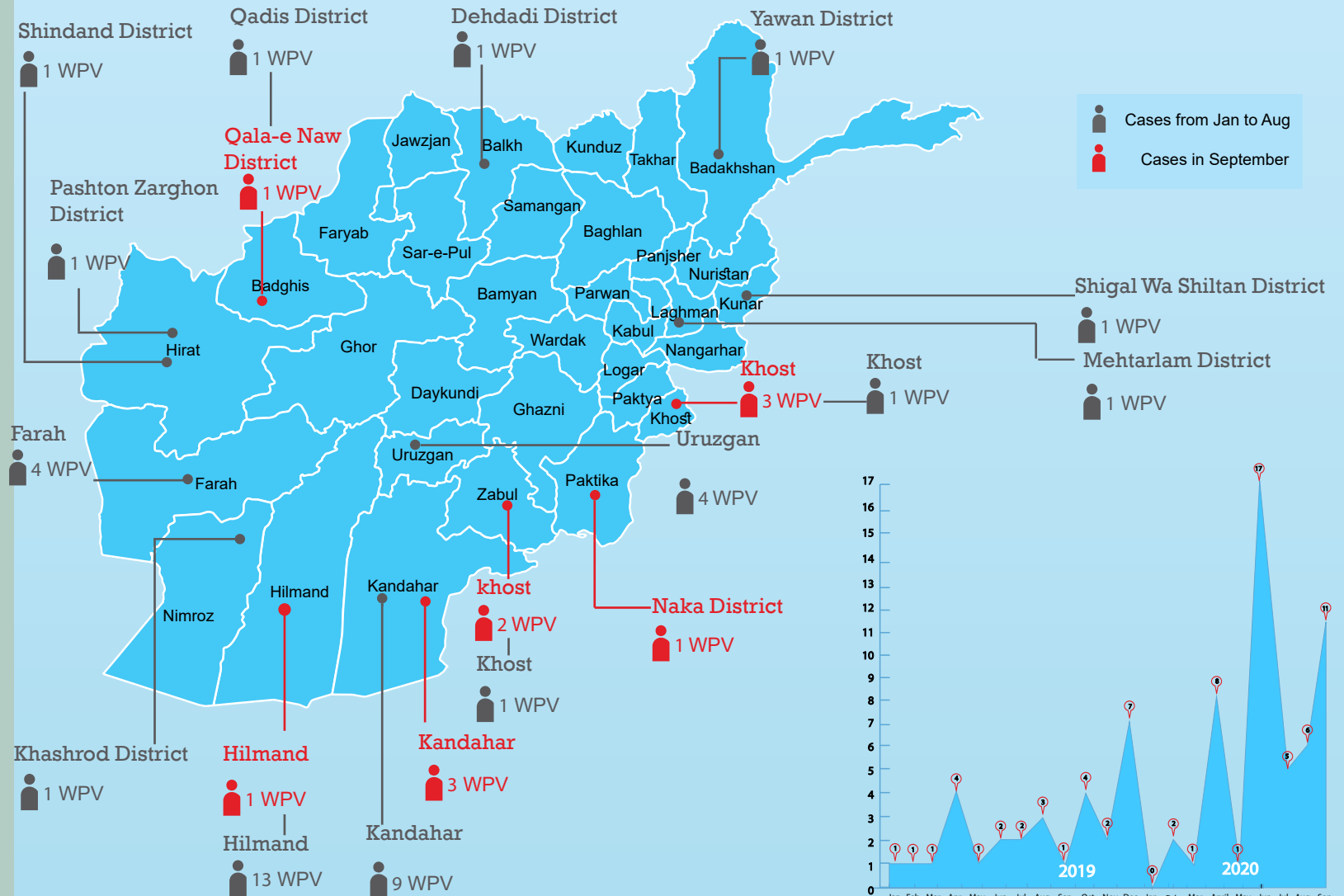
SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES REPORTED UPTO SEPTEMBER

285,151

GOVERNMENT & NGO PARTNERS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, COMMUNITY AND RELIGIOUS INFLUENCERS WERE TRAINED AND REACHED FOR SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

