

October 2009

Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Chad

Situation analysis

- Chad is affected by a persistent outbreak of polio, since November 2007.
- The outbreak is primarily restricted to N'Djamena, from where the bulk of new cases have been reported this year. However, recent confirmation of two cases in Abeche, in the east of the country near the border with Sudan, underscores the risk polio poses to populations across the country.
- Due to sub national surveillance gaps, undetected circulation (of both type 1 and type 3 poliovirus) cannot be ruled out.
- The outbreak in Chad is of particular international concern, as between 2004 and 2006, an outbreak originating from northern Nigeria spread through Chad to re-infect Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Indonesia. Recent confirmation of a type 3 case in northern Cameroon genetically linked to the current Chad outbreak further underlines the ongoing risk of international spread. It is for this reason that it is urgent to stop the current outbreak in Chad, to reduce the risk of further re-infections occurring.

Key challenges

- Operational challenges continue mar the quality of vaccination campaigns in some areas, particularly in N'Djamena, where upwards of 50% of children are regularly missed.
- Engagement of political leadership at the provincial level is inconsistent, including in N'Djamena.

Solutions

- To capitalize on the fact that the outbreak appears to have been largely geographically restricted to the greater N'Djamena area, the country has a unique opportunity to rapidly stop the persistent outbreak.
- Focus must be on improving supervisor and vaccinator training, and developing more effective microplans.
- Key to improving operations is political engagement and ownership at the provincial level, to ensure the necessary levers among civil society are mobilized, overcome the operational challenges and ensure all children are reached during polio campaigns in the greater N'Djamena area.

KEY FACTS

- ✓ Persistent outbreak since November 2007.
- ✓ Outbreak primarily restricted to greater N'Djamena - upwards of 50% of children missed during SIAs
- ✓ Full engagement by provincial governments urgently necessary to improve operational quality, particularly in N'Djamena