

## What Happens at a National Immunization Day?

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India has made tremendous progress in polio eradication, thanks to the consistent implementation of high-quality immunization campaigns. As a result of these tremendous efforts, the incidence of polio in India has been reduced from an estimated more than 75,000 annual cases in 1996, to just 44 cases in 2005, the lowest number ever. India now stands on the verge of being polio-free.

### Polio eradication in India

What precisely happens during a 'National Immunization Day' (NID)?

After just six days:

- 167 million children immunized
- 2.5 million vaccinators
- 200 million doses of vaccine
- 191 million homes visited

Thanks to India's strong and ongoing commitment to polio eradication, the disease could soon be assigned to the history books. No child need ever again know the pain associated with polio-paralysis.

The first day of the National Immunization Day (NID) is called the 'booth day'. Set up at fixed sites around a community, such as in schools, market or village squares, churches or mosques, parents can bring their children to such a booth for immunization.

The subsequent days of the NID are known as the 'house-to-house' days. Vaccinators travel throughout all communities across India to visit each house in efforts to immunize any further children who may not have been immunized during the booth day. All in all, more than 191 million homes were visited between 21 November and 26 November.

Children who are immunized are 'finger-marked' with a pen with impermeable ink. The ink will remain visible for two weeks, ensuring that as vaccinators come across this child later in the week, they will be able to tell that this particular child has already received its polio vaccine.

In total, more than 167 million children were immunized during the 'booth day' and 'house-to-house' activities.