

Dear polio eradication supporter,

This October we celebrated World Polio Day, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) released its 2013 [Annual Report](#) and the GPEI's Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) released its 10th [assessment](#) of the state of the polio eradication effort. The polio infrastructure has been credited for playing a role in helping to stop Nigeria's Ebola outbreak. In central Africa, polio outbreak response efforts continue and outbreak response assessments outlined next steps in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. In Pakistan, the GPEI is redoubling efforts with all levels of the government to plan for the low season, following the highest number of cases in 14 years.

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CAMEROON STEPS UP OUTBREAK RESPONSE

The second outbreak response assessment was held in Cameroon as central Africa seeks to end transmission of polio following the outbreak reported in October 2013. Recommendations for improvements were made including engaging the government at all levels, increasing social mobilization efforts, building immunity where gaps remain and strengthening collaboration with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations in reaching refugees from the Central African Republic. The outbreak response assessment



in neighbouring Equatorial Guinea recommended an increase in national immunization activities and the implementation of a surveillance strengthening plan.

Refugees near the border between Cameroon and the Central African Republic wait to receive the polio vaccine at the launch of an immunization campaign. ©WHO/C. Wolff

[Read more about the Cameroon Assessment.](#)

NIGERIA DECLARED EBOLA FREE

On October 20, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Nigeria to be Ebola-free. The Director General of WHO notes that lessons and infrastructure from Nigeria's innovative polio eradication program made an important contribution to this success. Nigeria's response to the Ebola outbreak replicated the polio program's [Emergency Operations Center](#) and borrowed staff and expertise from the polio program for education, contact tracing and case tracking, and community engagement.

[Read more.](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper received the Rotary Foundation Polio [Champion Award](#) for his leadership and support for efforts to eradicate polio.

The Guardian: Oyewale Tomori describes the lessons to be learned from [Nigeria's success](#) against Ebola.

CNN: An [interactive graphic](#) shows progress towards eradication

FUNDING UPDATES

This month, Rotary International announced US\$ 44.5 million in grants to fight Polio in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The US Agency for International Development has also made a contribution of US\$ 20.5 million for polio eradication activities

PAKISTAN SURPASSES 200 POLIO CASES IN 2014

Cases in Pakistan continue to rise, and have passed 200 cases for the first time in more than a decade. Pakistan is responding intensively to this surge in cases: more than 11 million individuals have been vaccinated at transit points this year, compared to 8 million in 2013. The upcoming low season is the key opportunity to make gains and interrupt transmission of the virus. Winning community trust is a vital part of that effort.



During a door-to-door national polio campaign, a polio team vaccinate the children of a nomad community that lives in the Aghbarg neighbourhood of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, Pakistan. ©UNICEF/PAKA2012-00309/Zaidi

[See photo essay on immunization in Pakistan.](#)

MUSLIM PHYSICIANS CALL TO ACTION ON POLIO

Muslim physicians from around the world joined together this month to launch a Call to Action on Polio Eradication and Children's Health. The initiative, spearheaded by the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA), urges leaders and community members across the Muslim world to redouble their commitment to ending polio. Over the next few months, FIMA will be collecting additional signatories with the goal of bringing thousands of physicians on board.

[Read more.](#)

every  fast  child

The Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations (Agfund) has committed US\$ 900,000 to help Ethiopia remain polio-free.

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2014

- Global Total: **257 (312)** ↓
- Global WPV1: **257 (312)** ↓
- Global WPV3: **0 (0)**

Endemic: **238 (110)** ↑

- Afghanistan: **12 (8)** ↑
- Nigeria: **6 (49)** ↓
- Pakistan: **220 (53)** ↑

Importation Countries: **19 (202)** ↓

- Cameroon: **5 (1)** ↑
- Equatorial Guinea: **5 (0)** ↑
- Ethiopia: **1 (7)** ↓
- Iraq: **2 (0)** ↑
- Kenya: **0 (14)** ↓
- Somalia: **5 (180)** ↓
- Syria: **1 (0)** ↑

As of 29 October 2014. Numbers in brackets represent data this time in 2013.

[Current case map](#)

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