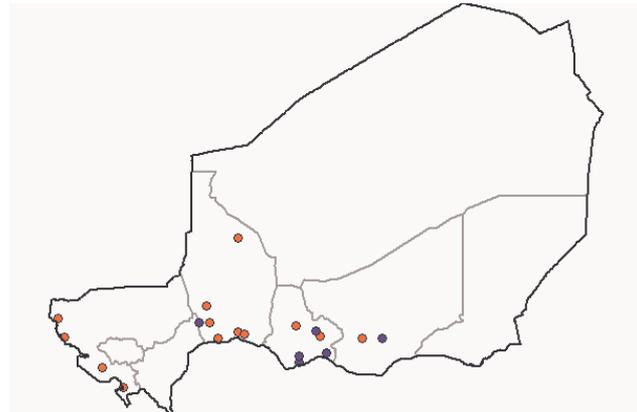


2003



2004

Total number of polio cases

2000:	2 cases
2001:	6 cases
2002:	3 cases
2003:	40 cases
2004:	20 cases (as of 29 September)

Focus June-December

Focus for June-December

- Intensify immunization activities to increase the proportion (to >90%) of children under the age of five years reached during supplementary immunization activities (SIAs)
- Conduct high-quality National Immunization Days (NIDs) in synchronization with 22 other countries across west and central Africa in October and November, with a further NID to be conducted in December.

The situation in 2003

- Polio cases in Niger increased more than ten-fold in 2003 over 2002, with 40 confirmed cases - the fourth highest number of cases in the world. Cases were reported in 6 out of 8 regions.
- Niger appears to have contributed to the re-infection of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.
- Surveillance data suggests that only 52% of children had received ≥ 3 oral polio vaccine (OPV) doses by end-2003.

Progress in 2004

- Niger has reported 20 cases of poliovirus in 4 of the country's 8 regions, as of 29 September.
- Niger exported virus to Mali in June 2004.
- Niger increased the number of polio campaigns to full 3 NIDs in early 2004 and is planning to conduct an additional 3 NIDs in October, November and December. It is critical that the quality of the planned NIDs be improved to halt the spread of poliovirus in Niger.
- Immunity gaps remain in Niger which urgently need to be filled.