POLIO ERADICATION

Security and Access for Vaccination Teams

Strictly Confidential: Update Polio Pakistan 19 August 2014

Overview

- As of August 13th 2014, **139 cases of polio have been reported worldwide** in 2014 compared to 181 cases in the same period of 2013 (a decline of 24%)
- Out of 139 cases, **108 (78%) were reported from Pakistan**, 8 (6%) from Afghanistan, 5 (4%) from Nigeria, 4 (3%) from Somalia and 14 (10%) from other countries (Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Syria, Cameroon, Ethiopia)

Pakistan Focus

- The **majority of cases in Pakistan** were reported **from the federally administered tribal areas** (FATA), particularly from North Waziristan.
- After the **Karachi Airport attack** by IMU fighters of Uzbek origin closely linked to the Tehrik-I-Taliban (TTP), the **Pakistani military launched an air and ground offensive** in North Waziristan targeting militant hideouts.
- The military's ground offensive **displaced ca. 800'000 tribesmen** including ca. **450'000 children** who had to flee to unsafe areas.

- **For the first time since June 2012, the majority of children from North Waziristan were vaccinated**, as all internally displaced people (IDPs) had to register to receive food, aid, cash, etc. which allowed the 25 polio teams to reach the people.

IPI value add and outcome

- IPI **approached very senior Army officials** in connection with security and other direct support for polio vaccination teams.
- IPI established direct contact (field visit Nov/Dec 2013), and followed through with **discreet, confidential requests and negotiations** (field visit in Mar/April 2014), plus continuing contact.
- Consequently, the **Pak Army provided security for polio-vaccination teams** and enabled the **successful vaccination of previously unreached children** after tribesmen fled from inaccessible areas to settled areas during the May-July military operation.
- As a result of IPIs continuing work in the field, there have been **no attacks on polio teams since June 2014**; the few cases of health teams refusing to carry out vaccinations relate to non-payment of salaries.