

# Communication update EOC Pakistan



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## 2014 – A Year Replete with Challenges

The total case count as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 reached 296 with the latest case being two month old child from Chagai District of Balochistan. A majority of the cases are reported from FATA where 174 children have been paralyzed with polio followed by 67 in KPK. The number of polio cases reported from Sindh is 29, while 24 cases have been reported in Balochistan and 3 in Punjab. All the cases reported this are of polio virus Type-1.

The efforts to strengthen polio eradication continue across the country as the year 2014 comes to an end during which a total of 17 SIAs (NIDs, SNIDs and SIADs) were conducted to immunize the target population of 34.6 million children below five years of age for each national campaign.

The official figures show that on an average 92 percent of the total target population were reached during these campaigns. In addition more than 16 million children travelling within and from outside the country were vaccinated through Permanent Transit Posts (PTPs) working in multiple shifts throughout the country at key points during the year. It also gives us comfort to report that at present only wild polio virus Type 01 is circulating in Pakistan while Type 2, was eradicated several years ago and no case of Type 3 virus has been reported from anywhere in the country since April 2012.

The most recent data puts the total number of confirmed polio cases at 296 in 2014 (as compared to 89 in 2013 for the same time period), the number of infected districts / towns / tribal agencies / areas in the country is now 40 (as compared to 22 in 2013 for the same time period). It also pertinent to mention that 85 percent of the polio cases have been reported from security compromised areas, as many as 81.7 percent (241/295) cases from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA together, of which 31.5 percent (93/295) are from North and South Waziristan agencies and 24.7 percent (73/295) are from Khyber agency alone, which indicates a direct correlation between incidence of polio cases and access issues due to security.

## Advocacy Activities

An orientation session on Polio and Routine EPI was conducted for the members of Punjab Assembly in Lahore on 24th December, 2014, which was attended by 172 members of the country's largest provincial assembly. The session was chaired by Speaker of the



## Major Breakthrough

Mufti Gul Hasan who previously opposed polio vaccination, issues a Fatwa in support of OPV.

مغل حسن عفی عنہ، رئیس دارالافتاء

نیلا گنڈسری روڈ کوئٹہ

تاریخ: 21/12/2014ء

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

پولیو کے قطرے موجودہ حالات کے تناظر میں

کے قطرے حالت اضطراری میں بطور علاج کے پلانا جائز ہے۔ پولیو قطرے حفظ ماقدم کی روشنی میں پلایا جاتا ہے اپنے بچے کو علاج کی نیت سے پلانا چاہتے ہیں تو حفظ ماقدم کے پیش نظر جائز ہے۔ علمی تحقیق اپنی حد تک صحیح ہے۔

السلام (مفتی) مغل حسن عفی عنہ دارالعلوم رحیمیہ نیلا گنڈسری روڈ کوئٹہ

21. 12. 2014  
مغل حسن عفی عنہ

WAZIRIYAT  
PUNJAB  
LAHORE  
24 DEC 2014

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Punjab Assembly Rana Muhammad Iqbal and Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq.

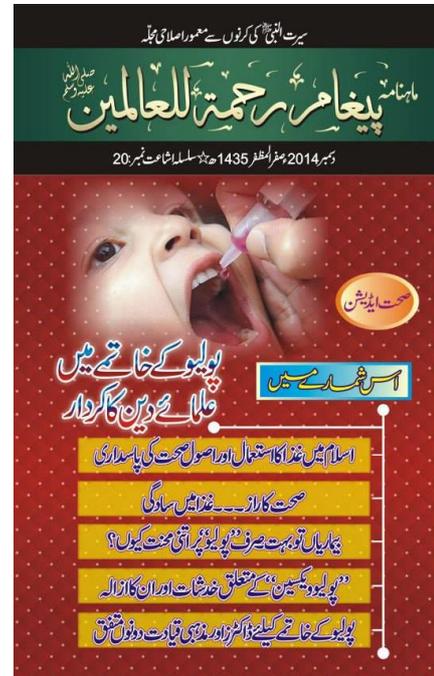
The Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication briefed the participants on the current status of polio eradication in the country and requested them to actively participate in efforts to strengthen the government's resolve to make Pakistan polio free. She requested the participants to lead polio eradication awareness activities in their respective constituencies and also to promote routine EPI. The session was also attended by Advisor to Punjab Chief Minister Khawaja Salman Rafiq and the provincial Health Secretary.

## Religious Writers Engagement

The engagement of religious writers continues across the country with two recent sessions, one in Karachi and one for religious writers / editors in Quetta. Both the orientation sessions were led by religious scholars with technical support from the government and polio partners. In Karachi, more than 25 religious writers were invited to attend the session wherein efforts were made to address misconceptions and misreporting through the religious publications.

In Quetta, more than 30 religious scholars attended the orientation that remained highly successful and two scholars, including Mufti Gul Hasan, who previously opposed polio vaccination, issued Fatwas in support of oral polio vaccination.

The support for religious publications continue to strengthen as the Lahore-based monthly "Paigham-e-Rahmatul-al-Aalameen" brought out a health edition with exclusive focus on polio. The publication can serve as a strong tool for communication and addressing religious and political misconceptions around polio. The magazine has a circulation of more than 40,000 across the country.



## Female Community Mobilizers

The process of engaging female community mobilizers moved a step forward with the training of 38 newly recruited FMC and 10 social mobilizers from Gaddap Town and Gulshan-e-Iqbal Town in Karachi. The training focused on strengthening conceptual understanding of interpersonal communication, social mobilization, IPC tools, data collection and evaluation tools.

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