



Dear polio eradication supporter,

In a major win for children's health, the annual [Soccer Aid for UNICEF](#), raised over £15 million this year, bringing its total fundraising to over £106 million since 2006. These funds will support UNICEF's work to ensure that children everywhere have access to life-saving vaccines and are protected from diseases like polio. Meanwhile, the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases gained momentum as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance [launched](#) their investment opportunity to raise US\$ 9 billion to vaccinate 500 million more children by 2030. World leaders met in Paris for the launch event, hosted by Gavi alongside the African Union, and the French Republic where an early pledge of support worth US\$ 2.4 billion was made towards Gavi's goal. On the ground in Liberia, [Michael Essien](#), the celebrated football icon and coach, along with his wife, Akosua Puni Essien, joined the country's ongoing efforts to eradicate polio, and increase child immunization. Their visit coincided with the second round of synchronized polio campaigns across Liberia and six West African countries.

Gender-informed strategies help stop wild polio outbreak



On 14 May 2024, the wild poliovirus outbreaks in Malawi and Mozambique were declared officially closed. This achievement was driven by the dedicated efforts of

health workers and authorities across Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, with support from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. By actively addressing cultural norms and overcoming societal barriers that limited vaccine access, gender-informed strategies were critical in ensuring equitable vaccine access for all children and protecting them from this crippling disease. [\[More\]](#)

DONOR UPDATES

WHO would like to extend its gratitude to the Board of Trustees of the **Rotary Foundation** for the approval of new grants totaling US\$ 40 million at its May 2024 meeting, in support of polio campaign operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan, technical assistance for surveillance in the African Region and global outbreak response.

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 11 (6)

Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus in 2024 (2023)*

Global Total: 77 (128)

*Data as of 26 June 2024. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2023.

Breakdown by country
[Polio this week](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[The Telegraph](#): Wild poliovirus is surging in Pakistan – why?

[Deutsche Welle](#): As polio cases rise in Pakistan, is there a way out?

[Al Jazeera](#): Pakistan's health workers fight the spread of polio

[Science](#): Wild poliovirus spreads across Pakistan and Afghanistan

Partnering to protect children from polio in Afghanistan



With 28 years of service under his belt, Safiullah Amadi, a vaccinator, spends his days administering life-saving polio vaccines to children across Afghanistan, a task he takes immense pride in. Rotary International and UNICEF partnered to showcase Safiullah's dedication – a testament to the countless healthcare workers who continue to work tirelessly to protect communities. Watch a video to learn more about Safiullah's critical work to end polio [here](#).

Integration as a path to eradication

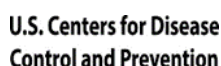
The GPEI works to integrate polio vaccinations with other essential health services to reach more children with vaccines and strengthen broader healthcare systems, especially in areas with weak health infrastructure or high vaccine hesitancy. This includes a range of activities from delivering measles vaccines or helping register births during polio campaigns to setting up health camps with other health partners to deliver a range of services at once. This strategy is crucial not only for ending polio but for improving overall child health. Learn more the GPEI's integration work [here](#).



Photo of the Month



Polio vaccination campaign in Malawi. ©WHO/AFRO



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