

POLIO NEWS



Dear polio eradication supporter,
 Since the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, the poliovirus has proven to be a tenacious opponent. Yet, at every turn, the polio programme has innovated to overcome obstacles to eradication. From new vaccine development to tailored social mobilisation approaches and apps that boost operational efficiency, the GPEI has developed new tools and techniques to track down the virus, deliver vaccines to every corner of the world and gain community trust. Because of this commitment to innovation, the polio programme is protecting more children in more places from polio than ever before.

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Wild Poliovirus in Numbers

2018	13	10	3	0
	GLOBAL	AFGHANISTAN	PAKISTAN	NIGERIA
2017	8	5	3	0



Data as of 24 July 2018, compared to the same



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New App Paves the Way for Smarter Disease Surveillance

In Nigeria, disease surveillance technology is helping health workers stop outbreaks of preventable diseases like polio before they even start. The “e-Surve” smartphone app guides disease surveillance officers through conversations with health workers, feeding the results into a central database where officials can track outbreak response in real time. This digital approach to surveillance saves more than paper. Faster information sharing means faster response, saving lives and improving health. [[Read more](#)]



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Why Gender Counts in the Fight to End Polio

From high mountain ranges to fast-moving rivers, polio workers must overcome countless challenges to reach every last child. In addition to these barriers, polio workers often have to navigate gender dynamics that can affect who has access to polio vaccines, educational resources and employment opportunities. Learn about barriers to immunization and other gendered aspects of eradication through this series of GPEI infographics. [[Read more](#)]



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What Does it Take to Keep Lao PDR Polio-Free? An Expert Explains

In this edition of *Coffee with Polio Experts*, WHO Polio Eradication Officer Honorine Mollard Billard gives a behind-the-scenes look into a recent vaccination campaign in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR). While Lao PDR is now polio-free, the country experienced an outbreak of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus in 2015 and 2016, and it remains critical to maintain high immunity. Learn how polio partners are providing essential support to continue protecting every last child in polio-free countries. [[Read more](#)]

From vaccine refuser to polio champion

In the same remote area of Pakistan where he used to campaign against the polio vaccine, the religious scholar Molvi Hameedullah now works to strengthen his community's trust in vaccines to prevent polio and other diseases. Find out what changed Hameedullah's mind, and what motivates so many religious leaders to advocate for eradication. [[Read more](#)]

A day in the life of a female polio worker in Afghanistan

Learn how Afia — one of thousands of women polio workers in Afghanistan — is working to advance the vision of a polio-free future for all the girls and boys in her country. [[Read more](#)]

Fractional dose IPV shown to be effective to stop outbreaks

Read a new study suggesting that giving children a fractional dose of inactivated polio vaccine may be an innovative new way to boost outbreak response. [[Read more](#)]

Circulating vaccine derived poliovirus cases 2018*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 7 (6)
- Nigeria: 2 (0)
- Papua New Guinea: 1 (0)
- Somalia: 4 (0)
- Syria: 0 (27)

More information: [Polio this week](#)

*Data as of 24 July 2018, compared to the same point in 2017.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

CNN: [The 'chicken and egg' reason why polio outbreaks still happen](#)

Devex: [Opinion: Ensuring the end of polio means new milestones for public health](#)

Vox: [A vaccine we don't even use anymore is a reason polio keeps spreading — yes, really](#)

The Telegraph: [Uncontrolled polio outbreak continues to spread in the DRC](#)

FUNDING UPDATES

USAID released US\$ 2.35 million to UNICEF for polio eradication activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as to support the regional office in Eastern Africa.

The UN Foundation, through its Shot@Life Campaign, provided UNICEF with a grant of US\$ 1.085 million to purchase oral polio vaccine for Pakistan.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation distributed US\$ 6.5 million to UNICEF for critical activities in Nigeria.

UNICEF received US\$ 9.1 million from the National Philanthropic Trust for activities in 15 countries across the West, Central and Eastern Africa region.

Picture of the Month



© WHO/ Darcy Levison

In Lake Chad, a child just vaccinated against polio shows her purple-stained pinky — a mark vaccinators use to ensure that no child is missed. By recruiting workers from within communities like this one, the polio programme increases vaccine trust and acceptance, ensuring that more children than ever are protected from a lifetime of paralysis.

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