

polio | global eradication initiative



FACT FILE: Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018

Global polio cases are at an all-time low.

In 2012, the world saw the fewest polio cases in the fewest countries ever.

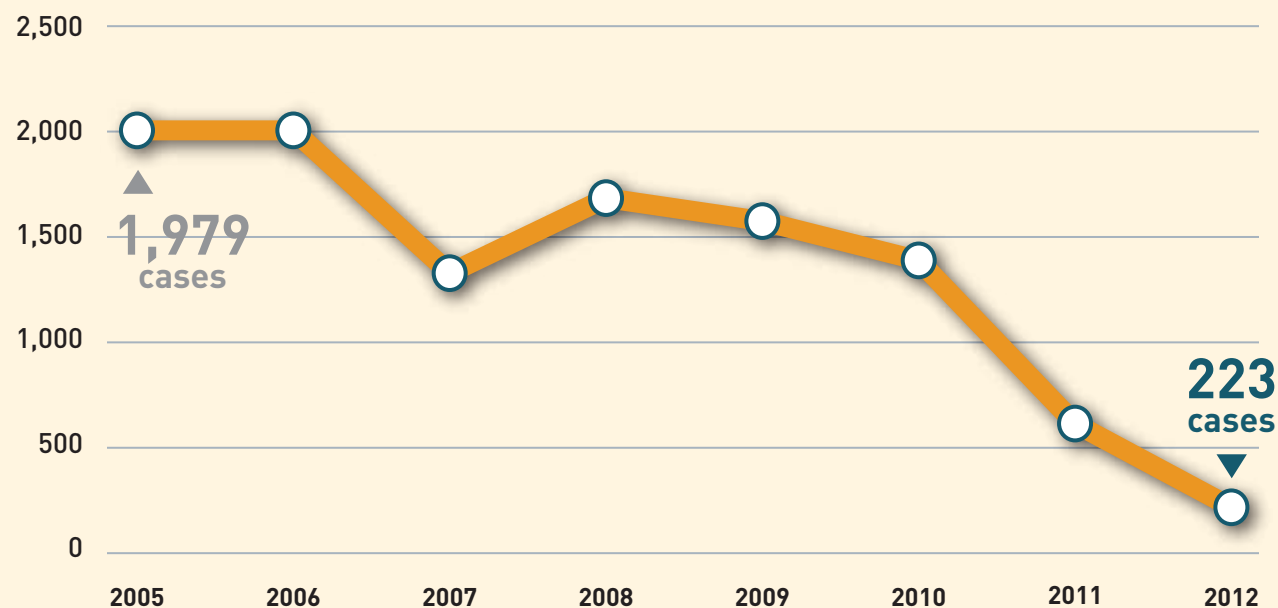
India, long regarded as the most difficult place to end polio, has not recorded a case in more than two years.

Outbreaks in re-infected countries have nearly all been stopped, with Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo regaining polio-free status in the last year.

The remaining endemic countries—Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria—launched Emergency Action Plans in 2012 to boost polio vaccination coverage to levels necessary to stop transmission. These efforts are producing results.

Steep Decline in Global Polio Cases

Global polio cases have fallen by 89% since 2005, 66% in 2012 alone.



Source: WHO

A new plan developed by the GPEI capitalizes on the unprecedented opportunity to eradicate polio.

The Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018 is a comprehensive, long-term strategy that addresses what is needed to deliver a polio-free world by 2018.

The plan was developed by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)—a partnership launched in 1988 by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

While developing the plan, the GPEI consulted with national health authorities, global health initiatives, scientific experts, donors and other stakeholders.

The plan differs from previous GPEI plans in important ways.

Immunization Systems

The new plan emphasizes strengthening immunization systems to boost immunity and help introduce new vaccines, including polio vaccines.

All Polio Types Simultaneously

Both wild and vaccine-derived poliovirus are addressed in parallel, using a global vaccine switch to manage long-term poliovirus risks.

Risk Mitigation

The plan anticipates and prepares for potential challenges, including insecurity, to enable rapid responses to obstacles and avoid delays.

