



Dear polio eradication supporter,

In August, the global polio eradication effort celebrated a major milestone: three years without a case of wild polio detected in the World Health Organization African Region— a way station on the long road to global polio eradication. With Africa eligible for wild polio-free certification, the programme reflects on what it will take to ensure that Afghanistan and Pakistan, the remaining endemic countries, in the Eastern Mediterranean region, to also achieve a wild polio-free future.

Nigeria celebrates three years without wild polio



Nigeria has been free of wild poliovirus for three years thanks to hardworking health workers and parents. © WHO

Last week, Nigeria passed three years since its last case of wild polio, making it possible to start the official process to potentially certify the WHO African Region free of the wild virus. Learn more about this [impressive public health achievement](#) and what's

needed to bring a wild polio-free Africa declaration over the finish line.

[\[More\]](#)

The world's last remaining wild polio-endemic region?



33rd Eastern Mediterranean Regional Certification Commission group photo ©WHO

If the WHO African Region is certified wild polio-free next year, then wild polio will officially be gone from five of six WHO regions. Get an inside look on the state of eradication efforts in what could be the [final polio-endemic region](#) – the Eastern Mediterranean – and why we must revitalize commitment to vaccinating every child against polio in the wild virus' last reservoir. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2019 (2018)*

Global Total:	71(15)
Afghanistan	13 (12)
Pakistan	58 (3)
Nigeria	0 (0)
Total WPV for 2018	Global 33 Afghanistan 21, Pakistan 12, Nigeria 0

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus cVDPV in 2019 (2018)*

Global Total:	59 (30)
Angola	6 (0)
Benin	1 (0)
Central African Republic	4 (0)
China	1 (0)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	23 (13)
Ethiopia	1 (0)
Ghana	1 (0)
Indonesia	0 (0)
Mozambique	0 (0)
Myanmar	3 (0)
Niger	1 (0)
Nigeria	15 (8)
Papua New Guinea	0 (6)
Somalia (type2)	3 (3)
Somalia (type3)	0 (3)
Total cVDPV for 2018	Global 103 – DR Congo 20, Indonesia 1, Mozambique 1, Niger 9, Nigeria 34, PNG 26, Somalia 12.

*Data as of 28 August 2019. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2018.

More information:
[Polio this week](#)

Religious dialogue builds vaccine acceptance



Asma showing women the polio fatwa book during one of the polio training sessions. © S.Gull/WHO Pakistan

In Pakistan, the polio programme relies on dedicated religious leaders to strengthen trust in the polio vaccine. Learn more about Asma, a

[Religious Support Person](#) who

channels her knowledge as a religious figure into overcoming vaccine refusals when others cannot. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

- [NBC](#): Nigeria is on the brink of eliminating polio, thanks to women
- [The Telegraph](#): Africa set to be declared polio free as Nigeria marks three years without the disease
- [The Guardian](#): 'Major milestone': Africa on brink of eliminating polio
- [Foreign Policy](#): Nigeria just won a complex victory over polio

FUNDING UPDATE

- UNICEF thanks the Federal Government of Nigeria which continues to provide domestic resources, including World Bank loans, to support its national polio programme through WHO and UNICEF. UNICEF received US\$ 32 million in World Bank loan funds for OPV and US\$ 0.5 million for social mobilization.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation released US\$ 3.26 million to WHO for the mOPV2 stockpile, which is critical for outbreak response, and provided UNICEF US\$ 8.3 million dollars that went to support social mobilization activities and technical assistance in Nigeria and Pakistan.
- UNICEF is grateful to CDC for its contribution of US\$ 22 568 001 to support polio eradication activities including vaccine purchase, staffing of essential posts and social mobilization activities.

Picture of the Month



Two-year-old Rajesh shows off his purple pinkie, which indicates he received the polio vaccine and is now safe from the paralyzing effects of the virus.

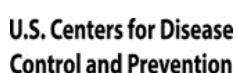
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