



Dear polio eradication supporter,

The WHO African Region has been declared free of wild poliovirus. During a virtual ceremony, leaders from African nations, the Africa Regional Certification Commission and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative came together to celebrate this incredible achievement and historic step on the path to global polio eradication, and to remember the long journey to this moment.

This milestone underlines that we have the determination and the skill to overcome challenges and achieve a polio-free world. To guide us, this month the Independent Monitoring Board published its annual [evaluation](#) of the polio programme, which examines the impact of COVID-19 and remaining barriers to eradication. The Polio Oversight Board released a [statement](#) on adjusting to the pandemic and next steps; detailed outcomes of the Board’s meeting are to be released in early September.

The African region is wild polio-free

On 25 August 2020, the Africa Regional Certification Commission certified that wild polio has been eradicated from the African region. More than twenty years since Nelson Mandela launched the ‘Kick Polio Out of Africa’



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campaign, the concerted efforts of Governments, health workers and communities have succeeded. Read the official press release to hear about the importance of this milestone and the work that must continue to keep Africa wild polio-free. [\[More\]](#)

Explore how Africa wiped out wild polio

Check out the [Africa Kicks Out Wild Polio microsite](#) to see how this



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historic milestone was achieved. Scroll through the [timeline](#) of key moments, see how disease [surveillance](#) and [outbreak response](#) were vital to this effort, and read about the heroic polio workers who overcame daunting challenges to

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2020 (2019)*

Global Total: 102 (71)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2020 (2019)*

Global Total: 321 (63)

*Data as of 26 August 2020. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2019.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[The Guardian](#): Africa's triumph over wild polio shows the power of regional unity

[New York Times](#): Africa to Celebrate the End of Wild Poliovirus (but Not the End of Polio)

[Al Jazeera](#): Why Africa's success in eradicating polio is important today

reach every child with the polio vaccine, from the [remote areas of the DRC](#) to the [wild virus' final stronghold](#). [\[More\]](#)

Championing polio eradication & women's empowerment

Chair of the Africa Regional Certification Commission, Professor Rose Leke, has dedicated her career to fighting polio and other diseases, in the process becoming a trailblazer for women in global health. In this interview, learn more about her work to certify the African region as wild polio-free. [\[More\]](#)



Professor Rose Leke, chairperson of the Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) for Polio Eradication. © WHO/M. Henley

DONOR UPDATES

The GPEI would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all **Governments, donors and partners** who have helped fund the journey towards wild polio eradication in Africa. This incredible milestone has succeeded thanks to your commitment and vision.

Many thanks to the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** for providing a supplemental grant of US\$ 8 891 874 to support the Pakistan polio programme, and a grant of US\$ 10 million to support the global staffing costs of the polio programme.

Picture of the Month

CERTIFICATE OF A WILD POLIOVIRUS FREE AFRICAN REGION



We, the members of the Africa Regional Commission for Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication, conclude today, Tuesday, 25 August 2020, that the transmission of indigenous wild poliovirus has been interrupted in all **47 countries of the WHO African Region.**

Prof Rose Gana Forman Leke
Prof Rose Gana Forman Leke
Chairperson

Prof B. Jean Kaboré
Prof B. Jean Kaboré

Dr Arlene King
Dr Arlene King

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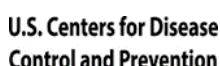
Prof Beugré Kouassi
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Dr Rudolf H. Tangermann
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Prof William Bahati Pungu Matuja
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The official certification certificate marking the WHO African Region's wild poliovirus-free status, signed by the members of the Africa Regional Commission for Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication (25 August 2020). © WHO AFRO



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