

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination

PRESS RELEASE

Government of Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to polio eradication, Health Minister

Islamabad, 8 October 2018 – Dr. Jean-Marc Olivé, Chairman of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Polio Eradication called on Federal Minister for National Health Services, Aamer Mehmood Kiani today. Health Minister re-affirmed Government's full support to eradication the polio.

Health Minister said that the Government is making efforts to overcome the remaining challenges as they arise. "We are committed to stopping poliovirus transmission in the core reservoirs and sustaining our highly data-driven programming that effectively guides our operations.

Minister expressed his satisfaction in the in the quality, efficacy and safety of the oral polio vaccine the Minister added that the polio programme must ensure that every child under five years of age is vaccinated during every immunization campaign.

Minister said , in accordance with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan ensuring basic health, nutrition, and water and safe sanitation services is priority.

Minister said that "I am confident that we will soon achieve lasting benefits for the Pakistani people. The success of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme is an inspiring model and testament to Pakistan's capacity to improve its public health service delivery and ensure the health and well-being of its citizens.

Dr. Jean-Marc commended the extraordinary efforts of the country team and thousands of frontline workers, backed by law enforcement agencies, and unprecedented Government commitment for polio eradication at all levels. "The persistent positive environmental samples in the core reservoirs of Peshawar and Karachi, as well as the recent upsurge of positive environmental samples across the country however, mean that the war against polio is far from over," said Dr. Jean-Marc Olivé. "The inaccessibility related intense virus circulation in shared corridors with Afghanistan further leaves no space for Pakistan to relax till the job is fully done," he added.

The recent results of September nationwide campaign are quite impressive and with continuation of momentum the country is rightly placed to grab the best opportunity to interrupt virus transmission, said Dr. Jean-Marc Olive.

Sajid Hussain Shah
PRO to Federal Minister Health