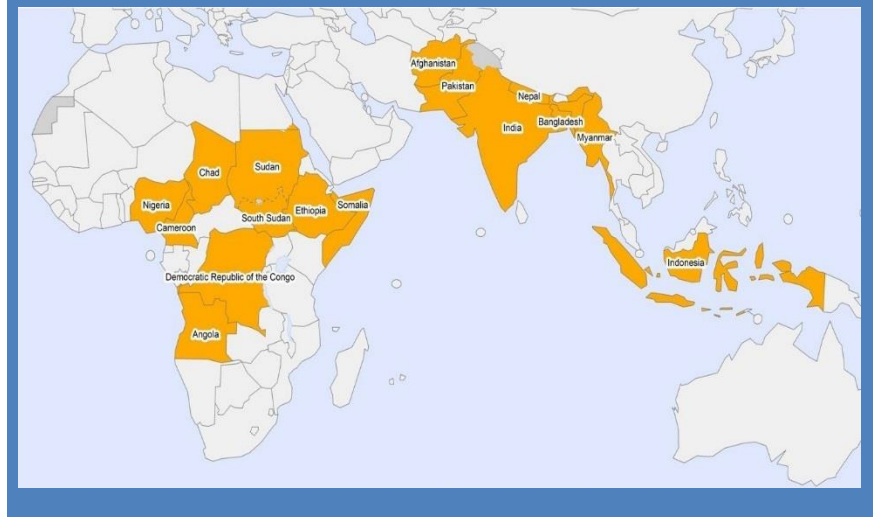


Dear Colleagues,

With the end of polio in sight, planning for a post-polio world that harvests the lessons and resources of polio eradication to better protect children around the world is underway. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has identified 16 countries that have substantial polio resources and need to accelerate this process (map). Countries around the world provide important success stories and lessons from which to learn.



In Nigeria, polio staff and infrastructure contributed to emergency responses and strengthening the health system. In 2014, Nigeria controlled an Ebola outbreak quickly with staff from the polio eradication program, averting a potential regional and global catastrophe. The National Stop Transmission of Polio (N-STOP) program, established in 2013 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to strengthen polio operations, has placed public health staff into the government structure of more than 170 communities throughout northern Nigeria to strengthen local immunization teams. N-STOP increases coverage by improving micro-planning and overcoming service delivery barriers at the local level. Between polio campaigns, more than 16,000 UNICEF community mobilizers strengthen community engagement, create trust, and provide health services, including other vaccines, birth registration, and maternal and child health education. World Health Organization (WHO) national surveillance officers collect data for polio eradication and immunization coverage data for all vaccines in addition to conducting surveillance.

In recent years, India's polio surveillance system helped build a structure to deliver vaccines (including measles, rubella, and Japanese encephalitis vaccines) and implement the Government of India's [Mission Indradhanush](#), which includes immunizing children less than two years old in more than 350 high-risk districts against seven vaccine-preventable diseases. WHO national surveillance medical officers are the backbone of the polio infrastructure in India, and they are now using their knowledge and technical expertise to strengthen the delivery of immunization services, especially toward India's goal of eliminating measles by 2020.

In Somalia, GPEI-funded field staff use polio micro-plans to support child health days, where more than 1,500 field teams deliver vaccines and other essential interventions such as vitamin A supplementation. In Sudan, the national immunization program has used polio micro-plans and staff to identify and reach marginalized populations, which has led to vaccinating approximately 80 percent of children from nomadic tribes.

Countries can leverage their polio efforts to strengthen disease surveillance and improve vaccine delivery. Transition planning, led by countries and that includes partner engagement, will ensure that polio assets continue to detect, respond, and prevent vaccine-preventable diseases and other threats to child health for years to come. This is especially important in areas that are remote, in conflict, or in crisis.

Thank you for everything you do to protect children around the world.

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Chairman, Polio Oversight Board