Concrete Timeline & Budget

Rigorous data analysis of recent progress is employed to project a concrete, realistic timeline and budget to reach and sustain eradication.

Lessons Learned

Recent successes in India and endemic countries are built upon to provide strategies for overcoming potential obstacles.

Legacy Planning

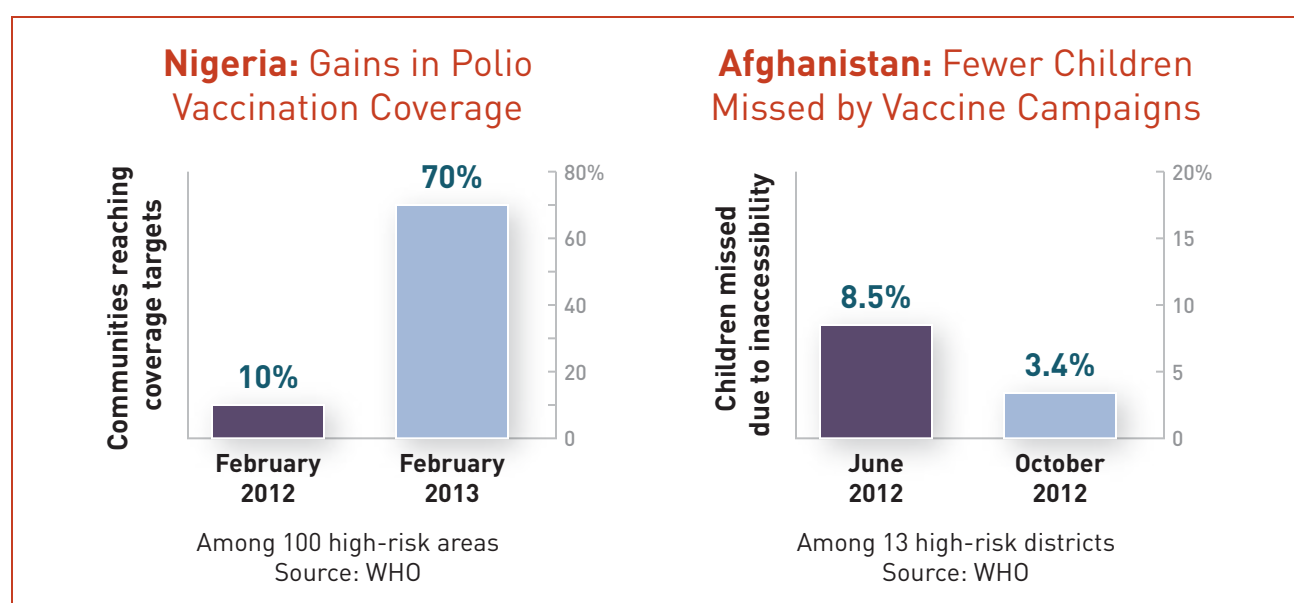
A process is outlined to prepare for the effective transfer of lessons learned, knowledge and appropriate assets of polio eradication to benefit other health goals.

The Strategic Plan has four objectives.

1 Detect and Interrupt Poliovirus

The plan provides a strategy to interrupt all wild poliovirus transmission by the end of 2014.

This involves building upon success in India, which employed innovation to overcome challenges, and in the endemic countries, which launched emergency plans to improve immunization campaigns.



2 Strengthen Immunization Systems and Withdraw OPV

Strengthening immunization systems is a critical element of eradication efforts.

Strong immunization systems help speed eradication and provide a platform to introduce new vaccines. The plan lays out a strategy and targets for leveraging GPEI best practices and infrastructure, working closely with the GAVI Alliance.

To eliminate the risk of vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV), oral polio vaccines (OPV) will be phased out and inactivated polio vaccines (IPV) will be gradually introduced. Strong immunization systems will help rapidly and successfully introduce new polio vaccines.

The GPEI will pursue them in parallel.

3 Contain and Certify

All regions must pass three years without a case to attain polio-free status, to be followed by global certification.

Both recently infected and polio-free countries must address gaps in surveillance to detect suspected polio cases and confirm that transmission has stopped.



