

### Current Health Event

#### National Polio Immunization Campaign

October 14, The Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF launched the National Polio Immunization Campaign from the Lebanese Order of Physicians.

#### Editorial note:

The risk is still high that the outbreak will spread further within the Syrian Arab Republic and/or Iraq, and expand to neighbouring countries and potentially beyond. This threatens a collective global good and demonstrates that until endemic areas are cleared of the poliovirus, the risk of reinfection in countries with low immunization rates will be ever-present.

This campaign stands as a crucial national response to the outbreak of Polio in the region, and aims to reach 550,000 children under five regardless of nationality. The second round will take place between 15 and 21 November. All children under five must participate in both rounds. Middle East countries are implementing synchronized polio campaigns in October and November 2014.

In Lebanon several positive factors exist:

- Overall routine polio vaccination coverage remains high;
  - The large number of children reached in successive Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs); and
  - Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance is improving.
- Yet, a significant number of factors need to be improved:
- Understanding at the community level of the need for and benefits of vaccination.



Table: Surveillance indicators 2010–2014. Middle East Polio Technical Bulletin n. 45

Country / Territory	Year	AFP cases reported	Non-polio AFP rate	AFP cases with adequate specimens (%)
Lebanon	2010	19	1.7	47%
	2011	22	2.0	45%
	2012	24	2.2	50%
	2013	33	2.2	45%
	2014	31	2.0	65%

- Accessing children despite their frequent displacement within Lebanon and Syria, especially those living in informal tented settlements;
- Further reinforcement of AFP surveillance;
- Mitigation of important negative factors in neighbouring countries such as the advent of the high transmission season and the insecurity.

◇ Middle East region is on track to interrupt polio transmission as 6 months passed with no cases of wild poliovirus (WPV1).

◇ No new WPV1 cases were reported in the region in the past week.

◇ The total number of laboratory confirmed WPV1 cases in Syria for 2014 is ONE, and 35 for 2013.

◇ The total number of laboratory confirmed WPV1 cases in Iraq is 2 as of the 27 October 2014.

Despite a robust response by the seven targeted countries, a continued multicountry intervention is needed to rapidly detect and interrupt wild poliovirus transmission and protect children in Lebanon and in the region from paralytic poliomyelitis.

#### Cumulative Notifiable diseases in Lebanon (Syrian)

Disease	2013 Cumul	2014 Cumul*	Sep	Oct
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>				
Polio	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	33(7)	31(11)	2(1)	3(1)
Measles	1760(232)	229 (100)	6(4)	0(0)
Mumps	14(2)	377(63)	31(7)	12(3)
Pertussis	59(9)	79(24)	8(0)	3(2)
Rabies	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Rubella	27(1)	18(12)	0(0)	0(1)
Tetanus	4(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(0)
Viral Hep B	141(8)	178(22)	20(2)	7(1)
<b>Water/Food Borne Diseases</b>				
Brucellosis	189(12)	211(32)	18(3)	8(0)
Cholera	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Hydatid cyst	13(3)	13(2)	0(0)	0(0)
Typhoid Fever	407(21)	217(16)	23(3)	26(0)
Viral Hep A	1551(220)	1465(407)	223(98)	253 (113)
<b>Other Diseases</b>				
Leishmaniasis	1033 (1032)	476 (450)	13(12)	2(2)
Meningitis	204(24)	143(19)	0(0)	0(0)
Viral Hep C	103(4)	71(1)	3(0)	8(2)

Source: Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon