



# Rotary Zones 26 & 27

**PolioPlus Weekly Update  
10 November, 2021**



**Note:** This update is going out to all Zone 26 & 27 DG's, DGE's, District Foundation Chairs, District PolioPlus Chairs, Senior Leaders and others who have requested to be on the mailing list . If you wish to no longer receive these updates, please let me know and I'll remove you from the list 😊.

## **Greetings Polio Warriors:**

- **WILD POLIO VIRUS - I have dreaded the possibility of this day arriving, as I know many of you have...Just reported this morning. After more than 10 months of no new wild polio cases in Afghanistan, **TWO** new cases of Type 1 have occurred, both from the Emamsaheb District of Kunduz Province in the Northeast Region.**

Genetic sequencing of both cases demonstrates the two cases are related. The two affected children, a male, aged 25 months and a female, aged 10 months, had reported dates of onset of paralysis on the 20th and 29th of October, 2021 respectively. While this is disappointing, the incident was not totally unexpected, as the Kunduz province has been inaccessible for house-to-house vaccinations since 2019. One piece of good news in this situation is that the Emamsaheb District, where the cases occurred, was just covered by house-to-house vaccination teams during the nationwide polio vaccination campaign earlier this week (November 8th to 11th), which has already given us an important and robust mechanism to respond to this outbreak.

As you all know, we have hit huge roadblocks before, and while they have been demoralizing, we have reacted with perseverance and tenacity, and overcome those obstacles, and no doubt, we will again in this situation.

Like the roadblock we encountered on the African Continent. After years of exhaustive work in the 47 countries that make up the African region, in August, 2016 we were within weeks of the required 3 years without a single case in order to declare Africa polio free...when 4 cases emerged in Nigeria...talk about

demoralizing!!! But we reacted with a strategic and massive surveillance and vaccination campaign, and as a result there have been no new cases since then, and last year, on August 25<sup>th</sup>, the World Health Organization officially certified the African Region free of the wild polio virus.

As mentioned above, this was not unexpected and is even accounted for in GPEI's new 2022-2026 Strategic Plan timeline. As a senior Rotary official said, "We are still positive about zero cases of both types of polio by the end of 2023". Thus my dear Polio Warriors, we reset the clock on Afghanistan:

**FOURTEEN DAYS** - The number of days since the last case of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 occurred in Afghanistan.

**TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SEVEN** - The number of days since the last case of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 occurred in Pakistan.

**FOUR** - The total number of cases of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 that occurred worldwide since January 1st, 3 in Afghanistan and 1 in Pakistan.

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THREE** - The number of cases of the **wild** poliovirus Type 1 that occurred in 2020 on this date.

Last week marks **TWO WEEKS** with no new reported cases worldwide. Also included in this latest report is the existence of two new positive environmental samples (ES) that occurred in September, also in the Kunduz Province. ***So the ES count is now 3 for Afghanistan and 62 for Pakistan since January 1, with the most recent case occurring in Afghanistan in September***

**Note:** As a reminder, in addition to the 5 day nationwide campaign just completed in Afghanistan on November 13th, another round is planned, this time in a joint campaign with Pakistan in December, along their common border.

**Of course, we have to forego our Happy Dance for the time being,** and look forward to once again being able to perform this ritual in hopefully, the not too distant future. 😞

- **CIRCULATING VACCINE DERIVED POLIO** - Our other battlefield in the war on polio, the circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Type 2 (cVDPV2 ) saw a

big decrease in the weekly numbers, reporting only **4** cases this last week. However one of those occurred in Côte d'Ivoire in 2020, but is only now just being reported. The other three all occurred in Niger, as compared to **12** cases the week before and **48** the week before that, so definitely a downward trend. As far as positive environmental samples, we had a jump from **5** cases last week to **24** being reported this week, reminding us that we cannot let our guards down. 19 in Nigeria, 3 in Gambia and one each in The Congo and Senegal.

**Note:** As a reminder, on October 30th, an immunization round of 9 million doses of the new nOPV2 (novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2) was conducted in Nigeria, and it is a positive sign that although there were positive environmental samples in Nigeria, they reported no cases this week. As we enter the Winter months, it is typical for the numbers to increase, however, we are starting to see a substantial downward improvement compared to 2020 (195 less than at this time last year and 163 less the week before - see numbers below).

