

Dear polio eradication supporter,

This August, on the day that was to mark two years since the last case of wild polio in Africa, the Nigerian Government reported that two children had been paralysed by the disease in the country's Borno state. As the Global Polio Eradication Initiative worked with governments in the region to immediately launch an emergency outbreak response, other areas of the world continued their efforts to end polio for good. Also in August, the Independent Monitoring Board released its 13th report assessing the status of eradication efforts globally, and the Islamic Advisory group convened to evaluate and provide guidance on polio eradication efforts in the Muslim world. These are some of the efforts that the programme continues to make to improve and ensure that eradication efforts are as strong as they can be in every corner of the world.

In this issue:

- **Polio Detected in Nigeria for the First Time since July 2014**
- **Independent Monitoring Board Releases 13th Report**
- **Islamic Advisory Group Convenes to Discuss Polio Eradication Efforts**

POLIO DETECTED IN NIGERIA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE JULY 2014



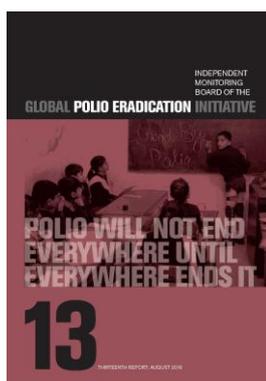
© UNICEF/ C. Morgan

On 11 August, two new cases of wild polio were reported in Borno, Nigeria, offering a sobering reminder of how complicated it is to stop polio, particularly in places facing humanitarian crises and faltering health systems. Immediately after the cases were discovered, the polio programme worked quickly to assess the situation and, in collaboration with the Nigerian Government, launch an

emergency response aiming to reach one million children with polio vaccines. This response is being followed by large-scale vaccination campaigns in neighbouring areas of Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Central African Republic, which are at risk for circulation of the virus across borders. While the new cases are a setback, Nigeria and the rest of Africa have made significant progress against the disease in recent years and the programme is confident that, with expanded vaccination efforts, sensitive surveillance and strong government commitment at all levels, this outbreak can be stopped quickly. [\[Read more\]](#)

INDEPENDENT MONITORING BOARD RELEASES 13TH REPORT

The Independent Monitoring Board of the GPEI released its 13th report in August. These reports provide independent assessments and critiques of the programme, helping to refine and improve the GPEI's work. In the most recent report, the IMB reinforced that only a relentless commitment to eradication efforts will stop polio once and for all, noting that there are areas of the programme that could be improved. Of note, cases were reported in Nigeria after the IMB met, and the report rightly points out the importance of surveillance and immunisation. Over the next several weeks, the GPEI partners will consider the recommendations made by the IMB to ensure that all partners work efficiently toward peak performance. [\[Read more\]](#)



10th Meeting of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee

The IHR Emergency Committee met to discuss the status of polio eradication, with a particular focus on Nigeria and containing potential outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus. [\[Read more\]](#)

Q&A with Michel Zaffran

The Director of the GPEI looks at the [prospects in Nigeria](#) and participates in a Facebook livestream to provide an update to the global community. [\[Watch here\]](#)

Letter from the POB Chair

The recent discovery of cases in Nigeria underscores the importance of surveillance. [\[Read more\]](#)

Oral Polio Vaccine Switch - Photos from the Field

In April 2016, countries around the world successfully switched from using the trivalent oral polio vaccine to the bivalent form. A new series shows what that vaccine switch looked like on the ground. [\[Read more\]](#)

POLIO IN NUMBERS

Wild poliovirus in 2016

- Global Total: 21 (37) ↓
- Global WPV1: 21 (37) ↓
- Global WPV3: 0 (0)
- Endemic: 19 (37) ↓
- Afghanistan: 6 (6)
- Pakistan: 13 (29) ↓

Importation Countries: 2 (0) ↑

- Nigeria: 2 (0) ↑

Data as of 24 August 2016. Numbers in brackets represent data at this time in 2015.

[Current case map](#)

ISLAMIC ADVISORY GROUP CONVENES TO DISCUSS POLIO ERADICATION EFFORTS

On 4 August, the Islamic Advisory Group convened at the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for their third annual meeting to provide guidance and high-level leadership on polio eradication efforts across the Muslim world. The Islamic Development Bank has supported polio eradication efforts in the past by providing technical grants to African polio partners and US\$100 million in funds to



Senior Islamic scholars and figures spoke alongside representatives from the World Health Organization.

© Courtesy IAG

end polio. The discussion focused on building trust and encouraging community ownership of the polio programme, continuing government commitment for eradication efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and expanding the role of the Islamic Advisory Group to include maternal and child health interventions.

[\[Read more\]](#)

every last child

AFGHANISTAN POLIO UPDATE

First issue of the [Afghanistan Polio Update!](#) Get your news from the frontlines of the polio eradication effort. Subscribe [here](#).

POLIO IN THE NEWS

New York Times: [Polio Response in Africa to be Fast, Difficult and Possibly Dangerous](#)

Al Jazeera: [Setback Won't Break Nigerians' Resolve to End Polio](#)

New Scientist: [Can polio success help India improve its public health?](#)

FUNDING UPDATES

Canada – Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [asks people to email world leaders](#) to raise awareness around polio.

As part of its 2013 commitment of US\$ 15 million, the Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** released US\$ 1.5 million through the Saudi Fund for Development for campaigns in Yemen and Sudan. The Kingdom is also providing polio vaccinations to pilgrims during the Hajj.

The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** provided US\$ 11.6 million to WHO for global activities and Pakistan, closing critical funding gaps and allowing activities to proceed.

Further to the detection of wild poliovirus in northern Nigeria and to support the rapid outbreak response in the Lake Chad sub-region, **USAID** provided US\$ 1.5 million to WHO for activities in Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

DONATE

