Dear polio eradication supporter,

In September, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) continued to work closely with the governments of Nigeria and surrounding countries in response to the recent polio outbreak, while new campaigns in Afghanistan and Pakistan reached millions more children with polio vaccines. Ramping up vaccination efforts and strengthening surveillance in these countries will be crucial in the next few months, which are typically a high season for polio transmission.

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### GPEI ASKS FOR SUPPORT IN RESPONDING TO THE NIGERIA OUTBREAK

Following reports of new polio cases in Nigeria in July, the first in more than two years, the country has been placed back on the endemic list. While the Government of Nigeria is working closely with the GPEI and neighbouring countries in rapidly responding to the outbreak, the humanitarian crisis in Borno State is also posing significant challenges. Currently, over 7 million people across Nigeria have limited access to basic health services and are in need of assistance. A funding gap of US$ 33 million must be closed in order to carry out the necessary surveillance and immunization efforts in Nigeria and the rest of the Lake Chad region. [Read more]

### POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN AFGHANISTAN REACHES OVER 9.5 MILLION CHILDREN

At the end of August, Afghanistan’s Ministry of Public Health, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, launched a campaign to deliver vaccines to all children under five across the country. The vaccination campaign was carried out by over 65 000 trained and trusted community polio workers, who also provided Vitamin A supplements to strengthen childhood immunity. With increased activity at the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, both countries must remain vigilant in their surveillance and immunization efforts. [Read more]
More than 15.5 million children across Pakistan’s highest-risk districts have received the oral polio vaccine thanks to a contribution of US$ 8.3 million from the United Arab Emirates Pakistan Assistance Programme. The UAE has played a pivotal role in supporting global eradication efforts throughout the years, with a particular focus on Pakistan. These well-planned, high-quality immunisation campaigns are instrumental to improving childhood immunity in high-risk areas. [Read more]

United Arab Emirates Campaign Reaches Millions with Vaccines in Pakistan

Funding Updates

Rotary provided an emergency rapid response grant of US$ 500,000 for the outbreak response in the Lake Chad region.

To ensure its outbreak response is fully funded, the Federal Government of Nigeria released N9.6 billion to WHO and UNICEF. The Government also reprogrammed US$ 20 million in 2015 World Bank funding for OPV procurement via UNICEF.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided US$ 3,436,000 to UNICEF as a supplement funding for 2016 for the vaccination efforts of Community Based Volunteers in Pakistan and US$ 18.6 million to WHO for technical assistance, operations and outbreak response.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation released US$ 30 million to WHO for operations and emergency response.

At the Global Citizen Festival, Prime Minister Xavier Bettel of Luxembourg committed US$ 2 million over the next three years and Prime Minister Joseph Muscat of Malta pledged additional funding of US$ 10,000 per year to the GPEI for the next three years, to ensure that children can live in a polio-free future.

Prime Minister Trudeau pledged, also at the Global Citizen Festival, that Canada will remain a strong partner of polio to the end.

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