4 Plan Polio's Legacy

The polio program provides a blueprint for accessing the most marginalized and hard-to-reach communities in the world. Sharing this expertise can benefit other health and development initiatives.

The plan outlines a process for the responsible and effective transfer of the polio program's knowledge and experience. The program's global surveillance and response network is already being used to combat other vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as to provide assistance during humanitarian emergencies.

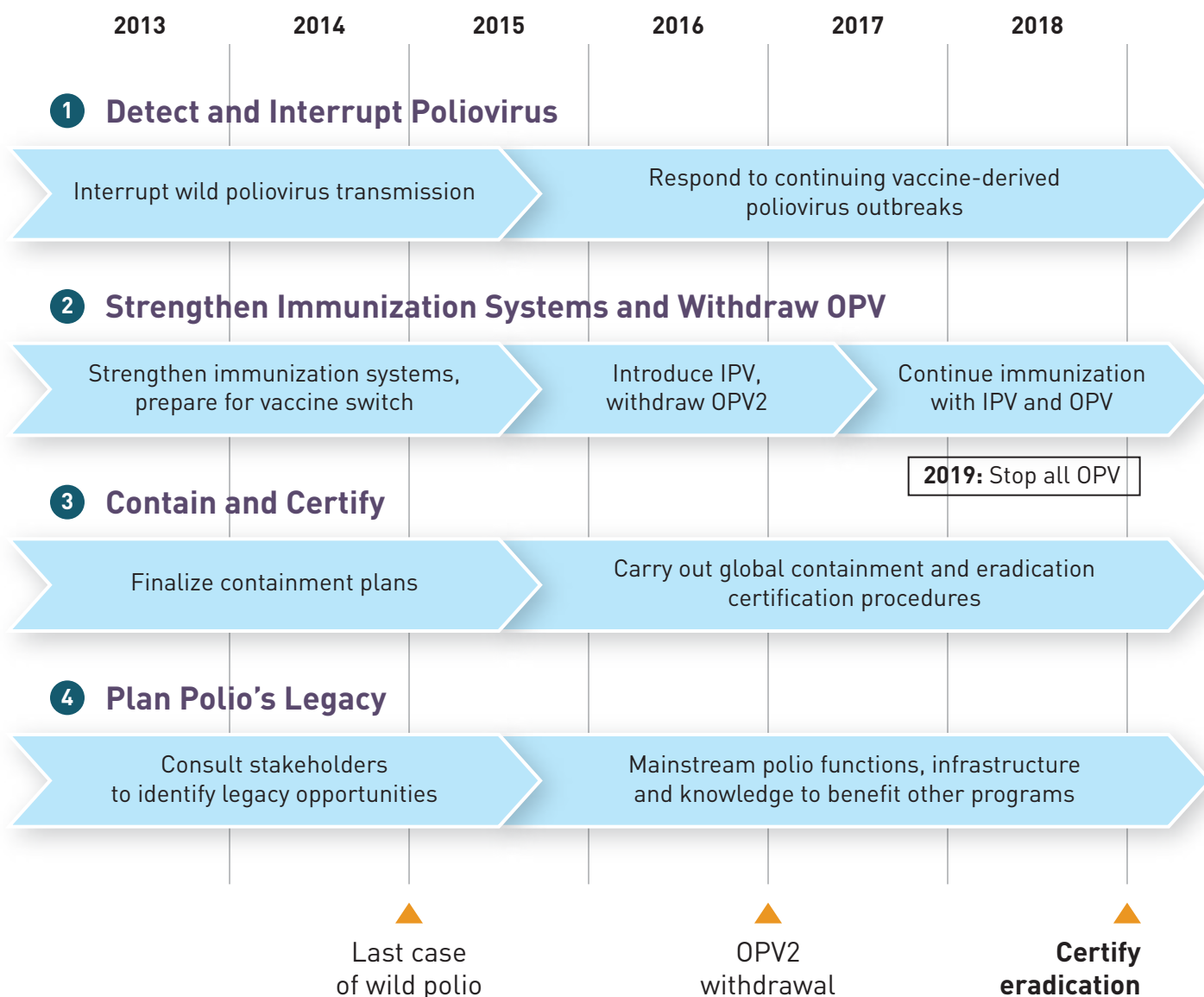
The Strategic Plan presents a concrete timeline for eradication and prepares for challenges.

