**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 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 confirmed wild poliovirus type 1.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country organizing National SIA</th>
<th>Dates of NIDs and Mop-up vaccination activities, type of vaccine</th>
<th>Coverage (%)*</th>
<th>Target age groups</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>04-08 May mOPV1 18-22 May mOPV1 01-05 June mOPV1 15-19 June mOPV1 04-08 Oct tOPV 08-12 Nov tOPV 13-17 Sep mOPV1</td>
<td>99.4% 99.4% 98.8% 99.3% 04-08 Oct tOPV 08-12 Nov tOPV 13-17 Sep mOPV1</td>
<td>≤ 6 years (1&amp;2 rounds) &lt; 15 years (3rd-6th round and mop-up)</td>
<td>1 090 000 (1&amp;2 rounds) 2 673 741 (3rd-6th rounds) 1 788 900 (mop-up)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>17-21 May mOPV1 07-11 June mOPV1 05-09 July mOPV1 25-31 Oct mOPV1 (tentative) 20-26 Jul mOPV1</td>
<td>100.8% 100.4% 100.3% 91.6%</td>
<td>&lt; 5 years (1-3 rounds); &lt; 15 years (4th round); 0-25 mop-up in some regions</td>
<td>2 850 000/ 9,003,262 in 4th round</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>19-23 July mOPV1 23-27 Aug mOPV1</td>
<td>95.2% 95%</td>
<td>&lt; 5 years</td>
<td>670 165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>06-10 Sept tOPV</td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt; 5 years</td>
<td>1 836 284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>12-18 July tOPV 26 Aug - 05 Sept mOPV1 20-29 Sept mOPV1</td>
<td>98.9% 100%</td>
<td>&lt; 5 years 1st round ≤ 15 years (2nd and 3rd rounds)</td>
<td>579,483 1st round; 147,964 2nd and 3rd rounds</td>
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