

Dear polio eradication supporter,

This April, as we celebrated the 60th anniversary of Jonas Salk's inactivated polio vaccine and World Immunization Week, we were reminded of three key elements needed to close the polio immunization gap: committed health workers and a secure environment for them to work in; strong surveillance programmes, which allow us to find and quickly respond to the virus; and effective vaccines to protect children from the disease.

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**HEALTH WORKER HEROES**

Each year, World Immunization Week puts a spotlight on the importance of reaching every child with vaccines. This month, we recognize the hundreds of thousands of polio health workers who are essential to closing the immunization gap, particularly in the hardest-to-



reach communities around the world. Despite incredible challenges and risks, health workers continue to knock on doors, engage with families and community leaders, and raise awareness to ensure all children receive the polio vaccine. It is their conviction and commitment that powers the eradication program. [\[Read more\]](#)

For every family, health workers provide the crucial information and services they need to protect their children. © Gavi

**SALK'S POLIO VACCINE TURNS 60**

On April 12, we marked [60 years](#) since Jonas Salk's inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) was declared safe and effective. When the vaccine's success was announced in 1955, parents rejoiced at the news that there was a tool to protect their children from the debilitating

poliovirus. Today, Salk's vaccine is central to the plan to stop polio once and for all. This month, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) recommended that, due in part to the success of the ongoing global rollout of Salk's vaccine, countries should move ahead with plans to withdraw trivalent oral polio vaccine, a critical step in the polio endgame. [\[Read more\]](#)



Salk's polio vaccine has now been protecting children for 60 years and is playing a key role in the polio endgame. © UNICEF

**IRAQ REACHES ONE YEAR WITHOUT A CASE OF POLIO**

To keep the country polio-free, polio immunization campaigns continue. [\[Read more\]](#)

**POLIO IN THE NEWS**

- CNN: [60 years after a vaccine, new technology may finally eradicate polio](#)
- NPR: [Defeating polio, the disease that paralyzed America](#)
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance: [Of the people, by the people, for the people](#)

**POLIO IN NUMBERS**

**Wild poliovirus in 2015**

- Global Total: **23 (68)** ↓
- Global WPV1: **23 (68)** ↓
- Global WPV3: **0 (0)**

**Endemic: 23 (59)** ↓

- Afghanistan: **1 (3)** ↓
- Nigeria: **0 (2)** ↓
- Pakistan: **22 (54)** ↓

**Importation Countries: 0 (9)** ↓

Data as of **30 April 2015**. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2014.

[Current case map](#)

Read the [monthly message](#) from Polio Oversight Board chair Dr Tom Frieden.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SURVEILLANCE

To be confident in the progress made against polio, we must be sure we know where the virus is. Subnational gaps in surveillance are rapidly being identified and filled, and environmental surveillance is being further rolled out to supplement the vast acute flaccid paralysis surveillance network. A report released this month



concluded that though polio-endemic countries continue to meet their goals, gaps in polio surveillance remain a concern. Polio anywhere is a threat to children everywhere, making the coordinated global search for the virus essential to stopping the disease forever.

[\[Read more\]](#)

*Dr Mahbuba Jamil tests a stool sample for poliovirus in the National Polio Laboratory in Bangladesh. © Gavi*

### Countries Introducing the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) into Routine Immunization systems this month

The Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea introduced IPV this month.

84 countries have introduced IPV to date (43% of the global total due to introduce in 2015).

### FUNDING UPDATES

USAID has provided an additional 9 million dollars to support polio activities at the country level, including surveillance and supplementary immunization activities.

**DONATE**



every last child