



## **Statement: The Islamic Advisory Group condemns fatal attack on polio workers in Afghanistan, reaffirms such attacks are severely prohibited in Islam**

27 February 2022, Cairo, Egypt – The Executive Committee of the Islamic Advisory Group (IAG) strongly denounces the fatal attack, which led to the assassination of eight polio workers, four of them women, in Afghanistan. The group further reiterates that such attacks contradict Islamic teachings.

The frontline polio workers were shot dead by unknown gunmen in separate attacks in Kunduz and Takhar provinces, while performing their duties in vaccinating the children of Afghanistan against poliomyelitis on 24 February 2022.

The Executive Committee of the IAG calls for unity in standing up to all acts of violence against health workers, as any attack on health workers who work to save children's lives is an attack on children themselves.

The shootings are a setback at a time when Afghanistan has come close to eradicating polio and have resulted in the halting of polio vaccination campaigns in both Kunduz and Takhar provinces.

Polio vaccination campaigns are vital to save children's lives. The IAG has been working since 2014 to ensure that children are protected from polio through vaccination and has long advocated that routine immunization measures fully conform to Islamic principles.

Additionally, numerous scholars and jurists, meeting at several conferences in Afghanistan and Pakistan, have stressed that according to Islamic shariah law children must be vaccinated against polio. Allah the Almighty says: ***"Whoever takes a life—unless as a punishment for murder or mischief in the land—it will be as if they killed all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity."*** (Surat Al-Ma'idah: 32)

The IAG Executive Committee extends its condolences to the families, colleagues and friends of the polio workers who have lost their lives. May Allah give strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss and may their souls rest in peace.

### **About the Islamic Advisory Group**

The IAG was established in 2013 as an Islamic consortium that includes Al Azhar Al Sharif, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank, as well as other religious scholars and technical experts. The objective of the IAG is to raise awareness about priority health issues among Muslim communities through aligning technical and religious perspectives and mobilizing religious scholars, mosque imams and community influencers.