

Dear polio eradication supporter,

In October, World Polio Day gave us the opportunity to pay special tribute on a global stage to the millions of health workers whose efforts have brought us to the brink of polio eradication. Also in October, Ukraine launched a nationwide vaccination campaign in response to an outbreak of vaccine-derived polio, which will help protect millions of under-immunised children across the country. Somalia declared the outbreak of wild poliovirus from 2013 closed with fourteen months since the most recent case, and an outbreak response review in the Middle East congratulated stakeholders across the region for progress made. And in the countries where polio continues to circulate, health workers are going further than ever before to reach children with vaccines, through innovations such as health camps improving access to basic health services.

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SAYING THANK YOU ON WORLD POLIO DAY

Saturday 24 October marked World Polio Day, an opportunity to thank people everywhere working to eradicate polio, to reflect on [how far we have come](#) in the past year and to [plan for the year ahead](#). Across the world, political leaders, celebrity ambassadors, polio survivors and partners paid tribute. Bill Gates, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, personally thanked health workers in an [online letter](#), and partners across the Middle East voiced their thanks through a [video compilation](#) thanking all those working to fight polio in the region. With our goal so close to realisation, efforts must be redoubled to eradicate polio and create a lasting legacy to protect future generations from this crippling disease.

[\[Read More\]](#)



The progress made this year towards a polio free world is great news for children around the world today, as well as future generations who will never again be at risk once the disease is eradicated.

© WHO

ENDING OUTBREAKS

In time for World Polio Day, [the Middle East](#) and the Horn of Africa both celebrated progress towards ending the outbreaks that impacted children across the country in 2013 and 2014. [Somalia declared the outbreak closed](#), following in the footsteps of Ethiopia and Kenya, after 14 months since the last case. Immunizing every child and [keeping up high surveillance](#) are the only way to prevent such outbreaks in the future.

Date Confirmed for Global Switch of Polio Vaccine

On 20 October 2015, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization confirmed that the globally coordinated switch from the trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) to the bivalent OPV should occur in April 2016. [Read more.](#)

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

The Bahamas, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nauru and Samoa introduced IPV this month.

All polio endemic countries have now introduced IPV.

More than [half of the world's birth cohort](#) is now receiving at least one dose of IPV.

Twenty seven countries are due to introduce IPV in November.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

NPR: [Next Year Could Mark the End of Polio](#)

Voice of America: [World Polio Day: How Far We've Come, What's Left to Do](#)

The Guardian: [Achieving a polio-free world](#)

STOPPING VACCINE-DERIVED POLIO IN UKRAINE



Children in Ukraine under the age of six are being protected against polio in the first round of vaccination campaigns this month. © UNICEF

The Ukrainian government launched a nationwide vaccination campaign with the oral polio vaccine (OPV) on 21 October, in response to an outbreak of vaccine-derived polio that paralysed two children in early September. While no additional cases have been detected to date, millions of under-immunised children in the country remain at risk of polio.

[\[Read More\]](#)

HEALTH CAMPS IN PAKISTAN PROVIDE MORE THAN POLIO VACCINES

Some 10,000 children under age five have received polio vaccines for the first time thanks to health camps in Pakistan, which currently accounts for the majority of children paralysed by wild poliovirus this year. In order to deliver vaccines and protect more children from the disease, particularly those living in remote and difficult-to-reach areas, Pakistan has established nearly 2,000 health camps across the country. These mobile camps provide polio vaccines alongside other important health services to underserved communities, including some that have never had access to health care. To date, more than 480,000 people have benefited from these services. [\[Read More\]](#)



Health camps ensure that the most remote communities in high risk areas of Pakistan have access to life-saving vaccines and other health services. © EOC Pakistan.

every last child

FUNDING UPDATES

Rotary has given US\$ 40.4 million to support immunization activities and surveillance activities spearheaded by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. [Read more.](#)

Irish Aid has allocated €400 000 to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to mark World Polio Day, as part of their 5 million euro pledge.

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2015

- Global Total: 51 (256) ↓
- Global WPV1: 51 (256) ↓
- Global WPV3: 0 (0)

Endemic: 51 (231) ↓

- Afghanistan: 13 (12) ↑
- Pakistan: 38 (219) ↓

Importation Countries: 0 (19) ↓

Vaccine-derived Poliovirus Type 1: 13 (1) ↑

- Lao People's Democratic Republic: 1 (0) ↑
- Madagascar 10 (1) ↑
- Ukraine 2 (0) ↑

Vaccine-derived Poliovirus Type 2: 2 (31) ↓

- Guinea: 1 (1) ↑
- Nigeria 1 (30) ↓

Data as of 28 October 2015. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2014.

[Current case map](#)

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