

Afghanistan Polio highlights 2023



(iii) Accessibility

With a countrywide target of 11.07 million children, the number of unreached children was reduced from 0.49 at the start of 2023 to around 0.16 million by the end of the year.

VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

(i) Immunization Campaigns in 2023

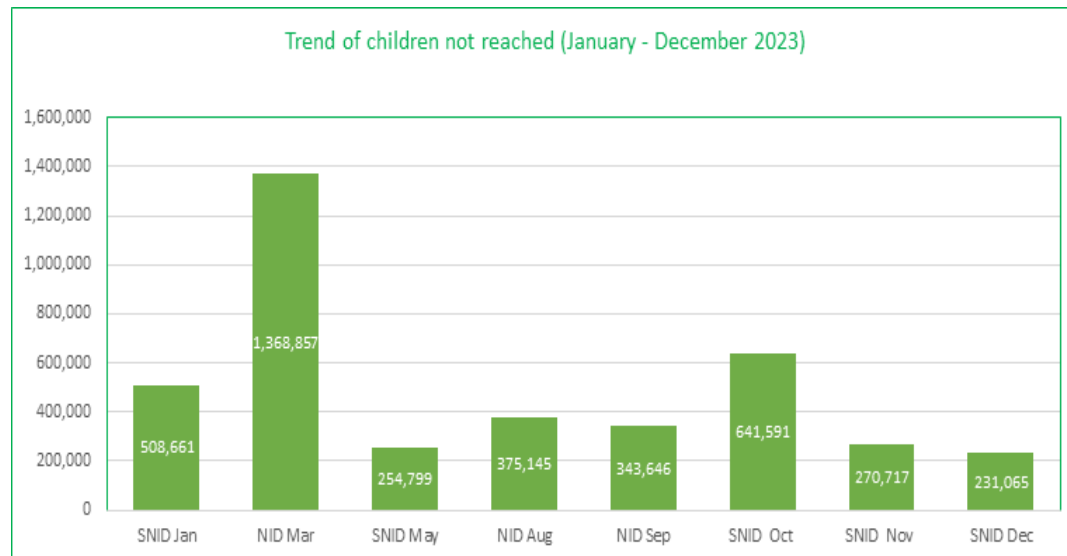
Twelve campaigns were implemented in 2023: three NIDs, five SNIDs and four campaign responses. 3.74 million children aged between 5 – 10 years were vaccinated with OPV in the September, October, November and December SNIDs in Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan provinces in the East.

Age Group	Campaigns	Children Vaccinated	Children Vaccinated %	PCA Seen %
Zero to Five Years	January - NID	5.62M	103.20	92.64
	February - CR	1.42 M	124.18	97.48
	March - NID	9.76 M	97.65	91.41
	April - CR	1.37 M	119.94	98.20
	May - SNID	6.45 M	99.36	91.14
	July - CR	3.01 M	98.55	84.47
	August - NID	10.77 M	97.23	92.25
	August - CR	0.49 M	98.19	97.87
	September - NID	10.90 M	98.38	92.39
	October - SNID	7.06 M	95.12	89.79
	November - SNID	7.70 M	101.62	90.27
	December - SNID	7.88 M	103.94	91.62
Five to Ten Years	September - NID	0.15 M	86.10	98.87
	October - SNID	1.17 M	94.36	97.52
	November - SNID	1.20 M	98.10	98.37
	December - SNID	1.21 M	98.84	98.19

