

## 2 VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

### a Detection of wild polio virus in Nigeria

In August 2016 Nigeria reported two cases of wild poliovirus type 1, after more than two years without any case of wild poliovirus in the African region (last case of wild poliovirus in Nigeria was July 2014). The cases were from Borno state in Jere and Gwarzo local government areas with dates of onset of paralysis on the 06 June 2016 and 13 of July 2016 respectively. One case was detected through finding wild poliovirus type 1 in the stools of a close contact. Genetic sequencing of the viruses suggests that the new cases are most closely linked to a wild poliovirus strain that was last detected in Borno in 2011. Subnational surveillance gaps persist in some areas of Borno, as well as in areas of neighbouring countries, due to inaccessibility.

For the whole year 2016 to date, these cases bring the number of wildtype polio cases globally to 21. The finding is a setback to the goal of polio eradication by 2018. The Emergency Committee under the

International Health Regulations has advised to extend the declaration of polio as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Immunization responses are planned in the Lake Chad subregion. The committee recommended specific guidelines for countries exporting polio virus (Pakistan, Afghanistan), countries infected with wild poliovirus (Nigeria) or vaccine-derived poliovirus (Nigeria, Guinea, Madagascar, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Myanmar) and vulnerable countries at risk (Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Somalia, Ukraine). People who are travelling to these countries are advised to be vaccinated at least 4 weeks before they travel.

For further information, please refer to <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

**Source:** Centre for Vaccines and Immunology, NICD-NHLS; (melindas@nicd.ac.za)