

## **Background**

The polio eradication program in 2018 has continued to strive for eradication of Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1) endemic areas. In 2018, as of 4 September 2018, 15 WPV1 cases have been reported worldwide (12 in Afghanistan, 3 in Pakistan), compared to 10 for the same period in 2017 (6 in Afghanistan, and 4 in Pakistan). In addition to WPV1 detected from paralyzed persons, WPV1 continued to be found in environmental samples: 64 samples in Afghanistan and 91 in Pakistan in the past 12 months. In Nigeria, there has been no detection of WPV1 since September 2016. No cases of WPV3 have been reported globally since November 2012.

Regarding circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPVs), there have been several outbreaks detected in the last 12 months: the most significant were cVDPV2 outbreaks in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Horn of Africa. There has been a total of 10 separate cVDPV2 outbreaks detected since the tOPV to bOPV switch (April 2016) affecting 6 countries. In addition to cVDPV2, in 2018 a cVDPV1 outbreak has been detected in Papua New Guinea, and a cVDPV3 outbreak detected in Somalia. The remaining challenges to final eradication and cVDPV2 control are:

- Access issues in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, transmission of wild poliovirus in the Northern and Southern transmission corridors has not been interrupted, with circulation maintained in Kandahar Province for more than 1 year. This ongoing transmission in the Southern & Eastern regions is mainly due to inaccessibility and a security ban on house to house campaigns in Kandahar Province, with approximately 1.3 million children inaccessible during the August 2018 campaign.
- Circulation of cVDPV in DRC is spreading to areas with conflict and bordering other countries.

The current Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018 will be extended through 2019. A new strategic plan and budget will be developed for the period 2019-2023 and funding will need to be secured.

The independent monitoring board (IMB) has completed an external review of the programme in the 3 endemic countries and the findings will be presented in September 2018, in London.

## **Purpose of the session and summary**

This session will consist of three presentations: (1) global epidemiological overview, (2) report from the “Independent Evaluation Board” of the eradication program in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria; and (3) report from deliberations of SAGE Polio Working Group.

For this SAGE meeting, there are no items for endorsement but rather for information and discussion. The SAGE members will be invited to comment on the progress of polio eradication and on challenges and strategies to overcome the remaining obstacles to achieving final eradication.

SAGE members will also be invited to comment on the conclusions and recommendations of the IMB report.

As part of the SAGE WG presentation, an “Appraisal of Options for Certification of Global Poliovirus Eradication” will be introduced. This appraisal is one of the background documents to SAGE and discusses options for considering cVDPV status in the final declaration of WPV eradication. SAGE members will be invited to comment on the different options while understanding that the final decision on the requirements for certification lies with the Global Certification Commission.

#### **Background documents in the yellow book**

- Report from meeting of SAGE WG on polio (held on 4-5 September 2018)
  - This report provides summary of the deliberations of the SAGE WG
- Draft “Options appraisal for certification of polio eradication”
  - The document addressed the advantages and disadvantages of different options for certification of polio eradication (whether to limit the scope of certification only to the interruption of transmission of WPV alone or whether cVDPV should also be considered)

#### **Background documents on the web**

- Report by the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) on polio eradication program evaluations in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria
  - This document will provide an assessment of the program from IMB’s field mission to the remaining endemic countries