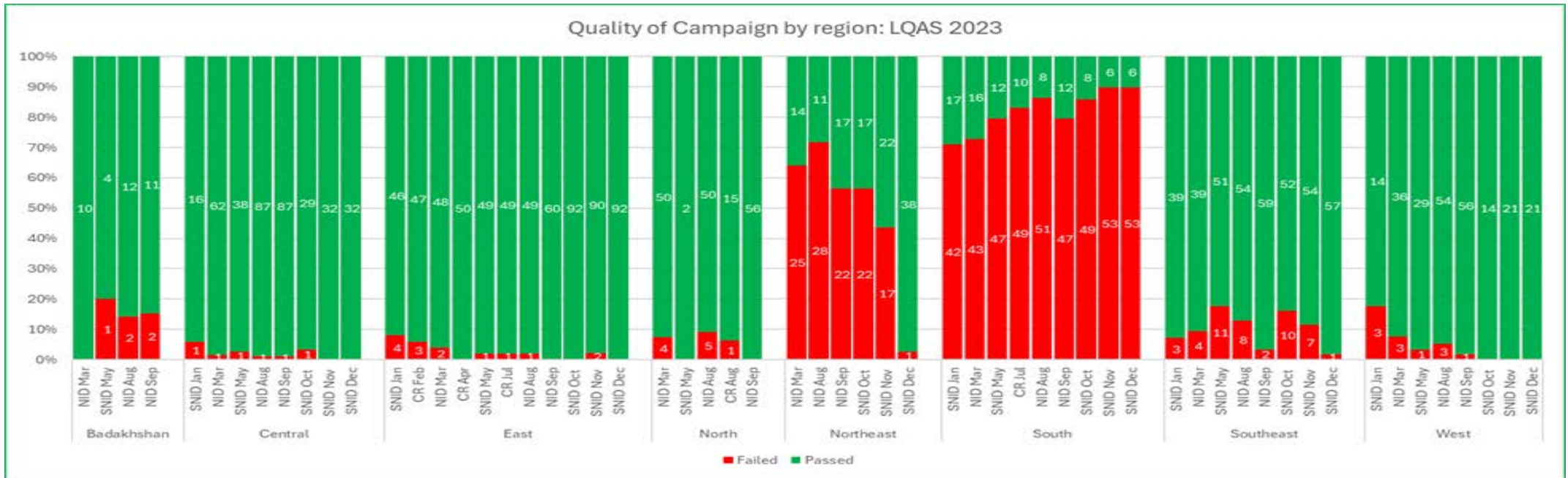
(ii) Complementary immunization activities

In 2023, twelve cross-border vaccination points were operational, increasing to 15 in November in the East, Southeast and South border crossings in response to the increased number of returnees from Pakistan. In addition, 337 permanent transit teams were located in strategic points to vaccinate children on the move.

Permanent transit teams vaccinated nine million children and cross-border vaccination teams vaccinated 1.4 million children against polio, including all age vaccination in the East during the year. UNHCR repatriation centres and IOM sites receiving returnee children from Pakistan and Iran vaccinated 413,306 children under the age of 10 years with OPV.

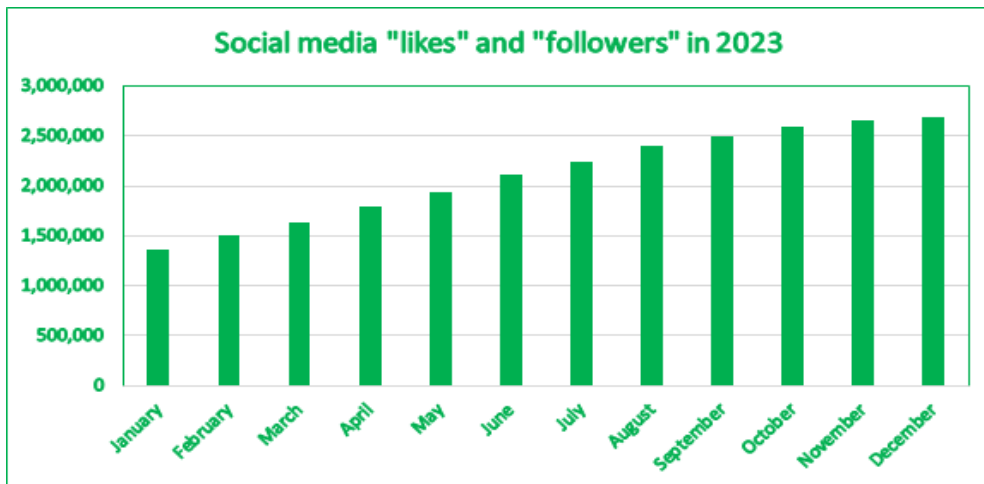


(iv) Campaign Quality



POLIO FREE AFGHANISTAN SOCIAL MEDIA

For a stronger media engagement and increased community awareness, 782 journalists were trained and 907 media roundtables were conducted across Afghanistan. Social media 'likes' and 'followers' on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram reached more than 2.6 million in December 2023, compared with 1.3 million in January. Social media average monthly reach in 2023 was 58 million.



SURVEILLANCE

519 environmental samples were collected from 38 Sites in 2023, with 62 confirmed for WPV1. Key surveillance indicators are above global standards at national and regional levels. National and sub-national AFP case specimen management reverse cold chain and capacity at storage facilities is at the required levels.

Training and orientation of AFP focal points, reporting volunteers and health workers was regularly conducted throughout 2023. AFP surveillance workshops and active surveillance visits continued as per the programme's guidelines. Additionally, a three-day AFP surveillance refresher training was held for all surveillance staff in the Central, South-east, North, North-east, Badakhshan, West, South and East regions.

The number of environmental surveillance sites increased from 32 in January 2023 to 38 in December 2023. Samples were regularly collected from all sites as per the sample collection schedule.

AFP Surveillance Indicators by Regions

