



**Statement by Pakistan at the 76th Session the World Health Assembly
(WHA76)**

Agenda 15.4: Poliomyelitis eradication

(21-30 May 2023)

Thank you, Mr. Vice President

Polio eradication remains one of the foremost priorities for the government and we are making all possible efforts towards this goal

To boost children's immunity against Poliovirus, an intensive Polio vaccination campaign schedule is being implemented in the country, targeting to immunize 43 million children.

The unprecedented floods affected the pace of the nationwide immunization campaign last year.

Mr. Vice President,

The government is taking several measures including rapid detection, containment, and elimination of all polioviruses from newly infected areas, as well as protecting the overall health of populations by maintaining and increasing immunity to poliovirus infection through implementing quality supplementary immunization activities and strengthening essential immunization.

Awareness raising and public communication campaigns are also an important part of this policy and disinformation surrounding the polio campaign remains a serious concern.

Special plan is being implemented in coordination and collaboration of district administration and security agencies in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure a safe working environment for the frontline Polio workers as well as to reach all children under five for vaccination in the security sensitive areas with strategies and interventions tailored to local context.

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To quell the risk of cross-border circulation of the virus between Afghanistan and Pakistan, there is continued alignment of Pakistan's vaccination schedule with Afghanistan's vaccination schedule.

Close coordination with the Afghanistan Polio Program is being maintained for the vaccination of population on the move between two countries and the ones residing in bordering areas and settlements.

Around 340,000 polio workers are engaged in the process, who form one of the largest disease surveillance networks globally.

While we have engaged all resources possible to eradicate the disease, we will need and will continue to welcome support from all partners in making the world polio free.

I thank you.

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