

End-2007 Report on Milestones from The Case for Completing Polio Eradication

The intensified, time-limited eradication effort was launched by stakeholders in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, following their urgent consultation in February 2007. This effort led to a 84% decline in type 1 wild poliovirus in 2007 over 2006, the sharpest-ever drop in a single year. Epidemiological, operational and financial milestones were established to guide and measure the intensified effort, which was characterized by sustained dialogue with Heads of Government and local leaders in polio-affected countries, increasing and strategic use of powerful new monovalent polio vaccines and tailored tactics to ensure all children are reached with the vaccines.

Progress	Challenges	Solutions
Milestone 1: number of polio-infected districts reduced by 50%		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall reduction of 24%. The number of districts worldwide infected with type 1 poliovirus has dropped by 59%, surpassing the 50% objective. Details in PDF ▪ In the core districts of western Uttar Pradesh, no type 1 polio has been reported since October 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2 of the 4 countries, the number of type 3-infected districts rose, from 2 to 9 in Afghanistan and from 7 to 77 in India. ▪ Incidence of type 3 polio nearly tripled over 2006 globally (to 987 cases from 331); the majority of the rise due to a 28-fold increase in India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The increase in type 3 is being met with strategic interspersing of type 1- and type 3-specific monovalent oral polio vaccines, to expedite interruption of type 1 while maintaining protection against type 3.
Milestone 2: parity in immunity levels between children in polio transmission zones and polio-free areas		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 of the 4 endemic countries are close to achieving the same levels of immunity among children in their polio transmission zones as in their polio-free areas. Details in PDF. ▪ In 5 of the 9 transmission zones within the countries, population immunity was equal to or higher than the rest of the country. ▪ The proportion of zero-dose children in southern Afghanistan had increased from 4% in 2006 to 12% in the middle of 2007 due to security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In northern Nigeria, the proportion of zero-dose children has been halved from 2006, but still remains high enough for poliovirus transmission (average of 16% across high-risk states). ▪ In Afghanistan, progress in closing the immunity gap fluctuates with security conditions in the southern region. ▪ In Pakistan – while immunity in transmission zones is generally close to that of polio-free zones – enough children are being missed in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In northern Nigeria and southern Pakistan, specific operational improvements currently being implemented include independent monitoring of coverage and stronger vaccinator training and supervision. ▪ In Afghanistan, children inaccessible due to conflict make up a small overall proportion of the country's target-age population, and local teams are adapting constantly to the conflict, negotiating with any party necessary to obtain access.

constraints, but dropped to 9% following the use of innovative tactics to engage with all parties in the conflict.

parts of the southern transmission zone to allow poliovirus transmission to continue: over 2% of children in Karachi are zero-dose, double the figure in the rest of the country.

- In India, to reach more children in access-compromised parts of Bihar state, more human resources are being deployed to these areas, campaigns take place separately from the rest of the country and administrative arrangements are fast-tracked.

Milestone 3: transmission stopped in countries with circulation of imported poliovirus in 2006

- Transmission stopped in 11 of the 13 countries which had importations of polio in 2006. [Details](#) in PDF
- Transmission of imported poliovirus circulating in 2006 continues in Chad and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
 - In Chad, poor quality coverage during immunization campaigns, inconsistent surveillance and recurrent insecurity have allowed continued transmission of imported poliovirus.
- Additional supplementary immunization activities and necessary surveillance improvements are being planned in Chad.
- A calendar of intense immunization activities – with improvements in quality – is in place for DRC.
- Strengthened technical assistance has been deployed to Angola, which has also carried out surveillance reviews.

Milestone 4: full funding available for 2008 eradication activities

- US\$ 525 million is available in funding, leaving a gap of US\$ 175 million for 2008. [Details](#) in PDF
- Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a partnership to inject US\$ 200 million into the Global Polio Eradication Initiative over the next four years.

US\$ 104 million in funding from the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm) for a post-eradication vaccine stockpile was reprogrammed for intensified eradication activities.
- The full financial resources necessary to stop type 1 transmission in 2008 have not been pledged.
- The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is working with a broad range of financing partners, including the G8, to ensure required funding.

Additional activities to report on for *The Case for Polio Eradication*

WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan travelled to transmission hot-spots in all four endemic countries within 12 months of the urgent stakeholder consultation.

The Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication, which provides strategic guidance to the polio eradication effort, stated in November 2007 that the progress achieved during the year re-affirmed the feasibility of polio eradication in the near-term and recommended an extension of the intensified activities.

Communications activities in all four endemic countries were reviewed, human resources and capacity enhanced and research carried out to gain deeper understanding of community perceptions, which are informing tailored communication plans in 2008.