



Dear polio eradication supporter,

On **24 October 2021**, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) celebrated **World Polio Day**: an annual moment to reflect and recommit to delivering on our promise of a world free of polio. Partners highlighted key aspects of the GPEI Strategy 2022-2026 with a new [animated video](#) and events on [civil society organizations](#) and the [crucial role of women](#). Supporters around the world also joined [Rotary's Global Update](#) to celebrate progress from the past year. The global community heard incredible stories about [polio vaccinators](#) overcoming hesitancy, polio survivors ([Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Philippines](#)), and [retired health workers](#) who continue to support eradication in Egypt, Sudan, Yemen and elsewhere. 2021 also marks [30 years](#) since the [last child in the Americas](#) was diagnosed with polio. This anniversary reminds us of the progress made to stop this virus and serves as an inspiration to continue our impactful work towards a polio-free world.

Nigeria polio infrastructure supporting COVID-19 vaccine roll-out

To encourage uptake of COVID-19 vaccination, the Nigerian government has been working with polio partners in leveraging polio vaccination campaigns in integrating COVID-19 vaccination. The concept is to provide polio vaccine to eligible children, and offer COVID-19 vaccination to their parents at the same time. At the end of the 4-day campaign across highest-risk areas, almost one million children received polio vaccine and more than 125 000 and 60 000 adults received the first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccination. [\[More\]](#)

nOPV2 to move to next use phase

On 11 October, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) recommended that novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) move to the next use phase, which could help to prevent outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2). Looking at data from four large-scale campaigns delivering over 65 million doses, SAGE found no major safety concerns associated with the vaccine – opening the door for more countries to be eligible for nOPV2 use in the near future. [\[More\]](#)



POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2021 (2020)*

Global Total: 2 (132)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2021 (2020)*

Global Total: 444 (607)

*Data as of 2 November 2021. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2020.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[Reuters](#): Polio vaccination campaign to begin in Afghanistan

[Sydney Morning Herald](#): End in sight for a disease that closed borders, shut pools and theatres

[Voice of America](#): Pakistan, Afghanistan Mark Polio Day Amid Optimism for Eradication

Last endemic region recommits to ending polio

This past month, country leaders from across the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (WHO EMRO) – which includes the final two countries with wild poliovirus transmission – gathered to recommit to ending polio for good and creating healthier futures across the Region. Polio program officers from Pakistan and Afghanistan were joined by members of the GPEI's Polio Oversight Board (POB) to discuss ongoing and future activities to stop and prevent the spread of wild polio and cVDPV outbreaks.

[\[More\]](#)



Dr Hala Zayed © WHO/EMRO

DONOR UPDATES

WHO is very grateful to **Germany** for its generous contribution of €17.5 million, which will support the GPEI's global polio eradication activities. This corresponds to the last disbursement of Germany's €35 million annual contribution to polio eradication efforts.

Photo of the Month



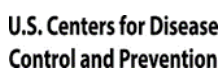
World Polio Day 2021: [Times Square alight](#) with Rotary's message to End Polio Now. ©Rotary



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