

POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,
 This month, World Immunization Week offered a chance to reflect on the monumental impact of polio vaccines and the many people who work to deliver them. From campaign monitors who track vaccination coverage, to delivery experts who manage each step of the supply chain, it takes many hands to deliver a lifesaving vaccine to a single child. Working together in some of the world's most challenging settings, the polio programme vaccinates an incredible 400 million children every year. This is a testament to the programme's dedication to ensuring that no future generation ever suffers from polio.

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Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



Data as of 26 April 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.



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Supplying Vaccines in Nigeria: What Does It Take?

Ask Auta Kawu, a vaccine facilitator in northeast Nigeria, what his work will be tomorrow, and he may not know the answer. "No two days are alike," Auta says of his job to ensure that polio vaccines get to those who need them. On any given day, conflict, displacement, and migration may affect vaccine delivery. Learn more about Auta's fascinating and ever-changing work to manage the vaccine supply chain in one of world's most challenging settings. [\[Read more\]](#)



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Imagine a World Without Vaccines

What if, in every interaction, you risked contracting a disease like smallpox or polio? For most of human history, these fears were a worldwide reality. Travel back in time to before widespread vaccination, and learn how the development of effective vaccines conquered a millennia-old killer – smallpox – and led to a 99.9% reduction in polio cases. These incredible efforts showcase the power of vaccines to protect children, families, communities and entire countries from preventable disease. [\[Read more\]](#)



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For Women in Nigeria, Fighting Polio Can Bring Economic Opportunity

Of the over 300 000 frontline workers fighting to end polio in Nigeria, 90% are women. Meet two of these talented women—Binta and Halima—and learn what contributing to the fight against polio means to them. Their stories illustrate how the polio programme not only protects children against preventable disease, but also has wider benefits, including enabling women to start businesses, and support their families and communities. [[Read more](#)]

Vaccinators innovate to protect Raqqa's returning children

How do you find every last child in an unrecognizable city? After two years of inaccessibility, polio teams in the war-torn city of Raqqa, Syria are working to find and protect every returning child against vaccine-derived poliovirus. [[Read more](#)]

To keep Iraq polio-free, vaccinators focus on the displaced and vulnerable

Iraq has not seen a case of indigenous polio since 2000, but polio knows no borders. See vaccinators at work in one of Iraq's internally displaced persons camps, working to ensure that every child on the move is safe from the threat of polio. [[Read more](#)]

Towards a polio-free Africa: A chat with Professor Rose Leke, Chair of the African Regional Certification Commission

In a new edition of our regular interview series, learn about progress towards polio eradication on the continent, and prospects for certifying the African region polio-free in 2019. [[Read more](#)]

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus type 2 cases 2018*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 4 (0)
- Syria: 0 (0)

*Data as of 26 April 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

The Guardian: [Amitabh Bachchan: 'Forget the Avengers, it took real heroes to make India polio-free'](#)

Forbes: [Health Workers Get Creative to Vaccinate Kids](#)

Reuters: [Pakistan launches countrywide polio eradication drive](#)

Picture of the Month



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A boy shows his finger marked with ink after being vaccinated in Sindh province, Pakistan. During April, vaccination campaigns aimed to protect over 38 million children in the country against polio.

FUNDING UPDATES

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, disbursed the final US\$12 million of his US\$120 million commitment made in 2013. This funding will support vaccination campaigns in Pakistan.

The [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) and [Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#), Director General of the World Health Organization, extend their sincere gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, for his generous contribution.

At their triennial summit this month, Commonwealth leaders [emphasized renewed support](#) for international efforts to tackle polio and other diseases.

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