

POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,
 Polio may be endemic in just three countries, but that doesn't mean efforts to keep the virus at bay stop there. As polio workers in Afghanistan completed their second round of vaccination this year to protect the country's most at-risk children, vaccinators in Chad worked hard to reach nomadic and island-dwelling children with polio vaccines. Meanwhile in Sudan—a country without polio since 2009—experts worked to ensure the country's health system is equipped to detect new cases in the event of the disease's re-emergence. These examples serve as a reminder of the worldwide dedication at multiple levels to ending polio for good.

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Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 27 February 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.



Two vaccines, one goal - to end polio

The oral polio vaccine (OPV) and the injectable inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) are different, yet both are crucial to achieving a polio-free world. This brand-new animation explains how they differ and why they complement each other in eradication efforts. As OPV drives progress in countries still battling the virus, IPV provides individual protection from polio to children all over the world. [\[Read more\]](#)



Creative disease surveillance overcomes challenges in tracking polio

In polio's final hiding places, challenges like conflict, weather and rugged landscapes can hinder efforts to track the virus. To overcome these conditions, the programme is using creative and community-based approaches to conduct disease surveillance. From collaborating with mullahs in Afghanistan to vaccinating at key transit points in Syria, the programme's dynamic infrastructure is working effectively within communities to end polio. [\[Read more\]](#)



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Reaching Chad's missing children

Cases of wild poliovirus in Nigeria in 2016 prompted a concerted multi-country response to prevent the virus's spread in the Lake Chad basin, an effort that continues today. In this story, see how vaccinators in Chad are using creative outreach strategies to reach "missing" children - those living on remote islands, in displaced settings or in nomadic communities. In addition to delivering vaccines, Chad's polio workers are part of a system delivering broader health benefits to these vulnerable groups, helping to secure a healthy future for every last child. [\[Read more\]](#)

Polio infrastructure helps stem yellow fever in Nigeria

How can the polio eradication infrastructure help more adults access yellow fever vaccination? Learn how polio workers are pivoting to tackle this deadly disease. [\[Read more\]](#)

Experts help sharpen Sudan's surveillance

Almost nine years since the country's last case, experts in Sudan continue to ensure disease surveillance systems are robust enough to counter the ever-present risk of poliovirus re-emergence. [\[Read more\]](#)

Polio vaccination, again?

In Afghanistan's high-risk areas, workers are vaccinating the same children twice in quick succession. Find out why, and how parents are being educated on the importance of repeated vaccination. [\[Read more\]](#)

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 cases 2018*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 0 (0)
- Syria: 0 (0)

*Data as of 27 February 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Toronto Star: [The world is zeroing in on the end of polio — by stopping people at bus stops, airports and train stations](#)

The Telegraph: [How the fight over polio is being won](#)

The Guardian Nigeria: [Polio, Lassa and Yellow fever: Where is the political will?](#)

FUNDING UPDATES

As part of its US\$ 450 million pledge to the GPEI, **Rotary International** awarded US\$ 50 million to WHO and UNICEF for critical immunization and research activities.

Picture of the Month



Bakshandi, who usually works as a guard at a Kabul health clinic, volunteers his time to vaccinate children during a polio eradication campaign in Afghanistan. ©WHO Afghanistan [\[Read More\]](#)

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