

## 1. Name of the Project

Country: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Project: Polio Eradication Project (Phase 2)

Loan Agreement Signed: May 19, 2016

Loan Amount: 6,290 million Yen

Borrower: The President of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

## 2. Background and Necessity of the Project

### (1) Current State and Issues of the Health Sector in Pakistan

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan) is one of the countries in South Asia where health indicators such as maternal and infant mortality rates are high, and improvement in routine immunization coverage is required. For polio eradication, Pakistan is one of the two polio endemic countries in the world along with Afghanistan. Pakistan experienced a large-scale outbreak with an increase in the number of cases from 93 in 2013 to 306 in 2014, accounting for 86% of the global wild poliovirus<sup>1</sup> (WPV) case count due to the suboptimal quality of routine immunization and the suspension of polio vaccination campaigns in some areas due to military operations in place, leading to a large-scale internal displacement of people. To respond to this emergency situation, the Government of Pakistan (GOP) has set up the National Task Force for polio eradication chaired by the Prime Minister and has strengthened countermeasures to decrease polio cases with support from the international community. As a result, only 54 new polio cases were confirmed in 2015 although further effort is required for Pakistan to achieve eradication of polio.

In countries where poliovirus circulation is confirmed, supplementary immunization campaigns (SIAs), so-called “polio vaccination campaigns” are usually implemented in addition to routine immunization. To manage all these activities including the nationwide polio vaccination campaigns, the GOP established a National Emergency Operation Center (N-EOC) under the supervision of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSRC), with technical support by World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The campaigns target children under five years old and currently, vaccination coverage is kept above 90% on average. To achieve eradication of polio from Pakistan, continuous and more focused campaigns in areas near the Afghan borders and in larger cities where new cases are still found, is a challenge.

### (2) Development Policies for the Health Sector in Pakistan and the Priority of the Project

The GOP has positioned polio eradication as an urgent national task and developed the “Emergency Plan for Polio Eradication 2016-2018” (the Plan) with a special focus on the execution of a series of good quality vaccination campaigns in the virus-circulating areas, and finding and vaccinating any “missed children” (children who have not been vaccinated in the past). This Project is to support the procurement of oral polio vaccines (OPV) used in scheduled campaigns under the Plan.

### (3) Japan and JICA’s Policy and Operations in the Health Sector

The Government of Japan’s Country Assistance policy for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (April

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<sup>1</sup> Polio virus is categorized into two, namely wild poliovirus and circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV)

2012) puts “Ensuring human security and improvement of social infrastructure” as one of its priority areas. Also, the JICA Country Analysis Paper for Pakistan (March 2014) analyzed that health program is one of the focus sectors, and the Project is consistent with this policy and analysis. The Japanese government has been supporting polio eradication efforts in Pakistan continuously through grant aids for the “Project for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis” (1996-2012) and the “Project for the Control and Eradication of Poliomyelitis” (2013-2015) totaling approximately 11,411 million JPY (Exchange of Notes basis), a Japanese ODA loan for the “Polio Eradication Project” (signed in 2011, 4,970 million JPY) as well as technical cooperation in the “EPI/Polio Control Project” (2006-2011) and the “Project to Strengthen Routine Immunization” (2014-2017) to improve the capacity of vaccinators.

#### (4) Other Donors’ Activity

The World Bank supported OPV procurement through the “Partnership for Polio Eradication Project” (2003-2013) and the Islamic Development Bank supported OPV procurement and vaccination activities. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has partnered with the above two agencies and has adopted a “buy-down” mechanism. WHO and UNICEF have provided technical support: WHO for surveillance and management of vaccinators, and UNICEF for procurement of OPV, social mobilization in communities and training of vaccinators.

#### (5) Necessity of the Project

Pakistan is one of the two remaining polio endemic countries in the world and regarded as a key country for global polio eradication. The GOP has placed polio eradication as important national task and is putting great efforts into the “Emergency Plan for Polio Eradication 2016-2018”. To realize this goal, it is vital to smoothly implement the scheduled polio campaigns without any delay. In light of the above, it is highly necessary and relevant for JICA to support the procurement of OPV under the Plan through the Project.

