

MEDIA FACT-FILE

POLIO ERADICATION



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Polio Programme gets Innovation Award

THE Polio Eradication Programme has won the 'India Innovation Awards'. India's unprecedented progress against polio in 2012 follows a series of innovations over the years that helped ensure protection against polio for all children under the age of 5 years, particularly in the highest risk, hardest to reach and remote areas, and the most vulnerable mobile and migrant community.

India has not reported any case of polio since January 2011. In February, the World Health Organization removed India from the list of polio endemic countries after the country surpassed a year without reporting any fresh case.

Describing India's progress in polio eradication as an "amazing achievement", Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, said this could not have happened if we were not immunizing almost 100 per cent of the 175 million children under the age of five years, repeatedly.

Dr Ahluwalia presented the award to Dr P K Pradhan, Health Secretary, Government of India. The Health Secretary lauded the concerted efforts of all partners in continuously innovating, improvising and strategizing to address refusals, identify missed children, the highest risk areas and populations, and vaccinate 175 million children across the country, repeatedly.



Union Health Secretary receiving 'Innovation Award'.

The Chairman and Jury of the EMPI-The Indian Express awards, Mr Arun Malia, said the winners were decided after thorough and skeptical reviews and independent evaluation of innovations that

influenced the lives of people and were implemented with involvement of all stakeholders and beneficiaries. For innovations in polio programme visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_BxUwFLkMM&feature=youtu.be

Not all paralysis is polio

PARALYSIS has many causes, one of them being polio. A case of paralysis can be termed as polio ONLY when confirmed by a designated polio laboratory. Not all paralysis is polio.

Under surveillance for polio, all cases with sudden onset of weakness and floppiness in any part of the body in a child less

than 15 years of age, is reported for follow-up and investigation. These are called Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases. Two stool samples each are collected from all the AFP cases for investigation in polio laboratories. There are 35,478 sites in India reporting AFP cases for poliovirus surveillance

In 2011, as many as 60,750 cases of AFP were reported from

across the country for poliovirus surveillance. Of them, only one case from Panchla block in Howrah district of West Bengal was confirmed as polio.

As India draws closer to eradicating polio, surveillance for polio needs to continue to be extremely sensitive with all cases of AFP promptly reported, followed-up and investigated for poliovirus.

NEXT POLIO ROUND

17 June : Sub-National Polio Immunization round in parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand and Gujarat, and entire Delhi.

UPCOMING EVENT

Ministers of health from around the world are convening this month at the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland, to set global public health policy. With ministers' deliberations, the WHA will consider adopting a resolution declaring polio eradication a programmatic emergency for global public health.

GLOBAL POLIO UPDATE

In 2012 so far, 55 polio cases have been reported, Nigeria 30, Pakistan 16 and Afghanistan 6 polio cases.

Amitabh Bachchan gets Polio Eradication Champion award

UNICEF polio ambassador Amitabh Bachchan has been conferred the Polio Eradication Champion award by Rotary International for his invaluable support to the Polio Eradication Programme in India.

"I dedicate this award to our countrymen and assure my continued support to the efforts in making India and the

world polio-free", Mr Bachchan said after receiving the award from past Rotary International Presidents Mr Rajendra K Saboo and Mr Ashok Mahajan in Mumbai.

Mr Bachchan has been the face of polio mass media campaigns for nearly a decade advising and persuading parents to ensure two drops of polio vaccine to every child every time.



Amitabh Bachchan at the Rotary award ceremony.

Did You Know?

The first four months of 2012 have seen the lowest number of cases globally and also the lowest number of polio affected countries out of any four-month period in the past ten years. Poliovirus transmission is limited to just four countries – Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan and Chad.

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