

Dear polio eradication supporter,

In November, we reached three years without a case of wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3), an important sign that the genetic diversity of the disease is shrinking. But sounding a note of caution, the Emergency Committee of the International Health Recommendations met for the seventh time, extending the temporary recommendations to address the risk of the international spread of wild polio and expanding these to include circulating vaccine derived polioviruses. Earlier in the month, the Independent Monitoring Board reported on both the recent successes and the final challenges that stand in the way of finishing polio for good. And wrapping up this month, leaders from Commonwealth countries gathered in Malta to announce new commitments that will help to drive us forward towards a polio-free world.

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EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS VACCINE-DERIVED POLIO



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The Emergency Committee met for the seventh time and recommended that the temporary recommendations to stop the international spread of wild poliovirus (WPV) be extended for a further three months. In addition, the recommendations were expanded to apply to outbreaks of circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPV). In 2015,

with numbers of all types of poliovirus at a historic low, more countries have been affected by cVDPVs than by WPV outbreaks. Circulating VDPVs are taking greater precedence now because the number of WPV cases to date in is lower than it has ever been, shifting the focus onto cVDPVs. [\[Read more\]](#)

THIS IS THE TIME FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE

The Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), the body which evaluates progress towards a polio-free world, congratulated the programme this month for recording an all-time low number of polio cases by this time in the year. But they also emphasised that this is the time for peak performance from the programme and that several adjustments must be made in order to cross the finishing line. The report also highlighted the growing importance of stopping

vaccine-derived poliovirus, with the reduced number of wild poliovirus outbreaks throwing cVDPVs into the spotlight. Most importantly, all countries must redouble efforts to end polio transmission in the two remaining endemic countries, [Afghanistan](#) and [Pakistan](#). [\[Read more\]](#)



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Lao People's Democratic Republic Fights Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus Outbreak

Join Dr Rudi Tangermann through a series of photographs as he explains what needs to be done to stop an outbreak of circulating vaccine derived poliovirus in its tracks in Lao PDR.

[\[Read more\]](#)

POLIO IN THE NEWS

New York Times: [A Step Closer to the Defeat of Polio](#)

Devex: [How to make a virus disappear](#)

STAT: [A polio milestone: One strain left in the crosshairs](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2015

- Global Total: **57 (305)** ↓
- Global WPV1: **57 (305)** ↓
- Global WPV3: **0 (0)**

Endemic: 57 (280) ↓

- Afghanistan: **16 (21)** ↓
- Pakistan: **41 (259)** ↓

Importation Countries: 0 (19) ↓

Vaccine derived poliovirus type 1: 16 (1) ↑

- Lao PDR: **4 (0)** ↑
- Madagascar: **10 (1)** ↑
- Ukraine: **2 (0)** ↑

Vaccine derived poliovirus type 2: 4 (55) ↓

- Guinea: **1 (1)**
- Nigeria: **1 (30)** ↓
- Pakistan: **2 (22)** ↓

Data as of 26 November 2015. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2014.

[Current case map](#)

WILD POLIOVIRUS TYPE THREE LIKELY GONE

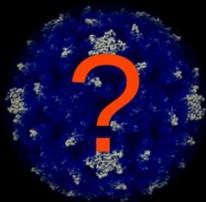
We're **zeroing in** on polio, one viral strain at a time.

Type 2



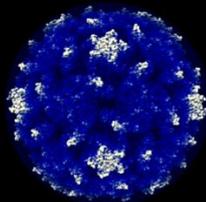
Last seen 24 Oct 1999
Declared eradicated
20 Sept 2015

Type 3



Last seen 10 Nov 2012

Type 1



It's next

#endpolio

On November 10, we marked three years without seeing a single child paralysed by wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3), one of three strains of the wild virus. Thanks to intensified efforts to reach more children with vaccines, the genetic diversity of the disease is decreasing: WPV2 was declared eradicated in September with no case since 1999. This milestone is an encouraging sign that only wild poliovirus type one (WPV1) may remain. High levels of vaccination and strong surveillance are critical to verify that WPV3 has been eliminated and to eradicate the last strain of polio. [Read more](#)

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COMMIT TO POLIO ERADICATION

Commonwealth leaders from around the world gathered at the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malta to commit anew to polio eradication. Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat hosted a special event on polio where he stated Malta will continue to provide leadership for polio eradication. "Polio struck



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down many of my generation, and now we are on the verge of striking down polio," said Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. "My thanks to the Commonwealth leaders for their support, and together, let us make the final push and wipe out polio from this earth." Rotarians around the world played an essential role in advocating for Commonwealth leaders to recommit to polio eradication at this important event. "In 1988, we committed Rotary to ending polio. We're sticking with it, until we have delivered a polio-free world to all future generations," said Ravi Ravindran, President of Rotary International. [Read More](#)

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

Botswana, Burundi, the Cook Islands, Guinea, Mauritania, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Yemen 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.

Nineteen countries are due to introduce IPV in November.

FUNDING UPDATES

Following a detailed programme review of GPEI progress towards eradicating polio, the Department for International Development from the United Kingdom (DFID) has released an additional £32 million pounds for GPEI activities in the first half of 2016. DFID has also provided £30 million to Gavi for inactivated polio vaccine introductions, as part of the 2013 Vaccine Summit Pledge.

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every last child