### **3. Project Description**

- (1) Project Objective(s): The objective of the Project is to optimize immunization of the polio vaccine to children under five (5) years old by procuring Oral Polio Vaccine, thereby contributing to the early eradication of polio in Pakistan.
- (2) Project Site/Target Area: Entire Pakistan
- (3) Project Component(s): Procurement of Oral Polio Vaccine (approximately 273 million doses)
- (4) Loan Amount: 6,290 million Yen
- (5) Schedule: From May 2016 to December 2018 (32 months). Completion of the Project is defined as the completion of all the polio vaccination campaigns supported by the Project
- (6) Project Implementation Structure:
  - 1) Borrower: The President of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
  - 2) Executing Agency: Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MoNHSRC)
  - 3) Operation System: N-EOC under MoNHSRC will manage and coordinate all the activities for polio vaccination campaigns.
- (7) Environmental and Social Consideration/Poverty Reduction/Social Development
  - 1) Environmental and Social Consideration

(i) Category: C

(ii) Reason for Categorization

The Project is deemed to have minimal adverse impact on the environment as specified in the JICA Guidelines for Environmental and Social Consideration (April 2010)".

2) Promotion of Poverty Reduction:

Children of lower income families are more prone to contract the poliovirus, thus the Project is expected to contribute to reducing the burden of those families.

3) Promotion of Social Development:

Polio is considered a pediatric infectious disease and the Project is expected to promote the prevention of contraction. Also, as women usually take the role of patients' care in Pakistan, decreasing the number of new patients is expected to reduce the burden of these women.

(8) Collaboration with Other Donors

1) Collaboration with Other Schemes of JICA: For polio eradication efforts in Pakistan, the Project will support the procurement of OPV for national polio vaccination campaigns. In addition, OPV for mop-up campaigns under the Plan will be procured by grant aid from the "Project for the Control and Eradication of Poliomyelitis" in 2015, and technical cooperation from the "Project to Strengthen Routine Immunization (2014-2017)" has been supporting the capacity building of vaccinators.

2) Collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: The Project has adopted a "Loan Conversion" mechanism by which the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will repay the loan to JICA on behalf of the GOP, if the GOP meets specific target (trigger indicator) of the Project.

3) The "Emergency Plan for Polio Eradication 2016-2018" has four components of a) procurement of OPV, b) vaccination activities, c) social mobilization of communities and d) surveillance, and the Project will support the procurement of OPV necessary for the scheduled polio vaccination campaigns under the Plan together with the Islamic Development Bank (parallel financing). The four components of the Plan are supported by a comprehensive collaborative framework among the donors such as Rotary International, the Government of Canada, the Government of Germany, the Saudi Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in addition to the Government of Japan (JICA) and the Islamic Development Bank.

#### 4. Target Outcomes

(1) Quantitative Effects

1) Performance Indicators (Effect Indicators)

Indicators	Baseline (Actual Value in 2015)	Target (2018)
1. Total Number of Confirmed WPV cases (per year)	54	0
2. Environmental sample positive cases (%)	20	0
3. Coverage of NIDs and SNIDs surveyed by a minimum of 80% of all LQAS lots assessed as accepted (%)	66	90
4. Coverage of NIDs and SNIDs surveyed by third party independent monitoring (%)	90.5	95
5. Coverage against confirmed Missed Children	89	100

(%)		
6. Vaccine wastage rate (%) (annual average)	12%	10%
7. Timely arrival of OPV at all the district offices at least three (3) days before each polio campaign scheduled in the Plan 2016-18 (%)	98.7 (September 2015 NID)	100

## 2) Internal Rate of Return

The financial internal rate of return (FIRR) cannot be calculated because the Project does not bring any financial benefits, and the economic internal rate of return (EIRR) cannot be calculated because it cannot easily be applied to disease eradication.

## (2) Qualitative Effects

Improvement of Pakistani children's health situation through the eradication of polio

## 5. External Factors and Risk Control

N/A

## 6. Lessons Learned from Past Project

The results of the third-party evaluation of the Polio Eradication Project in Pakistan revealed that the Loan Conversion mechanism of the Project did not fully facilitate the GOP to continuously improve their implementation since the timing of the judgment for effectuation of the loan conversion was limited to only once. With this lesson learnt, the Project will set up regular joint monitoring (every six months) with the Islamic Development Bank to understand the achievement level of the effect indicators for the Project, as well as those for the "Emergency Plan for Polio Eradication 2016-2018", followed by feedback meetings with the GOP to discuss countermeasures for any challenges identified during the monitoring.

## 7. Plan for Future Evaluation

### (1) Indicators to be Used

- 1) Total Number of Confirmed WPV cases (per year)
- 2) Environmental sample positive cases (%)
- 3) Coverage of NIDs and SNIDs surveyed by a minimum of 80% of all LQAS lots assessed accepted (%)
- 4) Coverage of NIDs and SNIDs surveyed by third party independent monitoring (%)
- 5) Coverage against confirmed Missed Children (%)
- 6) Vaccine wastage rate (%) (annual average)
- 7) Timely arrival of OPV at all the district offices at least three (3) days before each polio campaign scheduled in the Plan 2016-18 (%)

### (2) Timing

Two years after the completion of the Project

(end)