POLIO SNAPSHOT AFGHANISTAN

SEPTEMBER 2020





POLIO TRANSMISSION

- 11 cases of Wild Polio Virus (WPV1) were confirmed in September 2020, 3 from Kandahar, 3 from Khost, 2 from Zabul, 1 from Hilmand, 1 from Badghis, and 1 from Paktika



AFP ENVIRONMENTAL & COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

- 341 children with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) - 142 girls and 199 boys - were reported in September 2020. A total of 2,800 AFP cases have been reported since the beginning of 2020. 2,299 of these cases have been discarded as non-polio. About 361 cases are pending final classification
- The non-polio AFP rate remained above 9, stool adequacy above 86%, and non-polio enterovirus rate ranged between 7-17% in all regions
- 3 new WPV1 positive environmental samples were confirmed in September 2020

PEI support to COVID-19

Between Jan-Sep 2020:

- 47,876 suspected cases of COVID-19 were reported, of which 8,383 tested positive
- 4,837 government & NGO partners were trained
- 97,246 health professional (including: paramedics/nurses) were trained
- 183,068 community & religious influencers were reached for training and support



COMPLEMENTARY VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

- 56 cross-border teams & 11 permanent transit teams (PTTs) were operational across Afghanistan in September 2020 & vaccinated 98,790, and 10,800 children respectively.
- 278 children under 10 years of age received OPV at the Islamqala border of Herat province
- Since beginning of 2020, 27,302 and 4,811 children were vaccinated with OPV and IPV respectively



TARGETED VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS IN HIGH RISK AREAS

- Two case response campaigns targeting 7.1 million children were conducted in South, Western, Southeast regions, and some provinces in Central and Northeast regions and 2 districts in Eastern Nuristan province in the month of September.

Dr Farima is unstoppable

Dr Farima has overcome many gender barriers to rise in Afghanistan's polio programme and fight COVID-19

Dr Farima Azimi, at 22 years old, is a medical graduate and a District Polio Officer in Kandahar province in Afghanistan. For any young person, such achievements would be impressive. In Afghanistan, where social and cultural norms often limit a woman's ability to work, Dr Farima's determination to overcome gender barriers is exceptional.

She says, "The cultural and traditional situation in Afghanistan, and especially in Kandahar, is such that people don't look up to women who are seeking education. I have faced numerous troubles since I have started to go to school. You get bullied by people with insults."

"People used to tell me that as a girl, if I am going out of home to study and work, I might dishonour my family. I used to come home and tell these stories to my family and instead, I received their support and was encouraged to stay strong." Without family support, Dr Farima explains, her journey would be impossible. [Click for full story](#)



Communication Activities

3,600 community mobilisers (male and female) and an additional 481 Female Mobiliser Vaccinators FMVs undertook community engagement activities reaching 877,000 caregivers with information on polio and COVID-19 at the same time in East, Southeast, South and West. Female mobilisers represent 43% of the overall social mobilization workforce. This is an increase of 1% compared to August 2020. The Immunization Communication Network ICN continued to support mother and child health referral services in areas with risk of polio circulation in South and East of Afghanistan. 52,659 children were referred to routine immunization through ICN, 30,117 of these children (57%) received routine immunization in September 2020. The FMVs have as well supported the routine immunization of 177,313 children and 30,363 women with tetanus TT vaccine at the health facilities in West, South, Southeast and East.

Key Activities:

- 7,000 religious' influencers, community leaders and local authorities' representatives were engaged in polio campaigns awareness, with the highest number in East.
- 371,000 women have attended polio and MNCH awareness sessions by the FMVs through 36,000 sessions held in West, East, South and Southeast.
- 8,204 hand sanitizers 54,540 face masks were distributed to FLWs in East and Southeast ahead of September campaign in COVID-19 context.
- 30 local journalists in South and Southeast have attended polio campaign orientations which included updates on the polio status, messages, challenges and campaign plans.
- 5,640 radio and 1,134 TV polio awareness spots have been aired nationwide ahead of the immunization campaign in order to promote vaccine uptake.
- The polio messages on Polio Free Afghanistan Facebook page have reached 2.2 million users during September. Most of the 3,681 comments received have discussed the campaign dates, locations and number of cases.
- 397, 425 soap bars were distributed to 93,176 households as part of the COVID-19 response and support to the polio campaigns.



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