- **WHO Officials in Tajikistan are “Cautiously Optimistic”** they have “closed the door” on a recent outbreak of cVDPV2 (circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus Type 2) by using the new nOPV2 (novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type2) vaccine in an extensive 11 month surveillance and immunization campaign. The virus, first detected on November 22, 2020 in the province of Khatlon, affected 31 children with paralysis. The immunizations began on May 31st with three rounds of nOPV2 that concluded in early September reaching an estimated 99% of targeted children under the age of 6. As a result, the last reported case occurred on June 26th and the last positive environmental sample was collected on August 27th. We are cautiously optimistic, along with the WHO officials in Tajikistan, that this will be the first of many success stories utilizing the new nOPV2 vaccine. For details, read the [full story here](#).
- So this week’s report has bad news...and it has good news. The bottom line is that we have to still keep up the battle, still advocating and raising funds for our fight...but you, being Polio Warriors, already know that 😊 .
- **Please note:** All figures are for the November 10th report, with the exception of the two new wild polio cases and the two new positive environmental samples of the wild virus. A report on these was received

this morning and added to the November 10th information. Adjustments will be made in next weeks numbers to reflect this.

- That's it for this week folks. Stay safe and we'll see you next week.

Bob and Greg  
Your Big West "End Polio Now" Coordinators

Bob Rogers  
Rotary Club of Sebastopol  
**District 5130**  
PolioPlus Chair (2020/21)  
Past District Governor (2017/18)  
**Zone 27**  
End Polio Now Coordinator (2020/23)  
Cell: 707-766-4636

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Poliovirus Weekly Update November 10, 2021, World Health Organization

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### [Wild Poliovirus Summary:](#)

Unfortunately, you will see below, that the number of wild polio cases for 2021 as of November 14, 2021 have increased by 2 new cases in Afghanistan (Totals are now 1 in Pakistan and 3 in Afghanistan).

The total number of wild polio cases in **2020** were **140** (84 in Pakistan and 56 in Afghanistan).

The total number of wild polio cases in **2019** were **176** (147 in Pakistan and 29 in Afghanistan).

**Note: Polio "Acronyms". For a complete list go to**

**<https://polioeradication.org/acronyms/>**

***AFP = Acute Flaccid Paralysis***

***cVDPV = Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus (a 1 or 2 behind it denotes the polio type...ie cVDPV2)***

***nOPV2 = novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2***

***WPV1 = Wild Poliovirus, Type 1***

***ES = Positive Environmental Samples***

### **New wild poliovirus isolates reported this week:**

**AFP cases: 2 (Actually occurred in October, but just now reported)**

**Environment: 2 (Actually occurred in September but just now reported)**

### **New cVDPV isolates reported this week:**

**AFP cases: 4**

**Environment: 24**

## **Officially reported WPV1 and cVDPV cases as of 10 November, 2021**

### **Wild poliovirus (WPV) cases**

- **Total global WPV1 cases in 2021: 4 (compared to 133 for the same period in 2020)**
- **Total global WPV1 cases in 2020: 140**

### **Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases**

- **Total global cVDPV cases in 2021: 447\* (compared to 642 for the same period in 2020)**
- **Total global cVDPV cases in 2020: 1,109\*\***

**\* Although there were 4 cases of cVDPV reported last week, only 3 occurred during the 2021 calendar year, with the remaining case occurring in 2020.**

**\*\* The one case of cVDPV reported above that occurred in 2020 increased the total 2020 cases from last week's 1,108 to 1,109.**

**Summary of new WPV and cVDPV this week (AFP cases and ES positives) by country. For complete details on individual countries, go to <https://polioeradication.org/polio-today/polio-now/this-week/>**

- Afghanistan: two WPV1 cases
- Congo: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample
- Côte d'Ivoire: one cVDPV2 case
- Gambia: three cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
- Niger: three cVDPV2 cases
- Nigeria: 19 cVDPV2 positive environmental samples
- Senegal: one cVDPV2 positive environmental sample