The GPEI used rigorous data analysis to establish a realistic timeline.

Pursuing the objectives simultaneously reduces the timeline and its cost.

Learning from past experience, the plan anticipates obstacles and includes strategies to avoid and respond to them. For example, the plan lays out a framework for operating in insecure areas, addressing societal concerns and increasing vaccine demand.

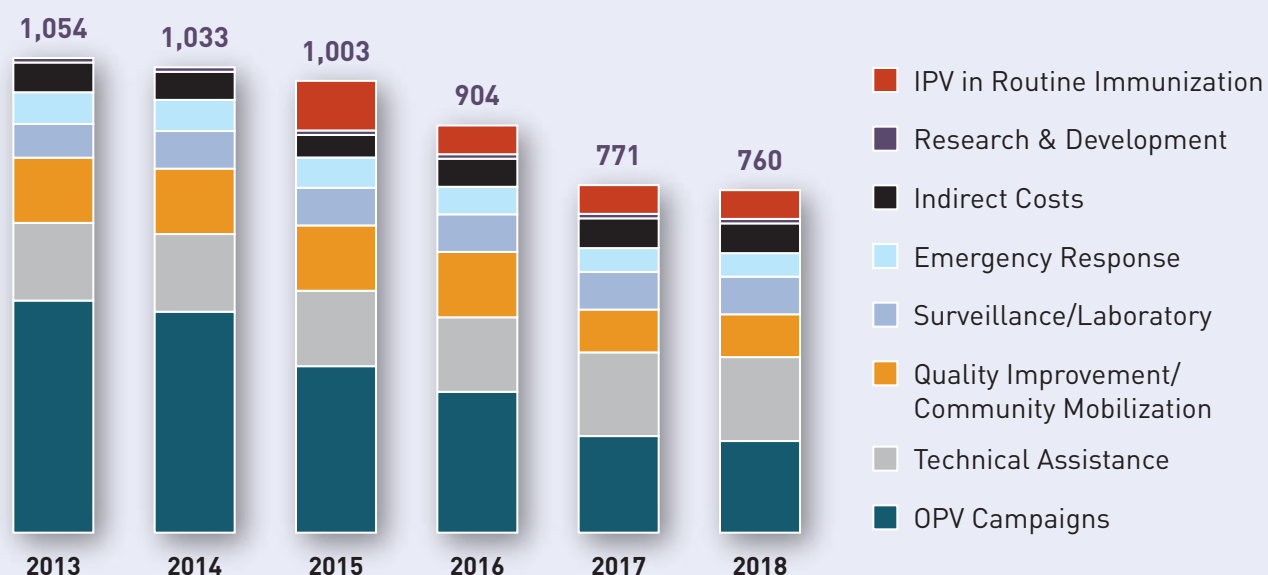
Eradication and Endgame Timeline



Upfront commitments to fully fund the plan are critical for eradicating polio by 2018.

Funding the Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan will cost the global community US\$5.5 billion, which will be raised from multiple sources—including existing and new donors—and through innovative financing mechanisms. A 2010 study published in *Vaccine* estimated that the GPEI's efforts could save the world \$40–50 billion.

Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan Budget (US\$ Millions)



Full funding allows the GPEI to work efficiently and effectively.

The upfront assurance of full funding allows the GPEI to execute long-term components of the plan instead of solely focusing on interrupting transmission. Full funding:

- **Increases operational certainty**, protecting programs from being delayed or canceled;
- **Maximizes impact** by enabling program extensions to benefit other health initiatives;
- **Sharpens focus**, allowing the GPEI to concentrate on eradication activities instead of fundraising or preparing for funding shortages.

**Support for the
Polio Eradication and
Endgame Strategic Plan
2013–2018**

**will pay dividends for
generations to come.**



www.polioeradication.org