

Poliovirus Vaccination Volunteer Hopes for Polio-Free Afghanistan | VOANews (Oct 2023)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAKy4q7da7I>

26-year-old Inayat Arman is going door to door to make sure that every child in the area receives a drop of polio-virus vaccination. Arman, who has volunteered for polio vaccination for the last 3 years in the native district of Mandozayi, also known as Ismail Khel, in Khost province, is trying to make sure he reaches everyone in the region.

“We start an awareness campaign 2 days before we go to an area, we inform families about the campaigns, so they can keep their children at home.”

Arman however, accepts there are a few families who are just unwilling to give their children their vaccine.

“In the area that I administer the vaccine, there are a few families, like about 4 to 5, refusing. The rest, about 122 families, cooperate and bring their children for vaccination.”

Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan are the only 2 countries in the world where wild polio virus type 1 is reported. In 2023, 6 cases of polio virus type 1 were reported in Afghanistan’s Nangarhar and Kunar Provinces. But no positive polio virus cases were reported in the Eastern province of Khost. Locals credit the coordination between locals and vaccinators, and the hard-work of volunteers paid off. Local tribal leader Haji Khalil also supports the mission:

“They serve the country. They are taking care of the children: we’re giving them vaccinations. When children miss vaccination, they come to us, even after 3 days, telling us : ‘bring the children so we give the vaccination.’ ”

Arman says that it is important that every child receives the polio virus vaccination in order to eradicate the virus. He hopes that Afghanistan will become a polio-free country soon.