



Dear polio eradication supporter,

On 12 June, sports stars and celebrities met on the pitch for [SoccerAid](#), an annual football match to support UNICEF's efforts protecting the health of children worldwide. This year's event focused on polio, raising a record-setting £15 673 728 in part to aid the work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) building a polio-free world. The match made an important call to action – to end all forms of polio for good – which was further underscored when poliovirus was [detected in sewage samples in London](#). While no children have been paralysed by poliovirus in the UK since 1983, this detection is yet another firm [reminder](#) that as long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat to children everywhere. As the WHO European Region also [marks 20 years](#) since it was declared free from wild polio, countries and partners must commit to fully funding the GPEI's Strategy 2022-2026 to ensure that years of progress against this virus are not lost.

Going beyond polio



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When COVID-19 put immense pressure on health systems worldwide, the polio programme was there to help lighten the load. In a [new report](#), the WHO highlights how the global network of polio workers pivoted to support COVID-19 vaccine delivery, strengthen immunization efforts and keep people safe from emerging health threats. As the world gets closer to global polio eradication, this work to support other health initiatives will ramp up. In Iraq, polio programme assets are already being [integrated into the national health system](#) to improve capacities for disease surveillance, essential immunization, outbreak preparedness and more. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2022 (2021)*

Global Total: 13 (2)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2022 (2021)*

Global Total: 157 (118)

*Data as of 28 June 2022. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2021.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[GPEI](#): Global leaders urge action on polio eradication (28 June 2022)

[The Guardian](#): Should we be worried that polio has been detected in the UK? (Devi Sridhar, 27 June 2022)

[POLITICO EU](#): UKHSA: Poliovirus detected in London sewage (Sarah-Taïssir Bencharif, 22 June 2022)

[Tagesspiegel Background](#): Almost at the target with polio (Marie Zahout, 21 June 2022)

Community leaders guide the way



All around the world, families look to community and religious leaders for information on how to keep their children safe. Dr Nabeel Abdu Omar Ali, a pediatrician and imam in Yemen, has spent over a decade educating his community on

the importance of vaccinating their children against polio and encouraging other imams to do the same. His work continues as Yemen experiences concurrent outbreaks of types 1 and 2 variant poliovirus (cVDPV), which regional leaders in polio eradication [came together](#) to discuss this month in Cairo, Egypt. In addition to committing the resources needed to [stop](#) outbreaks in Yemen as well as in Somalia, they called on affected governments and global donors to [support](#) efforts against wild polio in the remaining endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan. [\[More\]](#)

Keeping the pressure on polio in Africa

Nearly two years after the WHO African Region was declared free from wild polio, countries continue to face another polio threat: variant poliovirus outbreaks. In a new op-ed, Professor Rose Gana Fomban Leke, chair of the African Regional Certification Committee (ARCC)



that declared the region wild polio-free, called on governments to respond quickly to outbreaks and vaccinate every child to bring on a future in which Africa is free of all forms of polio. As the ARCC [echoed this call](#) for urgent action this month, Professor Leke stressed that if countries reach children who have never received a vaccine, success against polio and other diseases will follow. [\[More\]](#) - article in French

DONOR UPDATES

The **United Kingdom**, the second largest sovereign donor to the GPEI, has committed £50 million through WHO. These global funds will be critical to support activities in the endemic and outbreak response countries as well as strengthening the global surveillance network. Rotary and WHO met with [Minister Milling](#), who underscored the UK's commitment to polio eradication.

AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE

In Afghanistan, [polio staff are supporting earthquake emergency response efforts](#). Polio teams helped establish communications and conducted assessments of the situation and helped ensure accurate data to guide focused response. Polio staff helped provide trauma care to injured, and assisted in building shelter, establishing ad-hoc medical centres, unpacking trucks, distribution of emergency and health and supply kits, and supported establishment to strengthen post-earthquake infectious disease surveillance. In the longer term, the polio team will continue to work as part of WHO Afghanistan's earthquake response including providing trauma care, physical rehabilitation and disability assistance, as well mental health and psychosocial support

Photo of the Month



Vaccinators travel via camel as part of a joint measles-rubella and polio campaign in Pakistan last year, applying their skills to support other disease efforts. ©Gavi/Asad Zaidi