



Dear polio eradication supporter,

This week, global leaders have gathered in Dubai for COP28, the paramount annual climate convening. While this event has historically focused exclusively on climate, 3 December will mark the first-ever COP Health Day—a major milestone in the evolving global conversation around the dynamic between climate and health. This Health Day will also include the [Reaching the Last Mile Forum](#), an opportunity for leaders to discuss the urgent need to build health systems that are resilient to climate threats, from monsoons to earthquakes to heatwaves. In Pakistan, a [priority country](#) for the polio program, the disastrous impacts of the climate crisis on health efforts like polio eradication are already clear. The polio program is [hard at work](#) to help respond to climate emergencies, in Pakistan and around the world, and will continue to adapt on the path to a sustainable, climate-resilient, polio-free world.

This month, the GPEI published a draft of its [response](#) to the Independent Monitoring Board's [midterm review](#) released earlier this year. On 28 November, GPEI partner representatives spoke to media about where the program stands today and how the GPEI is working to overcome remaining hurdles and deliver a polio-free world.

A flight to end polio



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Rotarians have historically been strong advocates in the fight to end polio, and John Ockenfels and Peter Teahen are no different. Over 12 weeks, the two traveled 26 000 miles around the world on a “Flight to End Polio,” raising more than US\$1 million for polio eradication efforts. They are not

alone in believing in a polio-free world—Rotary also highlighted the perspectives of several polio experts, including from WHO, UNICEF and the US CDC, in a recent episode of “Rotary Voices.” Listen [here](#).

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 11 (30)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2023 (2022)*

Global Total: 373 (529)

*Data as of 29 November 2023. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2022.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

Using solar power to fight polio Reaching the unreached



As extreme weather events due to climate challenges become increasingly common, energy disruptions are putting stress on health infrastructure and threatening emergency health care operations, such as the ability to ensure vaccines stay cold. To address these pressing challenges, the GPEI is turning to solar power – an affordable, reliable, and climate-resilient energy source to power polio vaccination and surveillance activities. Read on to learn how solar-powered vaccine refrigerators and disease surveillance tools are being implemented to help deliver a sustainable, polio-free future. [\[More\]](#)

Fighting variant polio in Cameroon



Cameroon is committed to keeping its children safe from variant poliovirus. Following an outbreak in August 2022, the country has implemented critical vaccination campaigns to reach children across the country. By connecting directly with families, health workers successfully managed the few instances of vaccine refusal, setting the country up to stop

the virus in its tracks. [\[More\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[El País](#): Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and the DRC: fundamental for a polio-free world. (Andrew Stein, 28 November 2023)

[Nature](#): (podcast): Polio could be eradicated within 3 years – what happens then? (Benjamin Thompson & Shamini Bundell, 23 November 2023)

[Nature](#): Polio is on the brink of eradication. Here's how to keep it from coming back (Aisling Irwin, 21 November 2023)

[Forbes](#): 2023 has seen major progress towards global polio eradication. (Bruce Y. Lee, 19 November 2023)

[Bloomberg](#): Zimbabwe starts polio vaccinations after outbreak in capital. (Godfrey Marawanyika, 1 November 2023)

DONOR UPDATES

WHO would like to thank His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the **United Arab Emirates** for the continuous generous and flexible contribution of US\$ 12 million to ensure that countries are able to conduct timely and high-quality vaccination campaigns to protect their children, maintain their polio-free status and contribute to a polio-free world.

Photo of the Month



A local official launches a polio campaign in Cameroon's capital, Yaounde, on 22 September
Photo: EPI Cameroon (© Hapssatou Bint Ousman)