

Dear polio eradication supporter,

In September, several significant polio events took place in Asia, Africa and the United States. Nepal became the first Gavi-eligible country to introduce the inactivated polio vaccine into its routine immunization programme, a crucial step towards global eradication. In west and central Africa, nearly 94 million children were immunised in coordinated campaigns across 18 countries. And in New York City, a high-level panel discussion hosted by the United Arab Emirates celebrated progress against polio while emphasizing the remaining challenges to overcome.

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**POLIO IN THE NEWS**

- A study published in Science showed that administering IPV alongside OPV [boosts immunity](#) against polio and could speed eradication.

**POLIO IN NUMBERS**

**Wild poliovirus in 2014**

- Global Total: **201 (270)** ↓
- Global WPV1: **201 (270)** ↓
- Global WPV3: **0 (0)**

**Endemic: 182 (79)** ↑

- Afghanistan: **10 (4)** ↑
- Nigeria: **6 (47)** ↓
- Pakistan: **166 (28)** ↑

**Importation Countries: 19 (191)** ↓

- Cameroon: **5 (0)** ↑
- Equatorial Guinea: **5 (0)** ↑
- Ethiopia: **1 (3)** ↓
- Iraq: **2 (0)** ↑
- Kenya: **0 (14)** ↓
- Somalia: **5 (174)** ↓
- Syria: **1 (0)** ↑

As of **24 September 2014**. Numbers in brackets represent data this time in 2013.

[Current case map](#)

**NEPAL INTRODUCES INACTIVATED POLIO VACCINE**

This month Nepal introduced inactivated polio vaccine into its routine immunization programme, making it the first country to introduce the vaccine through support from Gavi and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Nepal's introduction of the vaccine is a



The first baby is immunized with inactivated polio vaccine at the launch ceremony in Kathmandu, Nepal ©UNICEF/Chandra Shekhar

major landmark in the transition from oral polio vaccine to inactivated polio vaccine, crucial to efforts to secure a lasting polio-free world. [Read more about the role of IPV introduction in Nepal in the global polio eradication endgame plan](#)

**IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGNS REACH NEARLY 94 MILLION CHILDREN IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**



Close to 94 million children in 18 countries across west and central Africa are being vaccinated against polio this month in an effort to stop the transmission of polio in the region. Africa is closer than ever to eradication, with a reduction in cases of over 90% so far in 2014 compared with 2013. This intense effort shows the commitment of governments to eradicating polio, even in the face of the vast demands of the current Ebola outbreak on western Africa. Synchronised campaigns such as this one will help bring the continent, and the world, closer to polio eradication. [Read more](#)

Children in Equatorial Guinea proudly show the dot of ink on their finger that demonstrates they have received a dose of oral polio vaccine. ©UNICEF/Equatorial Guinea

## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSES POLIO ERADICATION IN NEW YORK CITY

A high-level panel hosted by the United Arab Emirates discussed pressing issues in polio eradication this month. Speakers at the event, including WHO Director-General Margaret Chan and Anwar Gargesh, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for UAE, emphasised global progress against polio. Topics included the South-East Asia Region's polio-free status, the successful control of outbreaks in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East, and innovations in the fight against polio in Pakistan. Speakers also reiterated the need for the government of Pakistan to demonstrate strong leadership to stop transmission within the country.

[Read more](#)



## FUNDING UPDATES

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has released US\$ 1.5 million to WHO for polio eradication activities in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) have signed an innovative financing agreement to support polio eradication efforts in Nigeria. The Government of Japan provides an Official Development Assistance Loan of up to US\$ 77 million to the Federal Government of Nigeria; the BMGF will repay the loan to JICA on behalf of Nigeria if the project is successfully implemented by the Nigerian Government.
- The BMGF has released US\$ 42.8 million to UNICEF and US\$ 53.6 million to WHO as part of its US\$ 1.8 billion Vaccine Summit pledge to the GPEI.

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