



Dear polio eradication supporter,

“Our challenge is not feasibility, but determination”: these words marked the mood in May. During the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, global health leaders and donors convened to discuss and celebrate the Global Polio Eradication Initiative’s new Endgame Strategy 2019-2023, to take us over the finish line. Earlier in the month, GPEI leadership endorsed steps to put gender equality at the core of the programme.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Polio eradication in the spotlight at WHA
- GPEI event celebrates the Polio Endgame Strategy launch
- Gender matters in the fight to end polio

Wild Poliovirus in Numbers



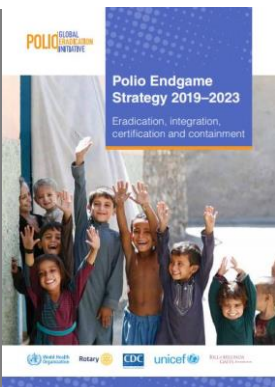
Data as of 28 May 2019, compared to the same point in 2018.

Total for 2018: Global 33, Afghanistan 21, Pakistan 12, Nigeria 0



Polio eradication in the spotlight at WHA

Global polio eradication was an important topic at the 72nd World Health Assembly this month. World Health Organization member states expressed their overwhelming support for the GPEI’s Polio Endgame Strategy 2019-2023, including strong commitments by Afghanistan and Pakistan to increase collaboration on eradication efforts. Rotary, the first to have the vision of a polio-free world, noted, “Our challenge is not feasibility, but determination.” Learn more about the discussion that took place at WHA. [\[More\]](#)



GPEI event celebrates the Polio Endgame Strategy launch

On the sidelines of the World Health Assembly, decision-makers, donors and advocates alike came together for a GPEI reception marking the launch of the new polio five-year strategy. Endemic country leaders kicked off the event by reflecting on their strong determination to end the virus. In his closing remarks, WHO Director-General and Chair of Polio Oversight Board, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, recognized the unshakeable commitment of the programme’s donors, Rotarians and health workers. Peek behind the scenes to learn more about this critical polio moment. [\[More\]](#)



Gender matters in the fight to end polio

On 11 May 2019, the Polio Oversight Board endorsed the GPEI's [Gender Equality Strategy](#). This five-year strategy affirms the polio programme's commitment to advancing women's empowerment and reaching every child – regardless of gender. But how are gender and polio even linked? To find out, check out the GPEI's new [animation](#) and tune in for the latest [Coffee with Polio Experts](#) featuring GPEI gender analyst Sini Ramo. Additional resources on gender and polio eradication are available [here](#).

CIRCULATING VACCINE DERIVED POLIOVIRUS CASES 2019*

- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 1 (4)
- Indonesia 0 (0)
- Mozambique 0 (0)
- Niger 0 (0)
- Nigeria: 8 (1)
- Papua New Guinea: 0 (0)
- Somalia: 2 (0)

More information:
[Polio this week](#)

*Data as of 28 May 2019, compared to the same point in 2018.
Total for 2018: Global 103 - DRC 20, Indonesia 1, Mozambique 1, Niger 9, Nigeria 34, PNG 26, Somalia 12.

POLIO IN THE NEWS

[The New York Times](#): To calm nervous families, Pakistan changes polio vaccination tactics

[New Scientist](#): Every country worldwide is now using the most effective polio vaccine

[The Conversation](#): The taming of polio and the challenge of the flu

Picture of the Month



Dr Rebecca Martin, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, delivers the opening address at Global Polio Eradication Initiative's event Succeeding by 2023 — To Reach Every Last Child. © WHO

DONATE

every last child

**END
POLIO
NOW**



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

@WHO

@EndPolioNow

@CDCGlobal

@UNICEF

@GatesFoundation