

Importation of Wild Poliovirus and Response Measures in the European Region

Summary

As of 18 November 2010, Tajikistan has reported 458 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), including 27 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 14 poliomyelitis (polio) cases; Turkmenistan 3 cases and Kazakhstan 1 case (Fig. 1).

National immunization days (NIDs) have been conducted in Tajikistan (6 rounds), Uzbekistan (4 rounds), Turkmenistan (3 rounds), Kyrgyzstan (2 rounds) and Kazakhstan (1 round). Kazakhstan also completed one round of subnational supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) (approximately 2.2 million people) on 10 November. Reported coverage was extremely high 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.

This epidemiological brief provides an update on the polio outbreak (Fig. 1) and the response measures taken in the WHO European Region (Table 1).

Tajikistan

As of 18 November 2010, Tajikistan has reported 709 cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), of which 458 are laboratory-confirmed for wild poliovirus type 1. Surveillance for AFP cases continues to be sensitive: 13 AFP cases have been reported since the last confirmed polio case (4 July 2010). Confirmed cases have come from 35 of 61 administrative territories. There have been 27 deaths among the 458 laboratory-confirmed polio cases (5.9%).

Russian Federation

Between 1 January and 18 November 2010, the Russian Federation has reported 360 AFP cases; 14 have been laboratory-confirmed cases of WPV1. The latest two

Fig. 1. Distribution of confirmed wild poliovirus cases, WHO European Region, 2010

Note: AFP cases are presented for Uzbekistan



	Reported as Fully Vaccinated with OPV/IPV Routine Series			Total Wild Polio Cases
	Yes	No	Unknown	
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
Russian Fed.	1	6	7	14
Tajikistan	164	40	254	458
Turkmenistan	3	0	0	3
Total	169	46	261	476

Fully vaccinated defined as receipt of age-appropriate number of doses or receiving ≥ 3 OPV and/or IPV vaccine doses by 6 months of age (for Tajikistan and Turkmenistan 'fully vaccinated' is defined as ≥ 4 doses, including a birth dose)

officially reported cases are relatives from the south-western part of the Republic of Dagestan, near the border with the Republic of Chechnya.

Turkmenistan

In the period 1 January – 18 November 2010, Turkmenistan have reported 44 AFP cases, of which 3 have been laboratory-confirmed for WPV1, and 38 have been negative. All cases have come from the Lebap province, bordering Uzbekistan. The last confirmed case had a date of onset of 28 June. The three confirmed cases occurred in children aged 2, 11 and 13 years.

Kazakhstan

There have been 94 AFP cases in Kazakhstan this year, of which one has been laboratory-confirmed for WPV1. The confirmed case is from Saryagach district in southern Kazakhstan.

Uzbekistan

Since the beginning of the year, 130 AFP cases had been officially reported. The most recent reported case had a date of paralysis onset of 23 October 2010. In August, specimens from 15 cases were sent to the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory (RRL) in Moscow; all were negative for poliovirus. There have been no further laboratory shipments to Moscow.

Kyrgyzstan

Since 1 January 2010, Kyrgyzstan has reported 56 AFP cases. The RRL in Moscow isolated vaccine poliovirus type 1 in one AFP case, 49 AFP cases tested negative for polio, and 6 cases are being processed.

Response update

During November, national or subnational immunization days took place in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation (Table 1).

Table 1. Supplementary immunization activities in the central Asian republics and Russian Federation

Country	Dates of SIAs, vaccine ^a , and coverage (%) ^b							Target age groups	Target population size
	I round	II round	III round	IV round	V round	VI round	Mop-up		
Tajikistan	04-08 May mOPV1 (99.4%)	18-22 May mOPV1 (99.4%)	01-05 June mOPV1 (98.8%)	15-19 June mOPV1 (99.3%)	04-08 Oct tOPV	08-12 Nov tOPV	13-17 Sep mOPV1 34 districts (99.2%)	≤ 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)
Uzbekistan	17-21 May mOPV1 (100.8%)	07-11 June mOPV1 (100.4%)	05-09 July mOPV1 (100.5%)	25-31 Oct mOPV1 (98.3-99.0%)			20-26 Jul mOPV1 (91.6%)	< 5 years (1-3 rounds); < 15 years (4th round); 0-25 yrs mop-up in some regions	2 850 000/ 9,003,262 in 4 th round
Kyrgyzstan	19-23 July mOPV1 (95.2%)	23-27 Aug mOPV1 (95%)						<5 years	670 165
Kazakhstan	06-10 Sept tOPV (98.9%)	1-10 Nov mOPV1 (SNID ^c)						< 5 years (1 st round) < 15 years (2 nd round) SNID	1 668 727 (1 st round) 2 200 000 (2 nd round) estimate
Turkmenistan	12-18 July tOPV (98.9%)	26 Aug -05 Sept mOPV1 (99.6%)	20-29 Sept mOPV1 (99.6%)				28 July -06 Aug mOPV1 (95.5%)	<5 years 1st round <15 years (2nd and 3rd rounds) <25 years mop-up in two regions bordering UZB	579 483 1 st rnd; 1 476 980 2 nd rnd; 1 488 639 3 rd rnd
Russian Federation ^d	27 Oct – 3 Nov tOPV, IPV (SNID ^c) (99.0%)	29 Nov – 3 Dec tOPV, IPV (SNID ^c)						6 mos-15 yrs ^d 1-6 yrs ^d	2 323 000

^a Vaccines are monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 (mOPV1) and trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV).

^b Coverage figures are those reported by countries' health ministries as administrative coverage.

^c SNID = subnational immunization day.

^d Two rounds of subnational NIDs are being conducted/planned on 1-5 November and 29 November- 3 December in the North Caucasus and South Federal Districts. Children from 6 months to 15 years old will be vaccinated with OPV vaccine in Dagestan, Ingushetia, North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkarkaya, Karachaevo-Cherkesskaya and Chechenskaya Republics. Stavropolskiy, Krasnodarskiy kraj, Astrakhanskaya, Volgogranskaya, Rostovskaya oblast, Republics of Adygeya and Kalmykia are targeting children aged 1 to 6 years.

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