

# MEDIA FACT-FILE

POLIO ERADICATION



Volume 4, July 2012

## Afghanistan team observes India's polio initiatives



Afghanistan team with polio partners and children in Moradabad.

A high-level delegation of Afghanistan Government officials, led by Afghanistan National EPI Manager, Mr Aga Gul Dost, observed the polio eradication initiatives in India and brainstormed with the Government and polio partners

on the key initiatives that helped India stop poliovirus transmission.

The thirteen-member delegation included Dr Gula Khan Ayoub, National EPI Manager, Ministry of Public Health, Government of Afghanistan, and a number

of government and also UNICEF and WHO officials from Afghanistan.

The officials spent nine days visiting India's traditional endemic and highest risk areas of Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh; and Saharsa and East Champaran. The delegates interacted with the state and the district authorities to understand the steps that were taken to tackle polio in the area. District authorities shared details of the various interventions that were undertaken to wipe out polio. The teams observed the pre polio round activities and also the immunization drive, the intense activities that are rolled out to ensure all children up to the age of 5 years are covered in the polio drive.

The delegation also observed the coordination between the district administration, partners - WHO-NPSP, UNICEF, CORE and Rotary – and the community itself in the planning and roll out of the polio round.

The Afghanistan delegation appreciated India's efforts. "We are very much impressed with your community engagement and plan to implement some of the measures in Afghanistan," said Carmen Garrigos-Perez, UNICEF Afghanistan Polio Team leader. Afghanistan is among the three remaining polio endemic countries in the world along with Pakistan and Nigeria. India was struck off the list in February this year after it completed a year without reporting any case of wild poliovirus.

## 'Global Poverty Project' team visits India

### FOLLOWING

India's landmark achievement of remaining 'polio free' for over 18 months, a team of Global Poverty Project (GPP) visited Ghaziabad, in Uttar Pradesh, and Patna in Bihar to observe first-hand the remarkable work undertaken by UNICEF's Social Mobilization Network in the fight against polio.

The GPP team, which included Mr Hugh Evans, Co-Founder & CEO, Mr Peter Murphy, Chairman and Mr Michael Sheldricks, Manager-Global Policy & Campaigns, observed booth day vaccination in Ghaziabad on 17 June. They interacted with the district authorities, local influencers, religious leaders, elected representatives, community

leaders and also polio afflicted children and their parents. In Patna, the team observed house-to-house polio vaccination and also visited brick kilns, which are in focus due to high-risk migrant populations.

GPP supports the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and is focusing on making polio

### GLOBAL POLIO UPDATE

Eight new wild polio virus cases were reported in the past week. This brings the total number of cases globally for 2012 to 111, from four countries – Nigeria (62), Pakistan (28), Afghanistan (16) and Chad (5). This compares to 309 cases reported from 13 countries for the corresponding period in 2011.

eradication a top agenda for the world leaders to help bridge the global funding gap.

## Corporates help spread polio awareness during Shravani Mela

UNDER the banner of India Unite to End Polio Now (IUEPN) campaign, Aircel, Bihar Industrial Association and Sudha Dairy, joined hands with Aidmatrix Foundation to help spread awareness about polio eradication during the month-long Shravani Mela this year.

The mela in Deogarh, Jharkhand, attracts thousands of pilgrims from across the country every year, particularly from Nepal and Bihar. Covering such large

congregations with polio immunization is one of the key strategies of polio eradication in India.

Aircel supported the initiative by sponsoring two mobile vans, which traversed the entire stretch of 107 kms from Sultanganj in Bihar to Deoghar in Jharkhand displaying and airing messages on polio and routine immunization.

Bihar Industrial Association supported posters and banners



Mobile van sponsored by Aircel with polio messages during the mela.

with polio messages during the mela. Sudha Dairy, the milk co-

operative federation of Bihar, sponsored cycle rickshaws which, decorated with polio posters, played audio messages appealing to parents to ensure polio and routine immunization for their children.

The IUEPN campaign, supported by UNICEF, garners support from private sector companies under their corporate social responsibility budgets for contributions in kind to support polio awareness among the highest-risk populations.

For more information contact: Shamila Sharma, Communication Specialist - Polio. Email: shsharma@unicef.org

